



ARKANSAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

100 Main Street, Suite 450, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 (501) 324-9006

**MINUTES OF THE 91ST MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
MARCH 17, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Dr. Merlin Augustine, Chair of the Board, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the 100 Main Building in Little Rock.

A quorum of Board members was present and included: Dr. Gene Aist, Dr. Joel Anderson, Mr. Jonathan Davis, Mr. William Dempsey, Dr. Mary Good, Dr. Charles Hathaway, Mr. D.W. May, Ms. Sue McGowan, Mr. Ron Roberts, Ms. Melinda Saunders, and Dr. Harry Ward.

Staff members present included: Ms. Melissa Adams, Dr. John Ahlen, Mr. Bob Alvey, Mr. Kevin Carr, Mr. Roger Edwards, Ms. Namratha Hegde, Mr. Les Lane, Dr. Herb Monoson, Mr. Tony Robinson, and Ms. Joyce Sadler.

Dr. Augustine welcomed two new members to the Board: Ms. Sue McGowan from Paragould and Ms. Melinda Saunders from St. Paul.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Augustine presented the minutes from the January 21, 2000 Board meeting. Dr. Hathaway made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ahlen introduced Richard Lollis, the new Vice President Manufacturing Extension.

Dr. Ahlen stated that after the MEP roll over review, the staff began extensive strategic planning for the network. It was then decided that strategic planning for MEP alone was

not what was needed. The Authority needed a more comprehensive plan for the entire agency.

Regular senior staff meetings have taken place. Representatives from NIST have also attended some of the meetings.

As a result of the strategic planning process, the staff is looking at how information provided to the Board could be streamlined. Dr. Ahlen outlined several recommendations for the Board's consideration. Dr. Ahlen stated that these items would be finalized by the May Board meeting.

Include the report on TTAG projects funded in the president's report under the program portfolio. The two financial reports would also be included in the president's report.

The resolutions that authorize grant funds for both TTAG programs could be combined into one funding resolution.

Dr. Ahlen proposed including information about closed research projects in the program portfolio.

Dr. Ahlen stated that the agency's biennial budget request would be discussed at the next Board meeting.

INDUSTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

Buzz May presented the Industry Committee Report. He stated that the committee met on February 24 and he felt that it was the most productive meeting the committee had had in the two years he had been on the Board.

Mr. May presented a report showing the Technology Transfer Assistance Grant Program projects funded since January, 2000. There were 15 projects funded totaling \$51,745. Mr. May made a motion for the acceptance of the report. Dr. Hathaway seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

Draft Resolution 00-28

Draft Resolution 00-28 will provide monies for funding recommended projects under the Network Technology Transfer Assistance Grant (TTAG) Program during the fourth quarter of state fiscal year 2000. The funding is in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Mr. May made a motion for the approval of Draft Resolution 00-28. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

Mr. May suggested that these types of funding resolutions be brought to the Board on an annual basis. Dr. Ahlen stated that the staff was currently working on that and would bring a resolution to the Board in May that would cover the next fiscal year.

Mr. May stated that all the federal monies available to fund Y2K projects had not been used. Only \$2,500 of a total \$174,000 was spent. The staff is currently looking into using those monies to fund projects dealing with e-commerce.

Industry Committee members complimented the staff for their hard work and diligence in providing information requested by committee members.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Jonathan Davis presented the Investment Committee Report.

Mr. Davis presented the FY2000 General Fund Expenditure Report for the month ending February 29, 2000 and the FY2000 Investment Fund Report for quarter ending December 31, 1999.

Mr. Davis presented a report showing the Technology Transfer Assistance Grant Program projects funded since January, 2000. There were two projects funded totaling \$7,500. Mr. Davis made a motion for the acceptance of the report. Dr. Hathaway seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

Draft Resolution 00-29

Draft Resolution 00-29 will provide monies for funding recommended projects under the Technology Transfer Assistance Grant (TTAG) Program during the fourth quarter of state fiscal year 2000. The funding is in an amount not to exceed \$11,500.

Mr. Davis made a motion for the approval of Draft Resolution 00-29. Mr. May seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

SBIR/STTR Guidelines

The Board reviewed a proposed change to the SBIR/STTR Guidelines which would allow companies to submit an application for SBIR Phase II assistance.

The guidelines stated that "An Arkansas-based company is eligible to submit an application for Phase I to the Applied Research Grant Program upon receipt of the award letter for a Phase I grant."

The revised sentence would read: "An Arkansas-based company is eligible to submit an application for Phase I **and/or Phase II assistance** to the Applied Research Grant Program upon receipt of the award letter for a Phase I or **Phase II** grant."

Board members asked if allowing this gives an advantage to companies that have already received an SBIR federal grant. It was suggested that the revision be approved with the stipulation that the program be monitored for six months.

Dr. Hathaway made a motion for the approval of the revised SBIR/STTR guidelines, with the stipulation that the Board will revisit this issue in six months. Mr. May seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Joel Anderson presented the Research Committee report.

Draft Resolution 00-30 would provide for the funding of one Arkansas Research Matching fund proposal.

Proposal No. 00-ARMP-10, "Design of an Information Technology Architecture to Enhance Systems Level Logistics Management," by Dr. Terry Collins, Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, \$50,000. This project is funded federally by an intergovernmental contract award by the Defense Logistics Agency for \$50,000.

Dr. Anderson made a motion for the approval of Draft Resolution 00-30. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. Dr. Augustine stated that UAF was the institution of his affiliation. The Board gave its unanimous approval.

Proposed Changes to Basic Research Guidelines

Dr. Anderson presented for the Board's review proposed changes to the Basic Research Guidelines.

This proposed change comes is a result of an inquiry received from the University of Central Arkansas concerning the requirement that only tenured or tenure-track faculty at universities or colleges in Arkansas could apply to the Basic Research Grant Program. Representatives from UCA stated that some of their faculty members are offered employment contracts, but are not tenure-track. This would exclude them from applying to the program.

The proposed changes would be:

- Under Applicant Eligibility: "Tenured or tenure-track faculty members" will be replaced with "qualified applicants."
The following sentence will be inserted, "Post-doctoral students are not considered qualified individuals."
- Under Submission of Basic Research Proposals: The following sentence will be inserted, "Proposals must be received before 4:30 p.m. on the scheduled deadline date."
- The word "should" in the guidelines will be replaced with "must."

Dr. Anderson made a motion for the approval of the revised guidelines. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. Before a vote was taken, Board members discussed the proposed changes.

Board members expressed concern with using the words "qualified applicants. It was then proposed that the "qualified applicants" be replaced with "full-time faculty." This would include those faculty members who aren't tenure-track, but are full-time faculty members.

There being no further discussion, the Board gave its unanimous approval to change the guidelines to read "full-time faculty," and to make the other recommended changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Resolution 00-31 provides for the commendation of Board member Stephen Nipper. Mr. Nipper served on the Board from 1996 to 2000, when his term expired.

Mr. May made a motion for the approval of Draft Resolution 00-31. Dr. Ward seconded the motion; the Board gave its unanimous approval.

Dr. Augustine reminded Board members that the next meeting was scheduled for May 19.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Roberts
Secretary
Board of Directors

Approved by the Board of Directors
On this 6th day of June, 2000

Ron Roberts
Secretary
Board of Directors