

**IIN Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 19, 2020**  
**1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Jerry Blazey, IIN Council Chair, called the meeting to Order at 1:01 PM, welcomed Council members, guests, in addition to Matt Bragg from the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition and Jay DeLong from Research Enabled.

Council members in attendance included:

Mike Bedell, Jerry Blazey, Ryan Hendrickson, Gary Kinsel, Susan Martinis, Craig McLauchlan, Leslie Roundtree, Bruce Sommer, Ryan Spain, Alex Stagnaro-Green, Matt Bell , Kristy Kuzmuk for TJ Augustine (late), Jun Zhao for Beth Cada (late), Jeanette Malafa for Chris Merrett, Jerry Weinberg for Denise Cobb.

IIN Staff in attendance included:

Kyle Harfst, Lori Pflugmacher and Ben Taylor

Jay Walsh, Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation at the University of Illinois, offered greetings to everyone, mentioned the Argonne/Fermi Workshop on December 8, and SHIELD Illinois deployment efforts.

**Approval of September 24 Council Meeting Minutes:**

Motion to approve by Craig McLauchlan

Second by Leslie Roundtree

Any discussion of minutes - none

Lori Pflugmacher conducted roll call for approval of the minutes.

Council members voting aye:

Mike Bedell, Jerry Blazey, Ryan Hendrickson, Gary Kinsel, Susan Martinis, Craig McLauchlan, Leslie Roundtree, Bruce Sommer, Ryan Spain, Alex Stagnaro-Green, Matt Bell , Kristy Kuzmuk for TJ Augustine (late), Jun Zhao for Beth Cada (late), Jeanette Malafa for Chris Merrett, Jerry Weinberg for Denise Cobb.

Motion approved unanimously.

**Public Comment - none**

**Open Meetings Act Discussion:**

Kyle Harfst discussed Open Meetings Act and it's evaluation by an outside counsel with hopes for a decision by the January meeting. There was additional discussion as to when executive session should be utilized.

### **Capital Funding Discussion:**

Jay Walsh indicated that funds will be released by the state to six hubs in the IIN.

His goals are:

- Advocating for the remaining nine hubs to get their funding.
- Strategizing with the council and individuals is a main goal.
- A push for next round of funding and its release date.

Discussion took place regarding IIN Hub funding and determination of priorities. Gary Kinsel observed that the decision-making process to fund the initial hubs could have been more transparent and did not appear equitable from a geography perspective. Jerry Blazey agreed that the process in determining funding should become more transparent. Mike Bedell suggested that the hubs work together, turning this into an opportunity.

Jennifer Creasey, Senior Director of State Relations for the University of Illinois System, discussed the recent capital funding release and all the efforts used to get all hubs their requested funds. She noted that every project was discussed with Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz with decisions being made by the Capital Development Board and the Governor's Office. She encouraged the hubs to continue getting their local legislators involved.

In going forward, Jennifer suggested the following activities:

- Use the funding that has been released as an opportunity to leverage funding for the remaining nine hubs when it becomes available.
- Work closely with the liaisons to advocate for each hub.
- Invite Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz to an IIN meeting per the group's request.
- Let a hub outside of the University of Illinois take the lead such as Jenna Mitchell from NIU, and also work with John Charles from SIU.
- Revisit/rework the Advocacy Plan to get more capital funding released.
- Work with government relations personal from other hubs to compile a formal letter from the IIN.
- Schedule a Zoom call with all the legislators that represent a hub to go through a game plan, a.k.a. IIN caucus, if this is decided by the group.

### **Sustainability Research Conference:**

Ryan Hendrickson gave a brief recap of the Oct. 29 conference, noted it was a great success and hopes to do it again next year.

### **DCEO Broadband Planning Notice of Funding Announcement**

Kyle Harfst discussed some key points regarding the DCEO Broadband Plan.

- Operational funding to various regions within the state.
- Ten (10) regions line up with public universities nicely.
- Notice of funding for Five (5) regions to start.
- A total of \$250,000 is available with up to \$50,000 per region.
- Timing: NOFO went out November 16 with a deadline of December 23, 2020.

- Please reach out to Kyle directly with any questions.

### **Entrepreneurship & Corporate Engagement Working Committee**

Bruce Sommer led the discussion and included a PowerPoint to assist with his topics.

- Falling Walls Competition is not moving forward at this time.
- He would like one (1) person from each hub to attend a Social Innovation Convening which would convene monthly for six to nine months before a roll out to the state of Illinois. Bruce also mentioned that several subcommittees function within this working committee.

Mike Bedell gave the Best Practices in Entrepreneurship Education subcommittee update.

- Every hub's websites were reviewed.
- Conversations will take place to find similarities and wholesale ways for the IIN to enhance best practices.

Kip McCoy provided the Venture Capital/Angel Investor subcommittee update.

### **Research Enabled Platform**

Jay DeLong, Research Enabled, started this discussion with a PowerPoint presentation and Rob Patino from SIU assisted. Research Enabled is a platform initiated by the University of Missouri System and the Southern Illinois University System aimed at collaborative research with industry.

DeLong stated there are three ways to catalyze Research collaboration.

- 1) Research Challenges
- 2) Requests for specific Resources & Expertise
- 3) Investigator-Initiated Projects

Matt Bragg from Illinois Science & Technology Coalition continued the discussion indicating possible federal funding to expand this platform across the entire state may become available. However, the deadline for this grant is December 3, 2020.

Kyle Harfst agreed to have IIN staff reach out to hubs to gauge interest in this grant and then report back to Research Enabled.

### **Open Discussion**

Susan Martinis mentioned that the incoming administration will focus on pandemic, economic development, diversity & equity, and climate change. She inquired how the IIN can be positioned with these focus areas. Jay Walsh suggested having IIN compete for federal funding and reaching out to the university's legislative consultants for assistance.

Kyle reminded everyone that the Fall Sustaining Seed Funding submission deadline is December 1, 2020.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Next IIN Council Meeting will be January 28, 2021.**