



**Illinois Innovation Network
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 2022
1:00 – 2:30 PM**

Welcome and Introductions

Jerry Blazey, IIN Council Chair, called the meeting to order. Chair Blazey welcomed the group in person and those who participated via Zoom, noting this was the first time in over two years that the Council had met in person. He gave a special thanks to Illinois State University for hosting this event.

Jay Walsh, Vice President for Economic Development & Innovation, University of Illinois System, provided an additional welcome. Walsh indicated that while the universities and their partners often collaborate, the IIN structures a collaboration that allows us to quickly and nimbly move forward on opportunities. The intentionality of the collaboration that predates a specific opportunity is pretty unusual and now we're seeing results that indicates that IIN provides an opportunity for us to move quickly and effectively on these opportunities.

Illinois State University President, Terri Goss Kinzy, welcomed those in attendance to ISU. She shared that as a former vice president for research, what the IIN is doing is in the heart of why our universities are such important assets to our state, why we should be the partners of choice, both for each other and for organizations outside of our universities. She stated that the more we work together, the more that we can show the value of higher education to the state and to our elected officials. President Kinzy further mentioned that ISU is proud to be a member of this group.

Roll call

Lori Pflugmacher conducted roll call. The following Council members answered present:

Jerry Blazey, Northern Illinois University
Mary Daniels for Leslie Roundtree, Chicago State University
Denise Cobb, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Chris Merrett, Western Illinois University
TJ Augustine, University of Illinois Chicago
Mike Bedell, Northeastern Illinois University
Austin Cheney for Ryan Hendrickson, Eastern Illinois University

Lynn Andersen-Lindberg for Gary Kinsel, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Craig McLauchlan, Illinois State University
Allen Renear for Kim Kidwell, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign



Chris Setti, Distillery Labs in Peoria
Bruce Sommer, University of Illinois Springfield
Alex Stagnero-Green, UIC Health Sciences, Rockford
Jun Zhao for Beverly Schneller, Governors State University

Lt Governor Julianna Stratton, Ex-Officio
Anne Silvis for Shelly Nickols Richardson, Ex-Officio

Approval of March 24, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Bruce Sommer
Second by Craig McLauchlan

Aye: Jerry Blazey, Mary Daniels, Denise Cobb, Chris Merrett, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Austin Cheney, Lynn Andersen-Lindberg, Craig McLauchlan, Allen Renear, Chris Setti, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnero-Green, Jun Zhao
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Motion carried

Approval of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Community College Board as Ex-Officio Members

DCEO Director Sylvia Garcia or appointee will serve as the representative to the Council
Jennifer Foster, Deputy Executive Director, will serve as the representative to the Council

Motion to approve by Austin Cheney
Seconded by TJ Augustine

Aye: Jerry Blazey, Mary Daniels, Denise Cobb, Chris Merrett, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Austin Cheney, Lynn Andersen-Lindberg, Craig McLauchlan, Allen Renear, Chris Setti, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnero-Green, Jun Zhao
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Motion carried



Approval for ratification of March 24, 2022 intergovernmental agreement with Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and University of Illinois Office of the Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation serving as Administrative Agent of the Illinois Innovation Network

Motion to approve by Mike Bedell

Seconded by Chris Setti

Aye: Jerry Blazey, Mary Daniels, Denise Cobb, Chris Merrett, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Austin Cheney, Lynn Andersen-Lindberg, Craig McLauchlan, Allen Renear, Chris Setti, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnero-Green, Jun Zhao

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

Approval of Corporate Engagement Subcommittees

Motion to approve by Craig McLauchlan

Seconded by Austin Cheney

Aye: Jerry Blazey, Mary Daniels, Denise Cobb, Chris Merrett, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Austin Cheney, Lynn Andersen-Lindberg, Craig McLauchlan, Allen Renear, Chris Setti, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnero-Green, Jun Zhao

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried

Statewide Opportunities - Jerry Blazey, Jay Walsh & Jeannette Tamayo presented that one of the benefits of the pandemic is that the IIN has had to be flexible due to changing conditions. During the pandemic, a number of state and federal funding opportunities emerged. In some cases, it was important to have IIN create a coordinated front regarding these opportunities. Early submissions included those proposals related to broadband and workforce development.

Of the three proposals mentioned; Clean Energy Jobs Act, Build Back Better Regional Challenge Update, and NSF TIP Regional Innovation Engines Funding; two proposals have been submitted and the final proposal (NSF) is a work in progress. Walsh and Tamayo summarized the proposals and the process the IIN is utilizing. Tamayo also briefed the council on the opportunities that have emerged. Walsh briefed on the NSF TIP Regional Innovation Engines Funding opportunities.



Hub Meetings with Local Network & Community - Blazey briefed the Council on meetings that have taken place at University of Illinois Springfield and Southern Illinois University Carbondale with their internal networks. He encouraged additional hubs to engage with their networks and stated that IIN staff are available for briefings.

New Website - Ben Taylor described the new website that is now operational. Pixo, a firm from Urbana, redeveloped the IIN site. Taylor suggested that hubs provide content relevant to their hubs. He also indicated that each of the IIN working committee has information available on the website.

Public Comment – Kyle Harfst reported that none were received.

New Business – Chair Blazey called for any new business.

2022 STEAM Expo - Harfst summarized the STEAM Expo taking place at the State Fair in Springfield. Challenged last year with the number of attendees in the Expo. A collaboration of public and private section. Mary Reynolds is leading the Expo. A larger presence with Microsoft and Google. Harfst further indicated that the Expo could be a recruiting opportunity for students.

Director of Research & Program Development - Walsh briefed the Council that interviews are currently taking place and hope to have the individual selected and on board by July 1. There are federal funding opportunities that will be emerging and this position will be a conduit in evaluating those opportunities. This position will provide research development support for IIN institutes that support collaboration.

Adjourn – Chair Blazey adjourned at 2:13 pm.