

CTNext Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee

Minutes – Special Meeting
Monday, November 18, 2019

A special meeting of the CTNext Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) was held on November 18, 2019 at CTNext, 865 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

1. Welcome and Roll Call:

Ms. Thames opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Committee Members Participating: Radenka Maric, Chairperson (by phone); Elena Cahill (by phone); Chris Hamer (by phone); Jeffrey Godley (by phone); Makeala Kingsley (by phone); Vince Murphy (by phone) and Michael Nicasro (by phone)

Absent: Rebecca DeValle

Staff Attending: Kip Bergstrom (by phone); Jessica Dodge; Glendowlyn Thames; Amy Walsh and Lisa Day

2. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Thames asked the Advisory Committee members to consider the minutes from the May 15, 2019 regular meeting.

Mr. Hamer made a motion and Mr. Godley seconded and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the May 15, 2019, meeting as presented.

3. Approval of FY20 and FY21 Advisory Committee meeting schedule:

Ms. Thames asked the Advisory Committee members to consider the proposed meeting dates for FY20 and FY21.

Mr. Nicasro made a motion and Ms. Cahill seconded and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adopting the FY20 and FY21 meeting dates as proposed.

4. Overview of Application and Review Process:

Ms. Walsh gave a brief overview of the RFI and RFP application review process and the proposed timeline, noting that today’s recommendations will be presented to the CTNext Board of Directors at the December 3, 2019 meeting.

5. New Proposals from Grant Applicants:

Representatives for new grant proposals each previously gave a ten-minute presentation and engaged in a question and answer segment with committee members and staff.

Discussion ensued amongst committee members. The committee discussed the merit of each proposal at length and through consensus put forth the following recommendations:

- Peter J. Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, University of Connecticut – David Noble

Mr. Nicastro made a motion and Mr. Godley seconded, and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of putting forth the recommendation for Peter J. Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, University of Connecticut in an amount up to \$125,000 to be presented to the CTNext Board of Directors for approval.

Ms. Kingsley abstained from the vote.

- Southern Connecticut State University Blue Economy – Patrick Heidkamp

Ms. Cahill made a motion and Ms. Kingsley seconded, and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of putting forth the recommendation for Southern Connecticut State University Blue Economy in an amount up to \$195,505 to be presented to the CTNext Board of Directors for approval.

- Sacred Heart University – Martha Crawford

Ms. Cahill made a motion and Mr. Nicastro seconded, and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of putting forth the recommendation for Sacred Heart University in an amount up to \$200,000 to be presented to the CTNext Board of Directors for approval.

- University of Connecticut Digital Media & Design – Matthew Worwood

Ms. Cahill made a motion and Mr. Hamer seconded, and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of putting forth the recommendation for University of Connecticut Digital Media & Design in an amount up to \$49,948 to the CTNext Executive Director for approval.

- University of Connecticut, EE-REU – Hadi Bozorgmanesh

Ms. Cahill made a motion and Mr. Hamer seconded, and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of putting forth the recommendation for University of Connecticut, EE-REU in an amount up to \$200,000 to be presented to the CTNext Board of Directors for approval.

6. Renewal Grant Applicants:

Representatives for renewal grant proposals each previously gave a five-minute presentation of what they accomplished with the previous year's funding and engaged in a question and answer segment with committee members and staff.

Discussion ensued amongst committee members. The committee discussed the merit of each proposal at length and through consensus put forth the following recommendations:

- Entrepreneurship Foundation – Dale Jasinski

Mr. Cahill made a motion and Mr. Hamer seconded, and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of putting forth the recommendations for the Entrepreneurship Foundation in an amount up to \$215,500 to be presented to the CTNext Board of Directors for approval.

- reSET – Shane Chase

Mr. Nicastro made a motion and Ms. Cahill seconded, and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of putting forth the recommendations for reSET in an amount up to \$31,000 with the required cash match to be presented to the CTNext Executive Director for approval.

Ms. Kingsley abstained from the vote.

- University of Bridgeport – Sherri Dente

Mr. Nicastro made a motion and Ms. Kingsley seconded, and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of putting forth the recommendations for University of Bridgeport in an amount up to \$119,675 to be presented to the CTNext Board of Directors for approval.

Mr. Godley and Ms. Cahill abstained from the vote.

7. Other Business:

Ms. Dodge gave an overview of the request of approval for the transfer of fiduciary and administration responsibilities from Economic Development Corporation of New Haven, previously recommended fiduciary and administrator, to HealthVenture for the proposal in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Nicastro made a motion and Mr. Murphy seconded, and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of the transfer of fiduciary and administration responsibilities from Economic Development Corporation of New Haven to HealthVenture for the proposal in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

8. Closing Remarks:

Ms. Thames made a recommendation to schedule a special meeting in early January to strategize, review CTNext funding, reflect and map out initiatives moving forward.

A brief discussion ensued

9. Adjournment:

Upon a motion made by Ms. Maric and seconded by Ms. Cahill, the Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of adjourning the November 18, 2019 special meeting at 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Radenka Maric, Chairperson