

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

February 21, 2020

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**EBERHARDT HALL
NEWARK NJ 07102**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present: Gunjan Doshi, InRhythm, Chairman; Public Members Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Vice Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Treasurer; Charlene Brown, AT&T; Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; Ex-Officio Members: Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Commissioner Lamont Repollet of the Dept. of Education; and Diana Gonzalez for Dr. Zakiya Smith Ellis, Secretary of the Office of Higher Education.

Members present via conference call: Non-Voting Member Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology; and Senator Robert Singer, Non-Voting Legislative Member.

Members absent: Public Members; Dr. Joel Bloom, President, NJIT; and Non-Voting Members Dr. Robert Barchi, Rutgers; Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips; Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker; and Senator Paul Sarlo.

Also present: Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Dr. Fadi Deek, Provost & Sr. Executive VP, NJIT; Jeffrey Oakman, Governor's Office, via conference call; David Kimball, VP Research & Economic Development, Rutgers; Brian Sabina, SVP, Economic Transformation, EDA; Kathleen Coviello, Executive VP, Technology & Life Sciences, EDA; Danielle Esser, Director, Governance and Strategic Initiatives, EDA; Fatou Jobe, Project Officer, EDA; Muneerah Sanders, Executive Assistant, EDA; Deputy Attorney General Elizabeth Tillou; Stephanie Brown, Governor's Authorities Unit; and staff.

Chairman Doshi called the meeting to order at 10:00 am with a quorum of the Commission present. Per the Chairman's request, Muneerah Sanders read the Open Public Meetings announcement and performed the roll call of the Commission.

The next item was the approval of the December 13, 2019 minutes. On a motion by Mr. Sullivan, and seconded by Ms. Hart, the minutes were approved by the 8 voting members present.

The next item was the approval of the January 31, 2020 special meeting minutes. On a motion by Ms. Brown, and seconded by Ms. Gonzalez, the minutes were approved by the 8 voting members present

At Chairman Doshi's request, Dr. Deek gave opening remarks and welcomed all to Eberhardt Hall at NJIT.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: The next item was the presentation of the Chairman's Report to the Commission:

APPROVAL OF SBIR/STTR GRANT AWARDS:

At Chairman Doshi's request, Ms. Sheft gave a presentation on the SBIR/STTR Grant Awards, and summarized the three action items presented to the Commission for their approval.

Chairman Doshi announced that applicants have the right to appeal within ten calendar days in writing and highlighted the appeal requirements.

The next item was the request to approve \$125K in funding to the New Jersey Innovation Institute as the winner of the Technical Assistance component of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Support Program. **On a motion by Dr. Kornhauser, and seconded by Mr. Pascrell, the request was approved by the seven (8) voting members present.**

The next item was the request to approve the re-assignment of Program Funding of \$100K from Phase II Grants to Phase I Grants of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Support Program. **On a motion by Mr. Sullivan, and seconded by Ms. Hart, the request was approved by the seven (8) voting members present.**

The next item was the request to approve \$375K in funding to 13 companies as the winners of the Direct Financial Assistance component (Phase I&II) of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Support Program. **On a motion by Ms. Hart, and seconded by Mr. Pascrell, the request was approved by the seven (8) voting members present.**

Strategic Focus Discussion:

Chairman Doshi asked the Commission to comment on future areas of focus for the CSIT, which specific customer base to focus on, and asked for any specific suggestions regarding the next programs.

Mr. Pascrell stated that there are a number of programs that could be explored; both concept and funding amounts should be evaluated by the program committee.

Ms. Sheft added that early stage companies, who haven't received awards could be included to participate in the Ignite Program.

The consensus was that the next program(s) should be sector-based, have technology interest, as well as diversity and inclusion. The Commission should also create awareness around the programs to ensure they hit the targeted audiences.

Chairman Doshi advised that once the projects are determined, marketing will come next.

Ms. Coviello added the Centers for Excellence should be considered as part of the discussion.

Marketing Plan Discussion:

Chairman Doshi confirmed that the members of the Program Committee were Ms. Hart, Ms. Brown, Mr. Sullivan, Assemblyman Zwicker, Chris Molloy, and Dr. Farvardin. The Chairman announced that Chris Molloy was stepping down from the Committee, and stated that if there was any interest in joining to please advise him. Mr. Kimball stated that he would be joining the committee in Chris Molloy's place on behalf of Rutgers University.

Mr. Kimball said an easy way for marketing was to make sure that the Program Committee is part of the outreach.

Ms. Sheft added that she is being visible and making sure members of the public are aware of the CSIT and its role. For example, she and Tim Sullivan attended a conference for Women of Color recently where she advised attendees of her role with the CSIT and the mission of organization.

Mr. Sabina said that participants in the NJ Accelerate program, can qualify for matching funds on a 1-1 basis of up to \$100,000. He added that they could qualify for up to \$25,000 per event, and it could be for training, demo day, or programming. Also, if a company graduates with two locations in New Jersey, they could qualify for six months' rent, and that a woman- or minority-owned business could receive an extra months' rent, or up to seven months' rent.

Mr. Doshi suggested identifying funding that could be successfully leveraged with the CSIT funds. Mr. Sabina suggest that research is needed to identify buckets of funding that could be appropriately leveraged with the CSIT funds, such as DOT and BPU. Senator Singer agreed.

Dr. Kornhauser stated that the Commission may want to evaluate philanthropic avenues. He added that Amazon's CEO, Jeff Bezos has donated \$10,000,000 recently, adding that NJ CSIT should be able to take advantage of and be prepared to leverage resources like that.

Mr. Doshi added it should also be worth considering other Commissions that the CSIT can join and/or partner with, in some fashion. Senator Singer suggested taking a look at the Franklin Fund in Pennsylvania.

Chairman Doshi said given the focus, the challenge will be not to exceed two sectors, and within each sector have diversity and inclusion.

Mr. Doshi also asked the Commission to define measure that success of companies that are funded/supported by the Commission. Members agreed that jobs, distribution, and impact on technology sector are relevant.

Mr. Pascrell stated the early on, the EDA did a presentation on what other states are doing, and it might be good to review it.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

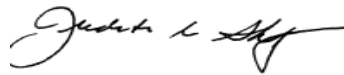
There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Hart, and seconded by Dr. Kornhauser, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology was scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2020 at 10:00 am at the BioScience Center, North Brunswick.

CERTIFICATION:

The foregoing and attachments represent a true and complete summary of the actions taken by the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology at its Meeting on February 21, 2020.



Judith Sheft, Executive Director
Secretary