

Minutes of the Research, Economic Development, & Innovation Committee
University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents
Teleconference
November 1, 2013

Chairman Higgins convened the meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation (REDI) Committee at 3:01 pm. Regents Pruitt, Drew, Farrow, Hribar, and Petersen were present.

a. Discussion and Review of the Incentive Grant Selection Committee Process

Chairman Higgins discussed the Incentive Grant Program developments that have taken place since the October REDI Committee meeting. He stated that 56 Incentive Grant applications were received and that each judge reviewed and scored 11 to 12 grant applications in the first round. Each application was reviewed and scored by three judges. Chairman Higgins stated that after the first teleconference meeting of the Selection Committee, the 56 grant applications were narrowed down to 15 for review in the final round, and that the Selection Committee selected 12 out of the final 15 for funding. He noted that judges reviewed all 15 grant applications in the final round, except in cases where a judge had a conflict of interest with an application.

Chairman Higgins discussed how the Selection Committee made selections in the final round. He noted that proposals were first reviewed and discussed individually. After all the grant applications were reviewed, the Selection Committee then began to make decisions as to which proposals would receive funding and at what funding levels.

Regent Drew asked how some proposals with lower relative scores were able to make it into the final round of consideration. Chairman Higgins responded that some proposals with lower scores made it to the final round because a majority of the committee decided the proposal was requesting a sufficient amount of funding for a worthwhile cause. In particular, he noted that the committee acknowledged that some applications may have been reviewed by three judges who scored a grant application tougher than their peers, and that while it received a lower average score than some other proposals, it was still deserving to be in the final round of consideration.

b. Discussion and Review of the Incentive Grant Selection Committee Grant Proposal Recommendations

Chairman Higgins began by acknowledging that some of the selected grant applications were approved with lower funding levels than were requested. Chairman Higgins then explained why the Selection Committee reduced the awarded funding amounts for the following proposals:

- **UW – Stevens Point Aquaculture and Aquaponics Economic Development and Innovation proposal & the UW – Milwaukee Research and Training Center for Commercialization of Intensive Aquaculture and Aquaponics (CCIAA) proposal:** The Selection Committee reduced each of these respective grant application funding

requests by 25% because of the opportunity for collaboration between these proposal and because of the potential for additional outside funding from WEDC or elsewhere.

- **UW – Madison Igniter: An Engine of Technology Commercialization proposal:** The Selection Committee reduced the funding request because it determined the budget could be scaled back without negatively impacting the ability of the application to produce adjusted outcomes and because of the potential for additional outside funding from WEDC or elsewhere.
- **UW – Eau Claire, Madison, Milwaukee, and Oshkosh UW System Nursing Faculty Program Enhancement proposal:** The Selection Committee reduced the funding request because the program was scalable and able to achieve the same or similar outcomes with reduced funding.
- **UW – Milwaukee Water Technology Accelerator (WaTA) Supporting Wisconsin’s Water Industry:** The Selection Committee reduced the funding request because of the potential for additional federal grant funding and private sector investment.

Chairman Higgins stated the result of these funding decisions made by the Selection Committee was that 12 out of the 15 final round proposals could be funded in full or in part. He stated that if the Selection Committee just decided to fully fund the top ranked proposals in the final round, only seven proposals would have received funding.

Vice President Brukaradt stated he had talked to Chancellors or leadership from all of UW institutions that sent applications, including Chancellors from institutions that are receiving reduced awards. He noted that all of the Chancellors understood and approved of the selection process and will work with UW System to update the outcomes metrics based upon the reduced funding awards.

Chairman Higgins asked if there are any questions about specific grant applications. There were no questions from REDI Committee members.

**c. Endorsement of the Incentive Grant Selection Committee Final Grant Proposal Recommendations
[Resolution I.4.c.]**

Chairman Higgins asked for a motion to approve Resolution I.4.c., which would formally endorse the Incentive Grant Selection Committee final grant proposal recommendations.

[Resolution I.4.c.]

That, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the UW System Board of Regents endorses the Incentive Grant Selection Committee Final Grant Proposal Recommendations.

Motion by Regent Drew, seconded by Regent Petersen, to approval Resolution I.4.c. Chairman Higgins called for discussion.

Regent Farrow noted that she approved of all the selected grant applications, with the exception of the UW – Madison Igniter proposal. She expressed her strong objection to funding this proposal through the Incentive Grant program, because she believes this is something that WARF should be funding. Chairman Higgins recognized and noted her objection.

Chairman Higgins called for a vote on Resolution I.4.c. The resolution passed unanimously, with none opposed and no abstentions.

Chairman Higgins asked if there was any other business to bring before the committee. Regent Drew thanked Regent Higgins, the Selection Committee, and everyone else that was involved with the Incentive Grant program for all their hard work. Chairman Higgins also thanked Selection Committee Chair Jeff Bartell, Dave Brukardt, and Cody Loew for their work on the Incentive Grant program.

Chairman Higgins adjourned the meeting at 3:32 pm.