

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

June 20, 2019

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, FENSTER HALL, NEWARK

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Commission present: Chairman Gunjan Doshi, Public Members Dr. Joel Bloom, NJIT; Charlene Brown, AT&T; Debbie Hart, BioNJ; and David Pascrell, Gibbons; Ex-officio Members: Brian Sabina representing CEO Tim Sullivan of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Linda Eno representing Commissioner Lamont Repollet of the Department of Education; Diana Gonzalez representing Secretary Zakiya Smith Ellis of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education;

Members Absent: Non-voting members: Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips, Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker, Senator Paul Sarlo, and Senator Robert Singer; Dr. Robert Barchi, Rutgers University; Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology.

Also present: Christopher Molloy, Chancellor for Rutgers University- New Brunswick; and Beth McGrath, Vice President for Government and Community Relations / Chief of Staff for the Stevens Institute of Technology; Kai Feder, Chief of Staff for the Office of Innovation, Deputy Attorney General Elizabeth Tillou; Daniel Davidow, Office of the Governor; and Danielle Esser, Deputy Chief of Staff, NJEDA.

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

The next item was the approval of the May 16, 2019 minutes. Debbie Hart suggested an edit to the minutes which was duly noted and recorded. On a motion by Ms. Gonzalez, and seconded by Dr. Bloom, the minutes were approved by the voting members present as amended.

Chairman Doshi stated that the Commission needed to have a calendar in place, complete with meeting locations, for the remainder of 2019. Chairman Doshi indicated that NJEDA staff would develop a calendar for approval at the next Commission meeting.

STAFF UPDATE:

Ms. Esser stated that the EDA approved the MOU between the Authority and the CSIT at its June 11, 2019 board meeting. She stated that the EDA received the transfer of the CSIT Funds from Treasury and the EDA would use the same process used for additional funding for the transfer of CSIT funds going forward for the FY2020 funds, if approved as part of the budget process.

Ms. Esser added that the CSIT webpage is live and linked through the EDA website. It will be continually updated to include meeting dates, locations, board member biographies, agendas and minutes.

Ms. Esser stated that a hiring committee was created, and that staff has created and circulated a draft job description to the committee and received comments from committee members.

Ms. Esser added that the draft by-laws had received DAG review and were available for Commission member comments.

She added that staff could create an annual report for review at the August meeting.

Dr. Bloom stated that the by-laws were well done, but the role of the Commission to stimulate venture capital investment should be added and clarified. Ms. Esser stated that staff would make those edits.

Ms. Hart stated that the by-laws list a wide range of duties and asked what happens if the Commission is unable to address all of the duties immediately. DAG Tillou stated that the list of duties was taken from the statute, but that the Commission had the ability to prioritize its actions within the scope of the listed duties.

Ms. Hart asked if it would be appropriate to change the word duties to scope. Other members concurred.

Mr. Pascrell noted that two voting members to be appointed upon recommendation of the Assembly Speaker have not been appointed. Mr. Pascrell stated that he would like to follow up with Speaker regarding the appointment of those two members.

Ms. Hart asked when the by-laws would take effect. DAG Tillou stated that purpose of the review was to gather comments and that the by-laws would be voted on at the next meeting. Mr. Doshi requested that members review and send any comments and proposed changes regarding the by-laws to staff.

HISTORY OF CSIT AND CURRENT PROGRAMS:

Mr. Sabina gave an overview of the former CST Commission's previous programs during its last two years of activity. He noted that the commission had 10 programs, split across four areas.

Mr. Sabina identified the previous Commission's core objectives, during the 2009 – 2010 years, which included the promotion of strong ties between industry and academic institutions, supporting the emergence of science and technology-based business, and enhancing science and technology policy decision making at all levels of state government. He also noted that the previous Commission spent approximately \$2.5 million in 2008 and 2009.

Mr. Sabina noted that some of the former Commission's programs have been rolled into the NJEDA and the Department of Labor, and also that under the Murphy Administration several State agencies, including the Office of Innovation and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, have developed new programs to support the State's innovation ecosystem.

