



**Illinois Innovation Network
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 27, 2021
1:00 – 3:00 PM**

Welcome and Introductions

Jerry Blazey, IIN Council Chair called the meeting to order. Chair Blazey informed all that reviewers are finishing up a third round of sustaining Illinois seed grant proposals. Fifteen proposals were received this round and an announcement of who will receive awards will be made within the next couple of weeks. The IIN has funded a total of 12 seed grants prior to this round.

Jay Walsh, Interim Vice President for Economic Development & Innovation, University of Illinois System office welcomed everyone and mentioned the STEAM Expo at the State Fair, August 18-22. IIN is partnering with the state of Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology to stand up this activity. IIN staff will be contacting hubs for activities and a presence at the STEAM Expo.

Roll Call

Lor Pflugmacher conducted roll call. The following Council members answered present: Jerry Blazey, Denise Cobb, Chris Merrett, Beth Cada, Craig MacLauchlan, Bruce Sommer, TJ Augustine, Gary Kinsel, Ryan Hendrickson, Susan Martinis, Pradeep Khanna

Mike Bedell joined at 1:30 PM, Alex Stagnaro-Green joined at 1:28 PM.

Absent: Leslie Roundtree, Ryan Spain

IIN/VPEDI Staff Present: Jay Walsh, Kyle Harfst, Jisu Hong, Ben Taylor, Lori Pflugmacher, Jeannette Tamayo

Approval of March 25 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Craig McLauchlan

Seconded by Gary Kinsel

Aye: Jerry Blazey, TJ Augustine, Denise Cobb, Ryan Hendrickson, Pradeep Khanna, Gary Kinsel, Susan Martinis, Craig McLauchlan, Chris Merrett, Bruce Sommer

Nay: None

Motion carried

Public Comment - no requests for comment received

USDA Presentation - Molly Hammond, the Acting State Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development in Illinois, presented a breakdown of the rural development offices that include the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service.



Hub Updates

Paul Leamon, Executive Director presented an update on the Distillery Labs. Leamon shared with the group the focus areas for their hub and the facility to be remodeled.

TJ Augustine, Vice Chancellor for Innovation at the University of Illinois Chicago, provided an update on the UIC Hub. Focusing on computing, drug discovery, and entrepreneurship.

Approval of Working Committee Charges –Harfst explained that at the March Council meeting, the Education and Workforce Development Working Committee Charge and the Research and Collaboration Working Committee Charge had been updated and approved by the Council.

Corporate Engagement has been a subcommittee of Entrepreneurship & Corporate Engagement. There has been interest to spin this subcommittee out into a separate working committee. The Executive Committee and the Corporate engagement subcommittee recommend this change. Jisu Hong highlighted several reasons for this recommendation. First, the Corporate Engagement subcommittee now has good member participation and has gained the momentum to stand alone as a full-fledged working committee. Second, by moving the Corporate Engagement subcommittee out of the Entrepreneurship working committee, a structure could be created where the Corporate Engagement committee can better support all IIN working committees as it relates to corporate engagement. Third, the separation will also provide better focus for both working committees.

Motion made by Susan Martinis
Seconded by Ryan Hendrickson

Aye: Jerry Blazey, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Beth Cada, Denise Cobb, Ryan Hendrickson, Pradeep Khanna, Gary Kinsel, Susa Martinis, Craig McLauchlan, Chris Merrett, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnaro-Green

Nay: None

Motion Carried

Confirmation of Working Committee Chairpersons – Kyle Harfst explained that in separating appointments from working committee charges this would avoid changing charges prior.

Beth Cada – Education and Workforce Development

Bruce Sommer – Entrepreneurship

John Charles (Interim) – Public Policy



Craig McLauchlan – Research & Collaboration (starts July 1, 2021)
Corporate Engagement – open at this time soliciting names for committee chair

Motion made by Susan Martinis
Seconded by Bruce Sommer

Aye: Jerry Blazey, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Beth Cada, Denise Cobb, Ryan Hendrickson, Pradeep Khanna, Gary Kinsel, Susan Martinis, Craig McLauchlan, Chris Merrett, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnaro-Green

Nay: None

Motion Carried

Advocacy – Jerry Blazey provided highlights from the Altogether Extraordinary presentation from the previous week. He stated that at the upcoming meeting with the Capital Development Board scheduled for June 16, there would be no need in sending an advocacy letter to the CDB director. Chair Blazey indicated that the USDA presentation earlier could be the start of federal agency presentations at future Council meetings. He indicated he would be looking for specific agency interest and will ask hubs for input.

Strategic Planning - Harfst summarized the RFP sent out earlier in May and provided a timeline. The announcement (RFP) was made in early May with a response deadline of June 1. If anyone is interested in being appointed to the ad hoc committee to review submitted proposals, please contact Kyle Harfst.

Election of IIN Officers – September 23, 2021 – Chair Blazey reviewed that at the September 2019 meeting at Governors State University, a governance structure was established for the Council. The structure includes the establishment of an Executive Committee consisting of Council Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and at-large member in addition to Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation at the University of Illinois and the Executive Director of the IIN becoming members. Traditionally, the election of officers takes place every two years.

Adjourn – Jerry Blazey called for a motion to adjourn

Motion made by Craig McLauchlan
Seconded by Susan Martinis

Aye: Jerry Blazey, TJ Augustine, Mike Bedell, Beth Cada, Denise Cobb, Ryan Hendrickson, Pradeep Khanna, Gary Kinsel, Susan Martinis, Craig McLauchlan, Chris Merrett, Bruce Sommer, Alex Stagnaro-Green

Nay: None

Motion carried



Next Meeting September 23, 2021