Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation

Fall Board Meeting

September 20, 2018 3:00-5:00 pm Univ. of Washington Guggenheim Hall

Present: Board Members: Roger Myers (chair), Paul Applewhite, Naveed Deen, Jean-Michel Hillion, Mary Rezac, Mo Swanson

Others: Mehran Mesbahi (JCATI Executive Director), Greg Miller (UW Vice Dean of Research), Beth Hacker (JCATI Program Manager), Nicole Larson (WWU Professor of Plastics & Composites Engineering)

Absent: Ryan Rule

A. January 2018 meeting minutes approved
The minutes from the January 25, 2018 board meeting were unanimously approved.

B. 2019 JCATI Symposium

The 2019 JCATI symposium will be Thursday, April 11 from 9 AM-4 PM at the University of Washington Husky Union Building (HUB) with Jeff Sheehy, Chief Engineer of NASA STMD as keynote speaker. The board will host a speaker's dinner at Piatti's on Wednesday, April 10. Both electric battery technology and automation were suggested as topics of interest. Dr. Mesbahi asked that students be allowed to have a product model alongside their project poster. Dr. Hacker will check on the availability of tables and power in the HUB ballroom.

C. 2017-18 JCAT Project Metrics
Dr. Hacker presented transition status, TRL level and industry support amounts collected from 2017-18 project final reports. Seven of 13 projects transferred technology to their industry partner while industry in-kind support amounts remains stable.

D. JLARC Metrics Review

Dr. Hacker presented metrics submitted annually to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC). These metrics are used in preparing the upcoming JCATI sunset report for the legislature. Multiple board members asked if student participation numbers took into account TA salary increases while JCATI funding has remained flat. Members also asked for the number of unique industry partners plotted cumulatively over the years.

E. 2018-19 Project Review

Dr. Hacker presented 2018-19 awardee research area metrics. Board members asked if the specific categories were a deterrent to those outside this list interested in applying for JCATI awards. The board suggested a list a range of aerospace topics/areas be posted on the website to encourage new focus areas.

F. 2018-19 Capstone Projects

For a second year, JCATI awarded Central Washington University funding to continue their Boeing composites capstone project. Dr. Hacker continues to promote Eastern Washington University to industry in hopes of setting up a capstone. Both CWU and EWU attended the 2018 symposium in Spokane and will also be invited to the 2019 symposium regardless of capstone participation.

G. 2019-20 RFP

Dr. Hacker announced that 2019-20 project proposals are due March 1. Board members suggested the RFP emphasize that JCATI wants to fund a broad range of aerospace projects including airport ground systems, etc. The goal is for all engineering departments to feel they can apply, as aerospace technology development spans multiple disciplines.

H. Legislative Outreach and Workforce Development

Dr. Hacker outlined potential action items for engaging legislators about JCATI. One path to re-appropriation might come as part of the legislature's NMA package. Dr. Rezac currently participates on the NMA workforce development sub-committee which will provide recommendations to Gov. Inslee. The board discussed how JCATI could facilitate more workforce development via internships, especially with small companies. The board asked Dr. Rezac to convey to the committee that our mission is technology innovation per our funding bill. JCATI would need a changed mandate and additional funding to address internships or the broader need for skilled workers.

I. JCATI Industry Involvement and Funds Allocation

The board discussed ideas to improve industry interest in JCATI. Dr. Hacker stated the JCATI one year time frame and IP issues were key industry concerns. Dr. Mesbahi suggested a more agile funding method to allow for short sprints. Board members also wondered about dedicating specific funds for high impact areas. Dr. Miller mentioned posting each school's IP templates on the website so academia can be upfront with companies as to what universities can do. Dr. Hacker will follow up with companies for insight into their experiences and technology needs.

Action Items

1. JLARC data: review data on annual number of new companies partnering with JCATI. Collect information on engineering TA salary increases over the past 5 years.
2. Symposium: continue to work with Dr. Mesbahi on identifying and contacting potential symposium speakers and judges.
3. Discuss and define short sprint funding process-is it feasible?
4. Determine what technology areas are important to Washington
5. Send Teal Group report to members
6. Update website to include internship information
7. Update website to add names of companies who have partnered with JCATI