

CTNEXT Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee

Minutes - Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 16, 2018

A regular meeting of the CTNext Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee (the "Committee") was held on May 16, 2018 at CT Innovations, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

1. Welcome and Roll Call:

Mr. Boyle, Co-Chair opened the meeting at 9:07 a.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance. He reviewed goals and objectives for this meeting.

Committee Members Participating: James Boyle, Co-Chairperson; Radenka Maric, Co-Chairperson; Elena Cahill; Rebecca DeValle; Chris Hamer; Jeffrey Godley; Ferenc Fazekes; Makeala Kingsley; Vince Murphy; Michael Nicastro.

Absent: Dana Cerone

Staff Attending: Ali Berman; Matt McCooe; Glendowlyn Thames and Lisa Day

Other Guests: Jen Widness, Rita Zangari, Hadi Bozorgmanesh; Mei Wei, Kate Bolduc, Clifford Thermer, Sonya Richmond, Mostafa Analoui, Mike Roer, Malna Polya, Norman Gray, Ojala Naeem and Jeremy Szechenyi

2. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Boyle made a motion and Ms. Cahill seconded and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the February 21, 2018, meeting as presented.

Mr. Hamer and Ms. Kingsley were not present for the vote

3. Overview of Application and Review Process:

Ms. Berman gave a brief overview of the application review process for round two; the proposed timeline and noted that the results of today's decisions will be presented to the CTNext Board of Directors at the June 5, 2018 meeting.

4. **Pitches from Grant Applicants:**

The finalists each gave a five-minute pitch and answered questions that the committee members had about their proposal.

5. **Discussion and Final Award Decisions:**

Discussion ensued amongst committee members with regards to leveraging already existing programs and open participation for all universities statewide. The committee discussed the merit of each proposal at length and through consensus put forth the following recommendations to be considered by the CTNext Board of Directors as follows:

- UConn, Mei Wei
- UConn, Mostafa Analoui
- ConnCAT, Norman Gray and Malna Polya
- reSET, Ojala Naeem, Jeremy Szechenyi

6. **Reflection and Looking Forward:**

Mr. Boyle addressed the committee and proposed what he referred to as a "thought exercise". He then facilitated an open discussion amongst the committee members to reflect upon the first year of the Higher Education Entrepreneurship and Innovation Fund investments and how we can improve the strategy moving forward to ensure systemic and transformational impact. A discussion ensued amongst the committee regarding possibly looking at building a statewide program that CTNext would manage. Ms. Berman and Ms. Thames agreed to further develop the concept and come back to the Advisory Committee at the next meeting with an approach and further defined concept.

Proposed calendar dates to follow with the next meeting to be scheduled for July 2018.

8. **Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Radenka Maric, Chairperson