

**Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 12, 2015**

**Board members present in person:** Roger Myers (Chair), Margaret McCormick, Gene Zipp, Tom McCarty, Mike Bragg

**Board members present by teleconference:** Tad McGeer, Ken Yoshioka, Candis Claiborn

**Board members absent:** Jean-Michel Hillion

**Other persons present in person:** Mehran Mesbahi (JCATI Executive Director), Beth Hacker (JCATI Program Manager)

Public Session

**Welcome:** Dr. Myers welcomed the Board

**Meeting agenda:** Dr. Hacker presented the meeting agenda

Agenda

- Update on January Board meeting action items
- Vote to approve meeting minutes
- JCATI symposium report and discussion
- Update on ongoing projects
- Current JCATI RFP
- Postdocs and JCATI funding
- Board Members/Officers and JCATI funding
- Future Action Items

**Update on January Board meeting action items:**

Legislative Work Session: In January the Board proposed presenting at a legislative work session to promote JCATI. However, Alex Pietsch advised us not to call attention to JCATI at this time in the legislative session.

External gift funds: Dr. Hacker met with Greg Sheridan from UW Advancement to determine if JCATI could set up a gift account. Mr. Sheridan said that we could and that there was precedent for money going between WA universities. Any money contributed to this fund could be dispersed as JCATI saw fit and Advancement would take care of any fees and tax issues.

External funding and JLARC: JCATI will collect the leveraged federal and non-federal support of our awardees for our own internal tracking. This metric will not be a JLARC performance measure for the state to review.

The Board members voted unanimously to approve the January minutes and the minutes were accepted into the record.

**JCATI Symposium Report and Discussion:**

Dr. Hacker reported that 187 people registered for the April symposium and 25 companies were represented. Industry attendees came from the I-5 corridor, Columbia Gorge and Spokane. Dr. Myers and the Board hope the map will include more counties next year.

Dr. Claiborn suggested that next year each JCATI funded group do a short “speed dating” presentation not only to highlight their research but to draw more people to the poster session. Dr. Bragg supported this idea, as he recently attended a UW Foster School of Business meeting that did this. Each group had 1 minute to present without a PowerPoint and follow up questions were not allowed. Dr. Myers also suggested asking the groups to address the focus of the mission of JCATI and the importance of their project to industry.

The Board brought up the lack of diversity in the program, as only one woman was on the entire agenda. None of the women contacted by Dr. Hacker were able to participate in the symposium but JCATI will keep reaching out to them in the future. Mr. McCarty asked who is the focus of the symposium-industry or students? The students benefit from JCATI but industry needs to become more familiar with JCATI in order to make the program work.

The Board discussed student attendance, as many signed up but didn’t show. The Board agreed that it was not a hardship to ask students to pay and would revisit the idea before the next symposium. Dr. McCormick asked about a job fair at the symposium to encourage students to attend. This idea has been discussed in previous years but has never been implemented. Dr. Myers suggested having a job fair from 4-5 pm and give companies the option of setting up tables. This year, most of the attendees left before the poster session at 3 so this would give plenty of time for interaction.

At the symposium, Western Washington University approached Dr. Hacker about WWU hosting next year’s symposium. The Board agreed that it would be difficult for WSU attendees to travel there as there is no direct flight to Bellingham. The Board thought that WWU’s footprint was still a bit too small to host at this time so the 2016 symposium will be held at Washington State University.

Dr. Hacker said that multiple members of the press had been invited but only Dominic Gates of the Seattle Times attended. Steve Wilhelm of the PSBJ could not come but did write an article for PSBJ highlighting JCATI. Dr. McCormick suggested a press release before the symposium to highlight JCATI and to bring more companies to the symposium.

**JCATI Ongoing Projects:** Dr. Hacker updated the board on the status of the website refresh, CRM database and videos. The biennium close is June 30 so these projects must be concluded and paid for by then.

**Current JCATI RFP:** Dr. Hacker presented information on the number and categories of JCATI research proposals. The Board agreed that additive manufacturing was a hot area right now and wondered if at one point the RFP should focus on a targeted area. This idea has been posed by the board before and they debated the idea that some JCATI funds be set aside for a targeted area of interest with the rest dedicated to the broad field of aerospace.

Dr. Hacker discussed the difficulty in finding reviewers this year. Board members rejected the idea of paying reviewers for their time, saying it was a service that any researcher should provide. Dr. Myers commented that the proposals he reviewed, the plan for transition to industry was weak and that we should review the proposal instructions and scoring criteria to make sure it emphasizes this.

**Postdocs and JCATI funding:** Dr. Hacker explained the difference in institutional policies between UW and WSU regarding postdocs as Principal Investigators. The Board voted unanimously to let each organization define who can be a PI and to follow their internal processes. Additionally, in case the postdoc leaves their current university, the Board reserves the right to give the funds to a new PI at the same institution or to demand the funds are returned to JCATI.

**JCATI Board and Officers Conflict of Interest:** Dr. Hacker brought up the issue of conflict of interest, as the Board has the final say in funding decisions. Dr. Myers recalled from previous years that if a Board member has a conflict, they are not eligible to vote and must leave the room during the discussion of that application. Dr. McCormick reminded the Board that a Conflict of Interest Policy had been developed previously when Mr. Gibbs was Program Manager.

**National Network for Manufacturing Innovation:** Dr. Claiborn wanted to call the Board's attention to a recent Advanced Manufacturing Initiative, which is to create a research-to-manufacture infrastructure to solve industry-relevant problems. She wondered if JCATI could be leveraged but does realize that our budget is only \$1.5M out of a proposed \$50-70M award. Advanced manufacturing includes: automation/robots (Boeing), additive manufacturing and composites. Dr. Meyer asked the Board to think about if JCATI should focus more on specific areas to make more of an impact. The Board needs to be confident that JCATI is working and if there is an emerging technology where JCATI can have some influence. The Board would also like to discuss if it makes more sense to fund fewer proposals at a higher level in order for JCATI to be more effective.

**Action Items :** Dr. Hacker will:

- Ask previous awardees why they didn't resubmit
- Review RFP and suggest modifications
- Begin to develop outreach materials
- Compile an onboarding packet for new board members