

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

January 31, 2020

**NJEDA
ONE GATEWAY CENTER
11-43 RAYMOND PLAZA WEST
SUITE 1410
NEWARK NJ 07102**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present: Gunjan Doshi, InRhythm, Chairman; Public Members Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Vice Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Treasurer; Dr. Joel Bloom, President, NJIT; Charlene Brown, AT&T; Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; Ex-Officio Members: Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Dr. Zakiya Smith Ellis, Secretary of the Office of Higher Education; Ralph Hoag for Commissioner Lamont Repollet of the Dept. of Education; and Non-Voting Members: Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker.

Members present via conference call: Senator Robert Singer, Non-Voting Legislative Member.

Members absent: Non-Voting Members Dr. Robert Barchi, Rutgers University; Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology; and Legislative Members Senator Paul Sarlo and Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips.

Also present: Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT, Beth McGrath, Chief of Staff, Stevens Institute of Technology; Brian Sabina, SVP, Economic Transformation, NJEDA; Kathleen Coviello, Executive Vice President, Technology & Life Sciences, NJEDA; Danielle Esser, Director of Governance, NJEDA; Fatou Jobe, Project Officer, NJEDA; Muneerah Sanders, NJEDA; Deputy Attorney General Matthew Reagan; Stephanie Brown, Governor's Authorities Unit, and staff.

Staff present via conference call: Jeffrey Oakman, Office of the Governor.

Chairman Doshi called the meeting to order at 10:00 am with a quorum of the Commission present. Per the Chair's request, Muneerah Sanders read the Open Public Meetings announcement and performed the roll call of the Commission.

WELCOME REMARKS – TIM SULLIVAN, CEO, NJEDA

At Chairman Doshi's request, Mr. Sullivan gave opening remarks and welcomed all to the NJEDA's new Newark office.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Doshi announced that Beth Noveck, Chief Innovation Officer of the NJ Office of Innovation had stepped down from the Board and the Governor Murphy was looking to fill the vacancy.

Chairman Doshi welcomed the newest commission member, Dr. Alain Kornhauser of Princeton University. Dr. Kornhauser advised that he was member when the Commission shut down nine years ago and provided his perspective during that time.

Chairman Doshi remarked on the progress the Commission has made over the last six months and the work of the Hiring Committee once again for their dedication to the process of bringing on an executive Director to help lead the CSIT and implement the Board's vision.

Chairman Doshi welcomed the Commission's new Executive Director, Judith Sheft. Chairman Doshi asked Ms. Sheft for remarks since becoming Executive Director.

JUDITH SHEFT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WELCOME

Ms. Sheft stated that it was day 13, and the job was off to a busy start. Ms. Sheft gave a brief overview of her professional background, since relocating from Chicago to New Jersey in 1980.

She added that she wanted to keep the focus on diversity and inclusion regarding the SBIR and other programs, and hit the ground running, and she was arranging one-on-one meetings with Commission members.

STATUS OF SBIR APPLICATIONS:

Chairman Doshi asked Ms. Sheft to walk through the grant program. Ms. Sheft advised the members on the total number of applications received, the number of completed applications received for FAST grants, as well as for Phase I and Phase II of the grant program.

She also reviewed the analysis on Phase I and Phase II applicants by several criteria, including county of origin, university affiliation, diversity and whether or not they were first-time awardees.

Chairman Doshi inquired about takeaways from this round of applications. Ms. Sheft stated that many were disqualified because they didn't include some documentation. She suggested increasing the application period window, and/or having a webinar to provide guidance to applicants. She suggested limiting awards to companies with less than five SBIRs already, as some applicants have had more than five awards, and at least one company had more than 20 awards.

BUDGET MEMO:

Chairman Doshi requested that Ms. Sheft summarize the FY2021 Budget Request. Ms. Sheft stated that CSIT was submitting a Fiscal Year 2021 budget request of \$4,000,000 for consideration by the Governor's Office. This budget request estimate includes total expected FY2021 expenses of \$5,000,000 offset by \$1,000,000 of carried over appropriations. Under the FY2021 expenses, 88 percent are program-related expenditures (\$4,275,000) and 12 percent are administrative expenses (\$590,000). Ms. Sheft stated that the budget request would cover expenses for various programs, including the SBIR/STTR program, and future proposed programs, including the Entrepreneurship Seed Grant Program the, NJ Commercialization Spark Fund, I6 Challenge, and other programs to be developed by the Executive Director.

Assemblyman Zwicker remarked about the fact that the CSIT can be nimble and allocate program funding rather quickly given the nature of the CSIT as a body.

Mr. Pascrell stated if the CSIT's overall budget is increased, it will likely remain at that level rather than return to the prior lower level, unless there's a change in administration.

Mr. Sullivan left the meeting at this time.

FUTURE PROGRAM IDEAS – CASE STUDY PRESENTATION:

Ms. Sheft gave a case study presentation. She outlined several new program concepts, mission, goals, and tactics to achieve the NJCSIT's mission to accelerate the innovation economy.

DISCUSSION OF 2020 MEETING LOCATIONS:

Chairman Doshi asked Ms. Esser to go over the calendars that were distributed to the members. Ms. Esser advised that the members were presented with the two calendars – one with meeting dates and locations for February through April of 2020, and a second calendar of proposed dates to hold from April 2020 – April 2021. These dates from April 2020 through April 2021 are subject to the Board's approval at its annual meeting in April. Ms. Esser also went over several meeting locations for the balance of 2020. Ms. Hart suggested Commission members consider South Jersey, when suggesting meeting locations.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

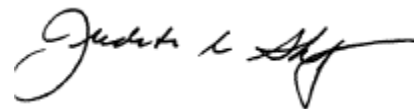
There being no further business, on a motion by Dr. Kornhauser, and seconded by Dr. Bloom, the meeting was adjourned at 12pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology was scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2020 at 10:00 am at NJIT, Newark.

CERTIFICATION:

The foregoing and attachments represent a true and complete summary of the actions taken by the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology at its Meeting on January 31, 2020.



Judith Sheft, Executive Director