



IIN Council Meeting Notes
September 26, 2019
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Governors State University
1 University Parkway
University Park, Illinois

Welcome & Introductions

Kyle Harfst, Associate Vice President of Economic Development and Innovation from the University of Illinois System (VPEDI), welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all that were present and dialed-in to introduce themselves. Ed Seidel, Vice President, also provided some welcome remarks.

IIN Class Pilot Project

Ryan Hendrickson, from Eastern Illinois University, shared with the group that EIU is prepared to offer a graduate online course, "Introduction to Sustainability" to all IIN Hub partners. The course will be offered in the Spring 2020 semester. Any interested graduate student would register for this course as an Independent Study or Special Topics course at their home institution, and establish an instructor of record, such as a department chair or dean, who has knowledge of the IIN. Ryan noted that he will provide IIN members with additional information on the registration logistics and course information soon.

IIN Undergraduate Research Day

Karen Rodriguez'G, Director of Undergraduate Research at UIUC, shared that Undergraduate Research Day has been in existence since 2014, held at the Capitol Building in Springfield and featuring 10 presentations from each University of Illinois institution. Last year, NIU joined and also showcased 10 students. She indicated that expanding from four to 12 campuses will increase 40 students to 80-120 undergraduate students from the IIN Hubs. A small group consisting of Karen, Keenan Dungey from UIS, and Ben Taylor and Kyle Harfst from the UI System office will continue with the planning efforts. Mike Bedell from NEIU also indicated he would assist.

Governance – Illinois Innovation Network Council

Harfst presented and provided explanation of the second draft of the bylaws to members of the IIN Council. This document will guide governance of the organization. Harfst provided further explanation of the Council and the entire Network. He also described the "all hands" component of the Network. Further discussion included bringing additional hubs into the future. Bruce Sommer of UIS asked if there were any areas not represented. Further discussion ensued regarding future community college involved and lawmakers support.

Within the bylaws, council officers and working committees are identified. Harfst recommended that the Council appoint the following initial slate of officers and working committee chairs.

- Inaugural Council Officers:

Chair: Jerry Blazey, Northern Illinois University
Vice-Chair: Leslie Roundtree, Chicago State University
Secretary: Denise Cobb, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
At-Large Executive Committee Member: Joe Rives, Western Illinois University
Executive Director: Kyle Harfst, University of Illinois System

- Working Committee Chairs:

Research and Collaboration: Ryan Hendrickson, Eastern Illinois University
Education and Workforce Development: Beth Cada, Governors State University
Public Policy: Ryan Spain, OSF Healthcare
Entrepreneurship and Corporate Engagement: Bruce Sommer, University of Illinois at Springfield

A special mention of thanks was offered to Harfst for visiting all the Hubs and drawing up the bylaws.

With no further questions or comments. Harfst asked for a motion to accept the bylaws as presented:

Motion made by Beth Cada to accept the bylaws as presented, seconded by Leslie Roundtree. Motion passed.

Update of Infrastructure funding

Harfst and Bill Sanders of Discovery Partners Institute provided updates to the group. Boston Consulting Group (BCG) is conducting an economic impact study of the entire network, including the Discovery Partners Institute. This analysis will provide a projected return on investment of the \$500 million investment from the state. It was encouraged that each hub provide as much information as possible to BCG to demonstrate a very comprehensive report. Harfst also indicated that the state will likely require a 1:1 match from the U of I System for the capital funding request.

Working Committee Updates:

Committee chairs provided several updates to the group.

Research & Collaboration – Ryan Hendrickson (Ed Seidel as VPEDI Liaison) – indicated that they are distilling some major themes across all the hubs. Food and Agriculture, Food Sciences, Health and Wellness, Environment and Water are four ideas worth pursuing. Material Sciences could potentially be added to the list. They will report out at the all hands meeting in Summer of 2020. He indicated that people interested should reach out to the chairs. It is appropriate to pull someone in from your campuses.

Education and Workforce – Beth Cada (Kandace Turner as VPEDI Liaison) – stated that it would be a good place to start for the hubs to identify collaborative activities with community colleges in the area of workforce development.

Public Policy – Ryan Spain (Ben Taylor as VPEDI Liaison) – stated that the universities should initially populate this working committee.

Entrepreneurship & Corporate Engagement – Bruce Sommer (Kyle Harfst as VPEDI Liaison) – He hope to scale a high school across the network. He also mentioned that he has a core group assembled with a number of suggested activities coming from the group.

Open Discussion

Harfst discussed IIN pursuit of funding opportunities in addition to the capital investment by the state of Illinois. Harfst and Taylor mentioned the Department of Labor proposal as an example.

Harfst also mentioned the Falling Walls Lab – Illinois competition to be held Sept. 27 in Champaign, Illinois. The 12 finalists represented a number of the hubs. All of the judges are from various hubs throughout the state. The winner from the Illinois competition will be invited to the international competition in Berlin in November.

Joe Rives – thanked Kyle and staff for going forward with Network activities he discussed his proximity to Iowa and a number of their partners are in another state. It was consensus from the group that while the state is supporting the capital investment, universities many times have partners beyond the state boundaries. Therefore it was not a concern.

Next meeting

The next Illinois Innovation Network meeting will be hosted by UIUC on November 21. This meeting will be an “all-hands” Meeting.

Motion made by Mike Bedell to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ryan Hendrickson. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.