

CIRES Members Council Minutes

March 12, 2020

Meeting remotely due to COVID-19

Announcement from the CMC Chair

Ale announced that he will be starting work at NCAR in early April. As he will no longer be with CIRES, he is stepping down from the CMC. Eric Adamson will move from vice chair to chair, effective 1 Apr 2020. We will need to find a new vice chair.

Remote work

CMC reps reported on impacts of the new remote work recommendation that was announced by CU yesterday.

- Earth Lab and SEEC have gone remote.
- As of Monday, the SEEC building will be on the holiday lockdown procedure, so you need a BuffOne card to get in.
- The administration would like anyone who can work remotely to do so. If you don't have a compelling reason to work remotely, they will.
- Ale heard requests that not everyone should connect to VPN if they don't need it because the bandwidth for VPN is limited.

CU's Engagement Survey

The general consensus is that it was very general. For those at NOAA, it was strange to have so many questions about teaching. The results are going to be biased if there isn't an option to opt out. When the survey says "director" who are they referring to? Agreement that we should report our complaints. Susan Sullivan is working directly with the folks who designed the survey, so she would be the one to contact with our complaints.

CIRES Rendezvous

Dawn reported that Rendezvous is still pending. Waleed is not ready to cancel it until mid-to-late April. She requested that all the CMC reps send an email for April 5. Linda will have all of the years of service awards ready for Rendezvous. Dawn wants all CMC reps to contact their clusters to confirm if you expect to receive a "years in service" award. If you were hired in April, 20 years ago, it will not be recorded until the following year.

OPA report

The OPA will be finished with its decisions by April 5.

Cost of Immunizations for Foreign Travel

CIRES covers required immunizations but not the optional ones. Is this a common problem? How do we gauge the extent of the cost or how many people it impacts? Amanda mentioned that it is a campus-wide policy, not just CIRES. This seems to only affect a few people and one

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CMC member said his immunizations were covered by his CU health insurance. This policy is on the CIRES travel website.

Highlights of CMC

Antonietta said that in a Fellows meeting a few weeks ago, there was a suggestion to bring highlights from the CMC into the Fellows Meeting, such as a summary of things that have been happening. She asked for feedback on her ideas. Discussion ensued about how this could work. Consensus that there is value added in having a 2-3 minute summary. There is a concern about confidentiality. Agreement that it may be better for the executive meeting. Ale suggested that we could talk to Christine because she may have suggestions about what is the most appropriate meeting.

Update on Cash in A Flash

Alessandro talked to Christine and she described the awards programs.

1. CIRES will automatically match any award with a CIRES team member if a Federal collaborator gets an award (cash or plaque).
2. There is also a cash-in-a-Flash program unrelated to matching. In SWPC, they just did one of these. It can be used for groups or individuals who are deserving. Christine is hesitant to advertise this program too much because the funding source can be complicated. The funding comes from the grant where the employee is paid (NOAA funding for most at DSRC, and other grants for those elsewhere). This can be awkward for people who are 100% grant programs if there are no funds available/appropriate in the grant. In each NOAA division, the CIRES leads are the person for an interested supervisor to talk to. Awards program details here:

<https://insidecires.colorado.edu/policies/awards.html>

There was also a question of multiple awards to the same people for the same work. Christine supports awarding people over and over. CMC was of mixed opinion on whether this was good/bad. Discussion ensued regarding whether CMC should nominate people to prevent the problem of supervisors who do not nominate enough. Ale wants to really promote that anyone can nominate our colleagues, and would like to see awards become more of a grassroots thing. Antonietta said that for the OPA to help everyone, there should be a fair distribution of awards and the deserving people need to be recognized.

Housing

Eric A. reported that Landed will give you an interest-free loan downpayment loan, matching employee contribution. When you sell the house, you give them 25% of your profit (or they share in 25% of the loss if its a loss). Ale agreed that it would be important to make everyone aware of this.

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Special awards for research

Molly shared her concerns that Education and Outreach grants cannot be used for time for research faculty. Amanda said that they had also talked about this in the past. Molly said she would bring this back to her group.