

Talking Points Regarding Formation of the Interdisciplinary Research Program in Forensic and Investigative Sciences.

Proposal: To establish the “Interdisciplinary Research Program in Forensic and Investigative Sciences”

Background: As part of the 2008-2009 TAMU Research Roadmap exercise, 17 faculty coalesced to produce a multidisciplinary, multi-college whitepaper in Forensics to elevate the Texas A&M research enterprise in its capabilities, productivity, visibility, and impact. While the whitepaper was not selected as a finalist, the desire of this research faculty to create a research focus did not subside. Coincident with the process the Public Safety and Security division of the Texas Engineering Extension Service worked toward the development of the *Texas Forensic Science Consortium* between: 1) the Texas Engineering Extension Service – Forensic Science Academy, 2) Texas A&M University – Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program within the Department of Entomology, 3) Texas Tech University – Institute for Forensic Science, 4) Sam Houston State University – Criminal Justice Center, 5) Texas State University – Forensic Anthropology Center, 6) University of North Texas – Forensic Science Program, and 7) University of Texas, Brownsville – Criminal Justice Department. Although not completely successful in its formation, the purpose of the Consortium was to highlight the mutual interest among members in the advancement of comprehensive forensic science education, technology, research, and information exchange and seek to collaborate to further these shared interests among the members.

The Interdisciplinary Research Program in Forensic and Investigative Sciences (IRP-FIVS): The IRP-FIVS would represent the TAMU multidisciplinary (and eventually the multi-institutional) expertise in making the IRP the ‘go-to’ resource in Texas for research based information in forensics and investigative sciences. The IRP-FIVS is compatible with the occupational training (through the Forensic Science Academy) and academic (through the undergraduate degree program in Forensic and Investigative Sciences offered by the Department of Entomology within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) entities within the TAMUS.

Goals: The goals for the IRP-FIVS are to:

- Create a working environment that enhances the opportunities for scholarly excellence that produces collaborative, comprehensive, and relevant research programs within forensics that successfully compete for extramural funding;
- Increase diversification, recruitment, retention, and success of graduate students, faculty members, and research staff;
- Develop processes for personnel growth and mentoring at all levels in the research enterprise and its application to classroom teaching, student mentorship, occupational training, policy development and other assorted engagement activities.

Funding: The IRP-FIVS shall be funded in full by successful acquisition grants, contracts, and gifts. Indirect Cost (IDC) returns associated with grants generated by IRP members will follow existing University, College, Agency, and Academic Unit policies. The IRP shall not be entitled nor shall it expect IDC returns from grants authored by individual members.

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Operations and Oversight: The IRP will initially be administered jointly by the Director of the Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program within the Department of Entomology at TAMU and the Director of the TTEX Public Safety and Security Division. IRP membership will develop standards of leadership and operation within the first two years of the IRP's formation.