



THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Office of Research

June 3, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Texas A&M University System Chief Executive Officers
Chief Research Officers

CC: Chancellor Michael D. McKinney
Chief Academic Officers
Chief Financial Officers

SUBJECT: New Appointments and Structure for A&M System Office of Research

Since accepting the position of chief research officer (CRO) for The Texas A&M University System earlier this year, I have strived to provide transparency in the implementation of relevant shared-services initiatives and to listen and gather input on how the A&M System Office of Research can help you achieve your research goals. The development of the new Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS) has dominated the bulk of my conversations, but, as discussions with chief executive officers (CEOs) and chief research officers (CROs) have evolved, additional issues and needs have come to my attention. The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the personnel and reporting structure for our A&M System Office of Research.

One of the most prominent issues identified by system members involves the need for greater collaboration and shared-services support in research compliance, primarily in the areas of biosafety, animal use, human subjects, responsible conduct of research, and export controls. I have, thus, asked Dr. David S. Carlson, vice president for research and dean of the School of Graduate Studies at The Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC), to take on the additional responsibility of heading an Office of Research Compliance within the Office of Research. Dr. Carlson brings the experience, knowledge, and leadership that will be essential to improving the dialogue and collaboration in this critical area. He starts in his new role as chief research compliance officer for the Texas A&M System effective June 1, 2011.

Dr. Carlson will have a 20 percent appointment with the Texas A&M System and will report directly to the A&M System CRO. He will help advance shared services for research-based system members in Brazos County (including Texas A&M University, TAMHSC, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, and Texas Transportation Institute) and provide assistance for other system members in designing and implementing research compliance capacities.

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In the spirit of shared services and with the goal of leveraging the strengths of our system member leadership in areas such as commercialization, research development, and research administration, I have asked Dr. William A. Dugas, associate vice chancellor for agriculture and life sciences and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M, to serve as deputy chief research officer for the A&M System. Dr. Dugas was instrumental in the development and formation of the OSRS and brings a long-term perspective from a system member with statewide responsibilities. He assumes his new post effective June 1, 2011.

Like Dr. Carlson and me, Dr. Dugas will have a 20 percent appointment with the Texas A&M System, while retaining his primary system-member posts. As deputy chief research officer, he will report to the CRO and will assist in the development of processes and structures – including the implementation of the OSRS – that help enhance research at each of our member institutions. I consider him integral to ensuring the A&M System Office of Research plays a transformative role in facilitating appropriate coordination between system members and in creating an environment that encourages and supports research productivity.

With these appointments, the A&M System Office of Research, led by me as CRO (20 percent FTE), consists of the following individuals reporting directly to the CRO:

- Dr. David S. Carlson, chief research compliance officer, A&M System Office of Research Compliance (20 percent FTE)
- Mr. Brett L. Cornwell, associate vice chancellor, A&M System Office of Technology Commercialization (100 percent FTE)
- Dr. William A. Dugas, deputy chief research officer (20 percent FTE)
- Mr. Mark S. Smock, executive director, A&M System Office of Sponsored Research Services (100 percent FTE)

An organizational chart will be posted at <http://www.tamus.edu/offices/cro/> in the near future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. As CRO, I remain committed to helping your faculty, scientists, and researchers remain compliant and competitive and to providing services and support that facilitate the research growth of all system members. In the months ahead, our A&M System Office of Research leadership team will help me deliver on that promise.



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