

Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation

Fall Board Meeting

September 22, 2016 3:00-5:00 p.m. Univ. of Washington Guggenheim Hall

Present: Board Members: Roger Myers (chair), Alex Pietsch, Naveed Deen, Ryan Rule, Mike Bragg, Karl D'Ambrosio, Paul Applewhite, Jean-Michel Hillion
Others: John Thornquist (Governor's Office of Aerospace), Todd Cleland (UW Industry Relations), Mehran Mesbahi (JCATI Executive Director), Beth Hacker (JCATI Program Manager)

Absent: Board Member Margaret McCormick

A. January 2016 meeting minutes approved

The minutes from the meeting on January 14, 2016 were unanimously approved.

B. 2017 Symposium information and speaker request

The 2017 JCATI Symposium is Tuesday, April 4 at the University of Washington Husky Union Building. Dr. Hacker requested potential speaker and student pitch judge names by Thursday, October 6.

C. 2015-16 JCATI awardee final report metrics

Dr. Hacker presented metrics from 12 of the 15 completed projects. Three projects were given extensions due to a building fire and will report by Sept. 30. In 2015-16 there were twice as many biofuels projects than in any previous year and 50% fewer grad students than in the past 2 years. Six of the 12 projects transitioned to their industry partner with 4 more to transition within 6 months. However, the majority of the projects self-reported final TRL levels of 3 & 4, which the board feels is too low. All board members agreed that the 2017 application form and review sheet should continue to emphasize the industry transition.

D. 2016-17 JCATI projects metrics

Fifteen awards were distributed for 2016-17 with 6 composites related projects. The distribution of industry partners down the I-5 corridor, along the Columbia gorge, and in Spokane was expected since these are primary manufacturing centers. However, JCATI will continue to engage industry partners outside these areas, especially in Eastern Washington.

Dr. Hacker presented data showing less than half of this year's awards going to new PIs/projects. This distribution concerned Board members as they envisioned a more rapid project turnover. To reinforce the transition to industry, projects applying in 2017 will need to:

- Provide current TRL level and a statement justifying the level
- State up front if this is a multi-year project. The transition plan must be very strong and demonstrate the project is adding value.
- State why you still need money if you have previously received JCATI funding

Dr. Hacker noted that JCATI did not fund any biofuels technology proposals this year. Due to the WSU facility fire, researchers did not have data to write new proposals. The board agreed that while biofuels are currently not financially viable, the technology is important and rapidly advancing. Mr. Applewhite noted that Alaska Airlines is currently using biofuel for their planes. Mr. Thornquist stated that Gov. Inslee is very interested in biofuels as part of his clean energy initiative. The board asked Dr. Hacker to review JCATI progress reports and provide a status report on biofuel technology.

E. JCATI's Impact Over First Four Years (2012-16)

Dr. Hacker presented selected metrics from 2012-16, noting this did not include data from the 3 unfinished projects. Of the 65 projects funded so far, 14 have transitioned to industry partners. Board members felt this rate was acceptable but requested more information from Dr. Hacker regarding:

- Projects that didn't transition: what happened? Is there still technology there that can be used?
- Breakdown between public and private funds received by leveraging JCATI data
- Number of patents
- Clarification of student employment data.
- Stories tied to projects that did transition

Dr. Myers also suggested taking pictures of the technology in use at the industry facility to demonstrate impact.

The board emphasized its goal of improving the project selection process as previously discussed meeting. The board agreed that industry follow up was essential to ensure technology transition.

Mr. Applewhite mentioned precision agriculture as an example of how JCATI can impact Washington. UAVs could carry pesticide specific spray nozzles but the system would need data collection/visualization to complete the cycle. This type of technology is appropriate for a JCATI project and would be used by both aerospace and agricultural companies. Dr. Hacker will identify and contact the WSU Tri-Cities professor working on vineyard monitoring to learn more about agricultural implementation of aerospace technology.

F. JCATI Funding Level Request for 2017 Legislative Session:

Dr. Hacker asked the board to discuss if JCATI should request increased funding and then set aside funds specifically targeting WA space and UAV industries. Mr. Thornquist noted that the legislature's highest priority was education so the overall state budget will be very tight. Mr. Thornquist also wondered if Senate/House working sessions would be useful or holding a board meeting in Olympia so the legislators can see JCATI's value. If JCATI does receive more funding, Mr. Pietsch suggested we be flexible with the money so we don't restrict ourselves. Mr. Thornquist will continue to gather information and keep the board informed of legislative strategy.

G. Capstone Projects

Dr. Hacker reported that EWU, CWU and Evergreen State are interested in JCATI funded industry capstones but currently cannot find industry sponsors. Dr. Marty Weiser at EWU is expanding his contacts via INWAC but will continue to work with Dr. Hacker on potential opportunities. All 3 universities will be invited to the 2017 symposium to present posters and increase their visibility.

H. NASA Regional Economic Development (RED) Opportunity

Dr. Hacker presented the NASA Regional Economic Development (RED) proposal to the board. NASA liked the JCATI economic development model and wants to pilot a virtual RED center accessed through JCATI. RED will provide 8 hours of pro bono technical assistance by NASA subject matter experts. JCATI would solicit applications identify 4-6 projects per year as well as promote the program. Dr. Cleland asked if this was similar to the NIST MEP model, which works through Impact WA here in Washington. Board members felt 8 hours of help wasn't enough to offset time spent on application and any IP protection paperwork. Dr. Mesbahi and Dr. Myers suggested making RED part of the JCATI submission, which would target aerospace companies but not require a separate advertising campaign. Applicants could fill out an addendum to their JCATI application which would be evaluated separately. Dr. Myers requested more information from NASA before committing to this pilot project.

I. JCATI Operations Update

- JCATI now has a gift account so the program can receive donations. Dr. Hacker will solicit industry partners but feel free to send names of other potential donors.
- Dr. Hacker purchased Board and Officers insurance policy to cover any potential claims against the board. A separate policy was necessary as JCATI is ineligible to be covered by the University of Washington policy.

J. Action Items

- Board members should contact Dr. Hacker with symposium speaker names by October 6
- Dr. Hacker will review metrics and final reports to answer the questions posed by the Board.
- Dr. Hacker will contact NASA for more information on the RED program.