

Joint Center for Aerospace Technology Innovation (JCATI)

Virtual Winter Board Meeting

January 13, 2021 3:00-5:00 PM

Present: Roger Myers (chair), Nancy Allbritton, Dave Field, Dale Goulding, Robert Perez, Ryan Rule

Other Attendees: Julien Acis (Albany Engineered Products), Beth Hacker (JCATI Program Manager), Nicole Larson (WWU Professor of Plastics and Engineering), Mehran Mesbahi (JCATI Executive Director)

Absent: Dave Dickson, Laila Elias

A. Welcome

Dr. Hacker welcomed board members and each attendee introduced themselves.

B. September draft meeting minutes

The minutes of the September 30, 2021 board meeting were unanimously approved.

C. JCATI Code of Conduct

Dr. Hacker presented a draft Code of Conduct for board member review. As with anti-discrimination statements, many boards are moving towards having these documents on file. Dr. Hacker asked for comments or edits no later than Friday, January 28.

D. Undergraduate Scholars Program (USP) Update

Per board members' request, Dr. Hacker presented USP metrics. Since the USP was finalized after project applications were submitted, several PIs reported difficulty involving students. The 2022 RFP includes USP as an optional application add on which allows faculty to plan how to use USP students. However, USP has already increased the number of undergrads involved in FY22 projects.

E. RFP Update

Dr. Hacker reminded the board of the February 25 RFP deadline. This year Dr. Hacker and Dr. Mesbahi will hold live Zoom help sessions in January and February. This allows interested academics and industry to ask questions in real time. By request the board will have earlier proposal access before the selection meeting. Once proposals are received, Dr. Hacker may contact board members for potential reviewer suggestions.

F. April 7 Virtual Symposium

Dr. Hacker reminded the board of the April 7 virtual symposium. Some topics of interest include sustainable aviation, new space, new materials manufacturing and certification, and the pandemic's impact on airline/airport safety measures.

G. Project Transition by Area

Dr. Hacker presented data on JCATI project transition by technical area as well as follow on funding by area. The board discussed reasons why some technical areas had higher transition percentages as well as how company size might affect transition.

H. Key Working Groups

Dr. Mesbahi presented his idea to create working groups around WA aerospace industry grand challenges and where they intersect with WA universities' expertise. The board gave full approval to create a draft model for further discussion based on one focus area. Several board members felt the working group concept would help explain JCATI to potential industry partners.

The next step is to define a common framework which applies to any focus area. The framework would allow for enough granularity for defined projects and interaction, list of contacts. This document is not only to meet industry needs but also for academia to identify course gaps and training needs. Dr. Mesbahi proposed to post the document on the website as a living document for discussion and collaboration. Board members posed many questions around getting document feedback, amount of work needed to keep it a living document as well as the level of granularity. Dr. Mesbahi and Dr. Hacker will provide a draft outline to board members this summer.

I. Operations

Dr. Hacker asked members to suggest names for the vacant Industry Group position as well as potential board chair nominees. Dr. Myers has reached his term limit as Chair but is allowed to stay on until replaced.

Action Items:

- Post JCATI Code of Conduct on website
- Provide board members with proposal access
- Forward Q&A links for board member distribution
- Finalize symposium speakers
- Develop framework for Key Working Groups