Mr. Sabina provided the status of some of the former Commission's programs, several of which no longer exist. The presentation also included areas that the CSIT could utilize to bridge gaps in the innovation ecosystem, including initiatives from the Department of Labor, NJEDA programs, and Executive Orders.

Mr. Pascrell asked where the remaining funds were directed when the former Commission shut down. Mr. Sabina stated that he was unsure, but suspected they were pulled either into the State's general budget or shifted to the NJEDA along with the responsibility to maintain a portfolio of programs.

Mr. Molloy asked how decisions were made for funding federal SBIR grants. Mr. Sabina stated that it was rigorous process and based on federal agency guidelines.

Ms. Brown asked about a matrix of program options that were referenced for future Commission consideration and if these options were set. Mr. Sabina stated that the categories that were shown were illustrative and meant to show the capacity of the former Commission's programming.

Chairman Doshi remarked that the incubator program shows that it had significant funding and growth. Chairman Doshi asked what the peak amount of funding was for the entire Commission. Mr. Sabina stated that in 2007, the Commission's peak funding was \$22 million.

Ms. Hart: Funding was taken away from a joint Rutgers/UMDNJ program.

Mr. Pascrell stated that in 2009, the former CST Commission gave away \$2.9 million. Mr. Sabina stated that whatever funds that were not used likely rolled back to the general fund.

Mr. Sabina stated that the Commission was defunded in 2009, and that the Governor ran on the platform of stronger, fairer economy based on innovation.

CSIT ROLE AND FOCUS:

Mr. Sabina asked Mr. Feder to speak about the Future of Work Task Force (FWTF).

Mr. Feder stated that the FWTF is currently being compiled. Focus areas are to include:

- Skills demand
- Which types of action we should take
- Which types of action we should collect
- Skills automation
- Artificial Intelligence and what it means for the economy

Mr. Feder stated that the FWTF wants to develop tools and policies to streamline and grow businesses.

Ms. Brown asked Mr. Feder if he had reached out directly to companies to obtain the information. He stated yes, and that he also spoke to academics and looked at what other states and countries would be doing 5 – 10 – 15 – or 20 years down the road.

Mr. Doshi said we should develop partnerships that increase employer opportunities for student research in NJ. Research databases would be a one-stop shop.

Dr. Bloom stated that small businesses are seeking assistance and that they typically don't have research staff to navigate government programs effectively.

Mr. Molloy stated that the Commission should look at what other states have done for startups. Identify what the gaps are, and see if we can fill them in.

NEXT STEPS:

The Members of the Commission agreed to the following:

Create a Program Committee for next meeting, and CSIT should pick one dominant theme.

Mr. Doshi added that the NJEDA should research other states and what areas they have invested in programmatically and present to the Board at its next meeting.

Mr. Doshi stated volunteers for the committee were Charlene Brown, Debbie Hart, Assemblyman Zwicker, and EDA (if possible Tim Sullivan). Mr. Molloy volunteered. DAG Tillou stated she would look into how we can allow non-committee members to serve on committees in advance of the next meeting.

Dr. Bloom brought up that going back to the old Commission, there were four categories. The CSIT should not play "small ball," and the Commission will be judged on what it does first—CSIT should not play catch-up and instead pick up where it left off.

Ms. Eno left the meeting at this time due to another commitment at 12:00pm.

Mr. Doshi asked if everyone reviewed the job description.

Mr. Molloy left the meeting at 12:10pm.

Mr. Doshi requested that the NJEDA assist with the Executive Director position. He stated that the best option was for the Executive Director to be an employee of the NJEDA and to report to the Commission. He hoped to have the job posted in the next few days to make a decision soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The next item was to adjourn the public session of the meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss the salary of the Executive Director. The minutes will be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. The motion was made by Dr. Bloom, and seconded by Ms. Hart.

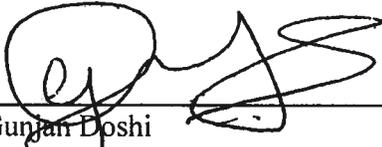
The Commission returned to Public Session.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2019, at 10 am with the location to be determined.

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 June 20, 2019.



Gunjan Doshi
Chairman