

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
STRATEGIC INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Office of Higher Education, Providence, RI
June 18, 2007
MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: J. MarcAurele, Brandon Melton, George Nee, and Martin Trueb
Members Absent: Armeather Gibbs, William McGowan, and Lorna Ricci
Board Staff Present: Michael Koback, Stephen Schaefer, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Maureen Mooney

With a quorum present, Chairman J. MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

A motion was entered to approve the Strategic Investment Committee meeting minutes of May 25, 2007.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by B. Melton. All approved.

Chairman J. MarcAurele asked M. Koback of the GWB staff to outline the process of the recent review of funding requests for Biotechnology and Finance/Insurance Industry Partnerships.

Technical Review Committee: Biotechnology and Finance/Insurance Industry Partnerships

M. Koback stated that there were two proposals received; one for Biotech and one for Financial Services. He explained that Attachment A provided some background on the assignment of points and scoring. He noted that URI and the Independent Insurance Agents of RI submitted the financial services proposal; Tech Collective was the proposal respondent for Biotechnology. M. Koback noted that the financial services insurance proposal did not score high enough from the onset and is not recommended for funding. He noted the evaluators found it weak and without much substance. However, the GWBRI is committed to working with them and will provide technical services to hopefully bring them to the point where they can be funded as a partnership.

M. Koback noted that Tech Collective did a fine job in their proposal submission for Biotechnology, adding that they had a good basis from the H1B grant through the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI. Attachment B highlights the key points of their proposal. Funding in the amount of \$148,461 is requested and is recommended by the Technical Review Committee for funding.

G. Nee inquired how many companies were involved in the funding request for Biotechnology Industry Partnerships. M. Koback indicated there were 14

currently under the H1B and that the majority of them are interested in remaining part of the Partnership.

Chairman MarcAurele called for a vote on the requested funding for the Biotechnology Industry Partnership in the amount of \$148,461.

VOTE: George Nee moved to approve, seconded by Martin Trueb. All approved.

Adult Education/Literacy Funding: M. Koback discussed the funding request for Adult Education/Literacy Funding and the issue of it being noted as pending on the meeting agenda. He explained that the agenda was put together 48 hours before the committee meeting and at that time, there were issues outstanding with some of the figures as well as J. Uvin's recommendations. The funding and recommendations have now been clarified based on discussion from this morning's Adult Education and Literacy committee meeting. It was recommended to fund \$4.5 million to support the whole system reform of Adult Education and Literacy. It was clarified that \$4.2 million will fund the initiatives relating to the job development piece with an additional \$300,000 aside pending further development of industry partnerships or other creative options to possibly fund innovative programs.

G. Nee noted that we are currently moving into next year's budget for expenditures after July 1st. He pointed out that there is not a global budget for the HRIC next year and stated for the record, that when that process begins, that a serious discussion should occur about allocating more funds out of next year's budget for adult education and literacy. G. Nee also discussed the topic of carryover into next year and emphasized that adult education and literacy was a top priority as it does move people into the workforce. He also noted the importance of the youth initiatives and the fact that there is now an infrastructure and framework in place to establish outcome based products.

A discussion followed regarding the topic of a carry over of funds into next year. M. Koback predicted that approximately \$3 million of unobligated funds will be carried over into July. The budget next year is anticipated to be \$12 million. The plan is to continue to do business (under continuing resolution) until the committee meets again to develop the budget. G. Nee interjected by confirming the validity of the current proposals and the process. M. Trueb raised the question of identifying the reason we have carryover noting that in the past we have been a little behind schedule, but are now catching up. Chairman MarcAurele concluded that we are catching up because processes are now in place that continually improves our progress. M. Koback further explained that the two elements of the process are what is obligated versus what is expended noting that for budget purposes we consider obligations.

Chairman MarcAurele entered a motion to approve the Adult Education and Literacy funding request amount of \$4.5 million.

Vote: M. Trueb moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All approved.

The third recommendation on the agenda, the request to fund the RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) in the amount of \$1,000,000 was next. These funds would be utilized for the Workforce Expansion Grants program for FY 2008.

Chair MarcAurele entered a motion to approve the funding request to RIEDC for \$1,000,000.

Vote: B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All approved.

FY07/07 Budget Report/Recommendations M. Koback initiated a brief discussion of the FY 07/08 budget reallocations referring to the **FY'07 Budget Update** and the **FY'07 Proposed Budget Reallocation** information provided. Specifically the Business Retention category would decrease by \$500,000 and the Comprehensive Workforce training category would increase by \$500,000. The Express Grants category would decrease by \$500,000 again increasing the Comprehensive Workforce Training category by \$500,000.

Chairman MarcAurele called for a motion to approve the FY'07/'08 Budget Recommendations.

Vote: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by B. Melton. All approved.

With no further business, Chair MarcAurele motioned to adjourn.

Vote: M. Trueb moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney