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CTNext Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee

Minutes – Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 18, 2021

A regular meeting of the CTNext Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) was held electronically through Microsoft Teams on February 18, 2021.

1. Welcome and Roll Call:

Ms. Maric opened the meeting at 9:04 a.m. Ms. Maric welcomed everyone via a virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams.

Committee Members Participating: Elena Cahill; Jeffrey Godley; Chris Hamer; Makeala Kingsley; Radenka Maric, Chairperson; Vince Murphy and Michael Nicastro

Absent: Colleen L. Bielitz and Rebecca DelValle

Staff Attending: Jessica Dodge; Julia Napolitano; David Steuber; Glendowlyn Thames and Lisa Day

Other Guests: Konstantine Drakonakis and Pam Pirog

2. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Maric asked the Advisory Committee members to consider the minutes from the November 13, 2020 regular meeting and November 17, 2020 special meeting.

Mr. Nicastro made a motion and Mr. Murphy seconded and the Advisory Committee members voted in favor of adopting the minutes from the November 13, 2020, regular meeting and November 17, 2020 special meeting as presented.

Mr. Godley abstained from the vote.

Mr. Hamer was not present for the vote.

3. Strategy Discussion and RFP Process:

Ms. Thames provided an overview of the meeting agenda and noted she wanted to engage the Advisory Committee in a strategic discussion regarding investments. Ms. Thames provided a brief overview of the CTNext website redesign. A discussion ensued.

Ms. Thames introduced Mr. Konstantine Drakonakis in his new position as Venture Partner with Connecticut Innovations. Mr. Drakonakis provided the committee with a brief overview of his background and his developing roll with Connecticut Innovations. Mr. Drakonakis would like to focus on physical sciences and bio tech companies in the very

early stages to advance companies within the higher education system. A discussion ensued and questions were addressed.

Ms. Dodge provided an overview of strategy, focus refinement on metrics, projects funded to date, funding allocation, looking back at 2017-2020, current portfolio funding, current portfolio of projects, strategic review and what is next. A discussion ensued.

A recommendation was made to engage in a strategic review of progress against the original roadmap and create a working group to brainstorm future ideas. Members were in agreement and a meeting will be scheduled for those interested.

4. Other Business:

No other business.

5. Adjournment:

Upon a motion made by Mr. Nicastro and seconded by Ms. Cahill, the Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of adjourning the February 18, 2021 meeting at 10:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Radenka Maric,
Chairperson