Pursuant to a notice of a meeting duly given on June 6, 2019, the Research and Economic Development Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York held a meeting on June 20, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. at SUNY System Administration in Albany, New York.

Committee Members present:
Trustee Stan Litow, Acting Chair
Trustee Gwen Kay
Trustee Cary Staller
Trustee Nina Tamrowski

Committee Members not present:
Trustee Courtney Burke
Trustee Robert Duffy

Other Trustees present:
Chairman H. Carl McCall
Vice Chair Merryl H. Tisch
Trustee Austin Ostro

Others present:
Chancellor Kristina Johnson
Grace Wang, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development
Tod Laursen, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor
Elizabeth Garvey, Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel
Ricardo Azziz, Chief Officer, Academic Health & Hospital Affairs
Robert Haelen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Capital Facilities & General Manager of the Construction Fund
Robert Megna, Chief Operating Officer
Teresa Miller, Senior Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity Officer
Heather Hage, Vice President for Industry & External Affairs, SUNY RF
Terrance Pratt, Secretary of the University
Matt Watson, Executive Director of Division of Science Technology and Innovation, ESD
Matt Mroz, SUNY Research Foundation
Brian Goldstein, State Director, New York Small Business Development Center
Paul Patton, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources
Leo Rosales, Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications

Meeting Convened
Trustee Litow called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m., welcoming attendees and asking those around the table to introduce themselves.

Presentation: Innovation and Entrepreneurship across SUNY

Dr. Wang introduced the Committee’s guest speakers: Heather Hage, Vice President for Industry and External Affairs at the Research Foundation for SUNY (RF), Matt Watson, Executive Director of the Science Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) at Empire State Development, and Brian Goldstein, State Director of New York Small Business Development Center.

I. Innovation and Entrepreneurship at SUNY

Ms. Hage began with a discussion of the partnership between NYSTAR and SUNY to figure out how, at the State level, we can design the right targeted interventions to increase innovation and entrepreneurship. She thanked the Committee for establishing an IP policy that empowers and enables our campuses and gives them flexibility in working with industry to increase commercialization across the System.

Ms. Hage referred to her slide illustrating the SUNY Technology Commercialization Lifecycle. SUNY RF has set up an inventor portal for faculty to register new disclosures that have the potential to become life-changing products. The portal makes it possible for the RF to begin providing assistance very early; reaching out immediately to determine where the concept might fit and what path, it should take to market.

Ms. Hage then discussed about IP protection, stating that the RF is proud about the issuance of its 1,522 patents, believes there is potential for that number to grow, and is making strategic investments to ensure that it does. The SUNY and RF aggressively market the technologies, and cultivate commercial implementation partnerships. The researchers are the best ones to promote their own work because of their passion.

She reported that it is challenging for start-ups to become successful, and that creating a more entrepreneurial culture will help these companies grow in New York. That culture requires talent, technology access to capital and early-stage financing.

II. NYSTAR Overview

Mr. Watson began his presentation by expressing his gratitude for the partnership with SUNY. He said that NYSTAR receives $60M in Federal and State funding each year. That money funds over 70 centers across the state, creating and supporting an innovation ecosystem. He added that, to the Chancellor’s earlier point, there is a prototyping center within two hours of everybody in the state.

NYSTAR’s flagship programs are the 28 university research centers called the Centers for Advanced Technology and Centers for Excellence. Fifteen of these Centers are on SUNY campuses.

Mr. Watson spoke of the NYSTAR Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program, a federal program funded by the Department of Commerce. MEP centers work directly with small and medium sized manufacturers to help them grow. NYSTAR also funds ten Innovation Hot Spots (one in each region) and over 20 certified business incubators, so NYSTAR has 30 centers that are devoted to entrepreneurship.
All NYSTAR funding goes to applied research. Federal agencies tend to fund basic research, so NYSTAR provides funding to take the resulting discoveries, and turn them into products or technologies.

Mr. Watson said that NYSTAR has received a federal grant to create a virtual resource center, called FUZE HUB, which works with the university research centers, the Innovation Hot Spots and business incubators to identify the gaps that are obstacles for entrepreneurs. FUZE HUB has three key program areas: the Commercialization Competition (Shark Tank-like competition), Manufacturing Grants ($50k grants to move along prototypes) and the Innovation Incentive Prize (grand challenge competition).

III. SUNY/NYSTAR/SBDC Collaborations

Ms. Hage, Mr. Watson and Mr. Goldstein described how the three organizations have collaborated in the past, and most recently on the SUNY Start-up Summer School, which has 80 participants going through 12 weeks of programming on core entrepreneurial education. Each team receives support in three areas: entrepreneurial leadership, scientific leadership and mentoring.

The summer school will culminate when the SBIR Road Tour makes a stop at SUNY Poly’s Albany campus on September 17, 2019. On that day, representatives of the 28 federal agencies that administer $3 billion in SBIR/STTR funding will meet with NYS entrepreneurs who can be benefitted from the non-dilutive seed funding.

Mr. Watson spoke about the Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) Network – SUNY/NYSTAR/RF work together to build a network of experts that help startup companies find talent and funding. Ms. Hage emphasized that mentoring is an important component of the EIR program.

Ms. Hage said that SUNY/RF/NYSTAR/Albany Law School are collaborating on the Innovation Intensive, a new curriculum launching in fall 2019 that will bring students from engineering, business, law and other scientific disciplines to form interdisciplinary teams to work on business plans, patents, etc., paving the way for technology commercialization.

Trustee Litow noted that a quorum of Committee members was present.

Approval of the Minutes

- Trustee Litow called for a motion to approve the minutes.
  
  A motion was made, and a second was received.

  The minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Resolution

- Trustee Litow called for a motion to approve the resolution on SUNY’s Statement on Foreign Disclosure and Export Controls.

  A motion was made, and a second was received.

  The resolution was approved unanimously.
Adjournment

- Trustee Litow thanked Dr. Wang, Ms. Hage, Mr. Watson, and Mr. Goldstein and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

A motion was made, and second received.

The meeting was adjourned.