

CTNEXT Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee

Minutes – Special Meeting
Tuesday, June 27, 2017

A special meeting of the CTNext Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) was held on June 27, 2017 at CT Greenbank, 845 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

1. **Welcome and Brief Introduction:**

Ms. Thames opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She then asked everyone to go around the table and provide a brief introduction.

Committee Members Participating: James Boyle; Elena Cahill; Rebecca DeValle; Chris Hamer; Jeffrey Godley; Farenc Fazakes; Makeala Kingsley; Vince Murphy; Michael Nicastro

Absent: Dana Cerone; Radenka Maric

Staff Attending: Kip Bergstrom, Jessica Dodge, Glendowlyn Thames

Other Guests: Rita Zangari

2. **Brief Overview of charge of the Higher Education Advisory Committee:**

Ms. Thames went over the agenda and goals for the inaugural Advisory Committee meeting. She provided a brief overview of Public Act 16-3; CTNext's enabling legislation as well as the Higher Education Initiative and progress to date.

3. **Ethics Overview for CT Public Officials:**

Ms. Thames introduced Scott Murphy from Shipman and Goodwin who represents outside legal counsel for CTNext. Mr. Murphy provided a brief overview of the State of Connecticut Ethics Code for Public Officials focusing on a few key areas: revolving door provision; gifts and conflicts of interest. A discussion ensued amongst the Committee. Concerns were raised by the Committee regarding the conflicts of interest and the revolving door provision, Ms. Thames and Mr. Murphy stated they would follow up with the State Ethics Office for further clarity and explore legislative options given that the Committee

is truly "Advisory" in nature and has no fiduciary responsibility and really should not be treated as such for the purposes of the State Ethics Code.

4. **Group Discussion on Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Connecticut's Higher Education System:**

Ms. Thames provided an overview of the two phases of the Higher Education Initiative which include:

- Phase I – Higher Education Working Group developed the strategic roadmap to strengthen entrepreneurship and innovation among Connecticut's Higher Education institutions.
- Phase II – the enactment of the Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee who will advise the CTNext Board on the deployment of \$2MM for projects and/or initiatives that are aligned with the priorities and recommendations within the strategic roadmap.

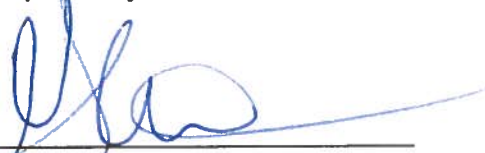
A discussion ensued amongst the Committee regarding the vision, goals and objectives of the strategic roadmap published by the Higher Ed Working group.

5. **Next steps:**

Ms. Thames stated the Advisory Committee in the near term is task with advising the CTNext team on how to operationalize the strategic plan. She stated the goal would be to get the first Request for Proposal applications online by September 2017. The Committee agreed with this timeline. As a follow up Ms. Thames stated she would put together a first draft of a RFP and evaluation process for discussion and feedback at the next Committee meeting. In addition, the Committee agreed the next meeting would be Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at 9am and at that meeting they would also select Committee co-chairs.

8. **Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.**

Respectfully submitted,



Glendowlyn Thames
Executive Director of CTNext