

## **NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**November 15, 2024**

**Kean University, STEM Building, 1075 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ.**

*This meeting was held in-person and via Microsoft Teams teleconference.*

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Members of the Commission present in person: Debbie Hart, BioNJ, Chair; David Pascrell, Gibbons, Vice Chair; Ram Akella for Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Adam Sternbach, Tessara, Dr. Alain Kornhauser, Princeton University; and Ralph Hoag for Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner, DOE.

Members of the Commission present via conference call: Ex-Officio Voting Member Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary, OSHE;

Members of the Commission absent: Public voting member: Cuneyt Erdogan, Clarus Engineering; and Non-Voting Legislative Members: Senator Paul Sarlo, Senator Robert Singer, and Assemblyman Christopher Tully; Non-Voting University Members: Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President, Stevens Institute of Technology; and Dr. Jonathan Holloway, President, Rutgers University.

Also present: Greg Townsend, Stevens; Judith Sheft, Executive Director, CSIT; Mahako Etta, Frances Keel, Shruti Kaul, and Nishant Upadhyay CSIT Staff; Elizabeth Marshall, Christine Machnowsky, and Christopher Kay, Deputy Attorneys General; Jamera Sirmans, Governor's Authorities Unit; EDA Staff: Danielle Esser, Director; Hector Serrano, Sr. Project Officer; Fabiola Saturne, Project Officer; and Muneerah Sanders; Board Liaison.

Per the Chair's request, Ms. Sanders read the Open Public Meetings announcement and performed the roll call of the Commission.

Prior to commencing the meeting, Chair Hart asked Ms. Esser to read aloud a statement regarding the process for public comment at the board meeting for any members of the public on the call. No members of the public presented themselves at this time.

### **WELCOME REMARKS**

Dr. Keith Bostian, Associate Provost, Science and Technology, Kean University

### **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The first item was the approval of the July 26th, 2024, meeting minutes.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Pascrell    **SECOND:** Mr. Akella    **AYES: 7**

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY:** The next item was the presentation of the Chairman's Report to the Commission.

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY:** The next item was the presentation of the Executive Director's Monthly Report to the Commission.

## **GRANT PROGRAMS**

### **CLEAN TECH PILOT DEMONSTRATION GRANT**

Ms. Kaul presented the following item before the Board:

**ITEM:** Pilot Clean Tech Demonstration Grant Program, Round 2 Awards

**REQUEST:** To approve Pilot Clean Tech Demonstration Grant Program, Round 2 grants, totaling \$2,737,400 in funding, to eleven (11) New Jersey based, early-stage companies. And Decline four (4) applications to the Pilot Clean Tech Demonstration Grant Program, Round 2, because they did not obtain the minimum score of 70 required by the program.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Dr. Kornhauser    **SECOND:** Mr. Hoag    **AYES: 6**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 1**

Ms. Hart recused herself because Members of BioNJ are on the list of applicants.

## **CSIT ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Maternal / Infant Health R&D Seed Grant Round 2**

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

**ITEM:** Increase in Funding of the Maternal and Infant Health R&D Grant Program Round 2

**REQUEST:** To approve twenty-three grants at a total of \$1,723,051 for awards to twenty-three New Jersey-based early-stage companies selected under the Maternal and Infant Health R&D Grant Program, Round 2

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Akella    **SECOND:** Mr. Sternbach    **AYES: 7**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 2**

Ms. Etta presented the next item before the Board:

**Item:** Approval of the Maternal and Infant Health R&D Grant Program Round 2 awardees

**Request:** To approve a \$522,105 increase in the funding of the Catalyst Seed Grant Program – Round 3. The funding will come from the CSIT FY24 budget.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Dr. Kornhauser    **SECOND:** Mr. Akella    **AYES: 6**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 3**

Ms. Hart recused herself because Members of BioNJ are on the list of applicants.

## **Food /AG R&D Seed Grant – Round 2**

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board:

**Item:** Approval of the Food and Agriculture Research & Development Pilot Seed Grant Program Budget Increase

**Request:** To approve a budget increase of \$149,755 for the Food and Agriculture R&D Pilot Seed Grant Program (“Program”) to support two additional grant awards that scored at or above the minimum score of 70 points.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Akella    **SECOND:** Mr. Sternbach    **AYES: 7**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 4**

Ms. Keel presented the next item before the Board:

**Item:** Approval of the Food and Agriculture Research & Development Pilot Seed Grant Program awardees and Budget Increase

**Request:** To approve Seven Food and Agriculture Research & Development Pilot Seed Grant Program awards totaling \$524,935 and the declination of one applicant for scoring below the minimum requirement of 70 points on this Program.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Dr. Kornhauser    **SECOND:** Mr. Akella    **AYES: 6**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 5**

Ms. Hart recused herself because Members of BioNJ are on the list of applicants.

## **SBIR/STTR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Item:** First Amendment to the MOU between NJ Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey to Support Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Grant Writing Activities

**Request:** Approve a First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between CSIT and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (Rutgers)

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Mr. Pascrell    **SECOND:** Mr. Sternbach    **AYES: 7**

**RESOLUTION ATTACHED AND MARKED EXHIBIT: 6**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

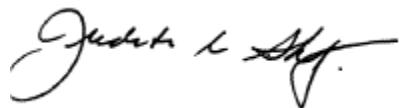
There being no further business, on a motion by Dr. Kornhauser, and seconded by Mr. Akella, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 am.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting date for the Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology is scheduled for Friday, January 17, 2025 at 10:00 am, in person and virtually.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The foregoing and attachments represent a true and complete summary of the actions taken by the Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology at its Meeting on November 15, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith L Sheft".

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Judith Sheft, Executive Director  
New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology