

Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation

Winter Board Meeting

January 25, 2018 3:00-5:00 pm Univ. of Washington Guggenheim Hall

Present: Board Members: Roger Myers (chair), Mike Bragg, Karl D'Ambrosio, Jean-Michel Hillion, Mary Rezac, Ryan Rule, Mo Swanson

Others: Mehran Mesbahi (JCATI Executive Director), Beth Hacker (JCATI Program Manager), Nicole Larson (WWU Professor of Plastics & Composites Engineering)

Absent: Naveed Deen, Paul Applewhite

A. October 2017 meeting minutes approved

The minutes from the October 26, 2017 board meeting were unanimously approved.

A. Industry Night debrief

The JCATI Industry Night held on Monday, January 22 was attended by approximately 35 industry representatives and 25 faculty from WSU, WWU and UW. The goal was to provide a relaxed atmosphere for people to discuss their technology needs. Feedback from board and industry attendees was positive and faculty who traveled from WSU and WWU thought the event was worth their time and effort. Multiple board members suggested circulating a list of attendees with their company and area of specialization before the meeting would have been helpful. Another suggestion was to invite a broader range of aerospace businesses. Dr. Hacker will work with WSU to determine how to hold a similar event in Pullman/Eastern Washington. The board agreed to repeat this event next year.

B. 2018 Symposium update

Dr. Hacker presented the current speaker list including confirmed keynote, Jim Reuter from NASA STMD. Mr. Hillion agreed to speak on electric aircraft and Dr. Mesbahi will find a machine learning/AI speaker. Mr. D'Ambrosio will contact a robotics company and Dr. Hacker will work on finding a UAV speaker and potentially a 3D printing/advanced mfg speaker. She noted that AUVSI is also holding their annual meeting on the same dates as the JCATI symposium. Dr. Hacker gave the board a February 9 deadline for booking their symposium travel.

C. 2018 RFP update

Dr. Hacker reminded the board of the March 2 application deadline as well as the review process timeline. The board also discussed potential dates for the project selection meeting. Dr. Hacker also reported on her visit to WSU 2017 awardees and will continue to check in with all currently funded projects to ensure progress and industry involvement.

D. Legislative Reporting

Dr. Hacker told the board about two legislative reports delivered in early January. First was the annual report of JCATI metrics to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC). JLARC will run the sunset audit on JCATI in 2020. Second was the biennial legislative report which includes metrics, highlights and future directions. This report was sent to legislators/staff on 3 legislative committees: House Technology & Economic Development (initial sponsor of JCATI), Senate Education & Workforce Development and Senate Economic Development & Trade. Dr. Hacker also sent the report to Brian Bonlender and Chris Green at WA Dept. of Commerce. It has been several years since Dr. Hacker and Dr. Mesbahi met with JLARC and Dr. Myers encouraged them to set up a face to face meeting.

The board discussed legislative outreach and information dissemination especially since the Office of Aerospace Director position is vacant. Ms. Larson told the board that WWU wrote a letter to the legislature supporting JCATI signed by both their Dean and President. Dr. Bragg will connect Dr. Hacker with the appropriate UW state relations contact and Dr. Rezac will do the same for WSU. Mr. Rule said that SPEEA could also provide a letter. Dr. Hacker, Dr. Mesbahi and Dr. Myers will work on a legislative outreach effort and report back to the board. The board also encouraged Dr. Hacker to meet with Mr. Bonlender and Mr. Green until a new director is chosen

F. Discussion of JCATI Future Directions

Dr. Hacker asked the board to discuss options if JCATI received an appropriations increase and/or was included as a permanent line item in the state budget. Providing a longer award period and providing larger awards were proposed as it is hard to ramp up and complete a project in the currently mandated 1 year period. Dr. Hacker noted that one company requested a shorter award period as the company was in a rapid development phase. This idea was viewed favorably by the board and Ms. Swanson noted this would definitely help smaller companies whose development phases run on a series of short sprints. Several board members wondered if we could have a rolling approval process to better meet the needs of business. Another suggestion was to provide each project with a project management team/consult to help manage the transition process. Dr. Bragg mentioned UW CoMotion's mentoring system and Dr. Rezac mentioned I-Corps, which is a NSF funded program and said that WSU's node is expanding onto their Spokane campus. Dr. Hacker mentioned that Protium which spun off Dr. Leachman's JCATI awards worked with I-Corps and recently was awarded a SBIR award. Travis Woodland is the Director of WSU I-Corps and will have a table and posters at the symposium. The board wondered if future RFPs would ask as part of the transition plan to discuss their project with I-Corps. Mr. D'Ambrosio wondered if at some point we could model JCATI after the Clean Energy Institute (CEI), which provides a scientific testbed and access to venture capital. There was also a discussion of setting aside funds for a specific technology area with questions on how that topic would be chosen.

G. WWU Capstone Question

Dr. Hacker asked the board to discuss the use of JCATI funds for WWU capstones. Previously the board voted to only give capstones to CWU and EWU, as other institutions had industry mechanisms in place. Ms. Larson explained that WWU have multiple small projects that industry is interested in but not at the full project funding level. The board suggested WWU submit those projects as applications as sometimes funds remain after the full project awards are distributed.

H. Marketing Consultant

Dr. Hacker requested hiring a communications consultant to review JCATI's branding and aerospace industry outreach. The goal is to increase the diversity of applications as many WA aerospace companies are still not aware of JCATI. The consultant would perform a SWOT analysis and provide an implementation plan. The board agreed to fund a consultant but asked Dr. Hacker to make sure there were no ethical issues to using proviso funds for this purpose.

I. Action Items:

- Contact Kelly Maloney of AFA regarding filling the Office of Aerospace Director's position
- Contact Dr. Bragg and Dr. Rezac regarding their respective government relations offices and university letters of support
- Contact SPEEA regarding a letter of support
- Contact UW CoE Dean of Research regarding consultant hiring
- Continue to make symposium travel arrangements for board and speakers
- Contact potential symposium speakers
- Work with Dr. Myers and Dr. Mesbahi to develop a legislative outreach program
- Set up meetings with JLARC and WA Dept. of Commerce