

**LIFE SCIENCES CORRIDOR
MEETING MINUTES
May 25, 2011, 4:00 PM
Conference Call**

ATTENDANCE:

Ivette L. Arango, Heather Belmont, Randy Berridge, Juan Carlos Del Valle, Ben DeVries, Ron Drew, Dennis Gallon, Divina Grossman, Gary Hines, Casey Lunceford, Gary Margules, Gisela Mohring, Rolando Montoya, Ram Narayanan, Frank Nero, Roger Pynn, Mark Rosenberg, Mary Jane Saunders, Ed Schons, Kelly Smallridge.

ABSENT:

J. David Armstrong, Andrew Duffell, Rudy Fernandez, Ray Ferrero, George L. Hanbury II, John C. Hitt, Ken Jessell, Ed Massey, Larry Pelton, Thomas Roberts, Steve Sauls, Donna Shalala, Robert Swindell, Ronald Toll.

Meeting commenced at 4:00 p.m. on May 25, 2011.

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Rosenberg thanked all for joining and explained the need to keep momentum going and identify possible opportunities. President Gallon questioned the status of the implementation of this initiative and how Palm Beach State can add its asset inventory to the list.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes (2-1-11)

Dr. Grossman reviewed the meeting minutes from the FAU meeting on February 1, 2011. Provost Montoya motioned to approve; Dr. Margules seconded.

III. Approval of Executive Committee Membership

President Rosenberg reported that there are still some outstanding opportunities to involve others in the Executive Committee slate. Those who will serve on the Executive Committee should be people who are willing to work hard, get their hands dirty, and actively participate. He solicited thoughts on the composition of the committee. He proposed that Dr. Gallon be included. He thought there should be representation from all of the areas in this core group. He stated that Dr. Montoya should be on the committee to represent Miami Dade College. President Rosenberg and Dr. Grossman will continue to work on this and provide a proposed list in the next meeting. Dr. Rosenberg solicited President Saunders' thoughts, saying that FAU has a strong role. Dr. Saunders suggested that a sub-committee be formed and tasked with discussing the development of Florida in different areas and brainstorming about the composition of the executive committee.

IV. Asset Map Results

Mr. De Vries said he would like to include the UF life sciences-related course offerings at the Ft. Pierce UF Campus in the Life Sciences Corridor. Dr. Grossman explained the type of data we are collecting and requested institutions not to disseminate the information publicly because a couple of members expressed reluctance about doing that. Mr. Nero did not agree, stating that most of the institutions are in the sunshine and the information has to be public anyway, and that the data is very significant for

recruitment of life sciences companies to South Florida. He stated that a targeted industry study was about to begin and he would like to share the data with the consultants to show that the life sciences are crucial and to share it with life sciences companies who are considering South Florida relocation. Mr. Berridge proposed aggregating the data, as it would be a powerful way of demonstrating educational assets in the life sciences across the region. Dr. Grossman questioned whether we should make the data aggregate. Mr. Berridge responded that making it aggregate would protect the institutions. Mr. Nero asked how, since this is a public university document, we would be able to make it private and why would we even want to? He added that specific data was better and consultants usually ask for it. Ms. Smallridge agreed with Mr. Nero, saying that consultants and companies ask for individual institutional data. Dr. Narayanan offered to send more complete information to Dr. Grossman for FAU's educational programs, as the data reflected is lacking. It was agreed that whoever is not comfortable with sharing data, should individually e-mail Dr. Grossman. Dr. Grossman stated that aggregate data will definitely be compiled but those who do not feel comfortable with sharing will be left out of individual institutional data. Dr. Montoya stated that MDC has no problem with displaying the data.

Dr. Grossman stated that information is needed on research capabilities. She revealed that only Nova Southeastern University has submitted the documentation needed and requested the rest of the attendees to submit a description of their respective universities' research capabilities and assets. Alina Parbtani will follow up with those individuals. Dr. Grossman added that all universities should use Dr. Margules' format. Once received, all of the data will be aggregated. Dr. Grossman again stressed that anyone who did not want their data displayed should please notify her.

Life Sciences and Venture Capital Companies

Dr. Narayanan pointed out that biotech companies are not venture capitalists and the list needs to be updated.

V. Follow Up on Renaming the Corridor

Mr. Berridge stated that there had been a conference call with Divina Grossman, Roger Pynn and himself. He introduced Mr. Pynn, of Curley & Pynn Public Relations and Marketing Communications and discussed his role with the Florida High Tech Corridor (FHTC) Council. Mr. Pynn stated that his firm has the honor of watching this project grow and will work on a naming convention to best reflect the mission. Mr. Pynn is a University of Central Florida graduate has long been associated with the Corridor and its university partners. When it was first established, the FHTC was named the I-4 Corridor. After several years, it was renamed the Florida High Tech Corridor, which helped it gain recognition. Other areas in the country also tend to brand themselves. With Mr. Berridge's generosity, Mr. Pynn said they would undertake this work for free. He opined that the word "corridor" is overused. The name should reflect the mission, whether it is biotech or life sciences. Mr. Berridge noted that in the white paper, the current reference is "Life Sciences Corridor." He asked if the mission will change or will it always be focused on the life sciences?

Dr. Grossman explained that according to the white papers, the Life Sciences Corridor aims to establish an industry cluster in South Florida focused on biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, and information technology. She added that we adopted the United Nations definition of biotechnology as "any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use." Mr. Berridge also reported that the term "IT" is not mentioned in the mission, so maybe "biotech" should be used? He questioned if an online focus group study should be done with everyone? Mr. Berridge suggested we offer an opportunity for

members to send suggestions to the Curley & Pynn intern, who will report to Mr. Berridge with more detail in the next meeting. Mr. Berridge said he will solicit suggestions and work on the terminology. Ms. Smallridge agreed with Mr. Massey that the name should reflect the composition of the corridor.

Future Directions

Mr. Berridge stated that in the FHTC, there are more than 1200 projects, with more than 1 billion in matching funds. He indicated there was a legislative proposal that will provide \$5 million in funding to every state university who wants to participate, and that he previously briefed Presidents Bernie Machen and John Hitt, as well as Governor Rick Scott about it. He emphasized that this is the right platform to discuss the potential for a similar ask for this group. Dr. Grossman reminded everyone that discussion of the revised white papers will be done at the next conference call and she will integrate all the changes submitted. President Rosenberg said this is not a state-centric initiative; we are looking at all potential sources of funding. The Governor will not be happy if we ignore job creation and entrepreneurship, therefore the white papers should mirror the Governor's points.

President Rosenberg spoke of the new federal Job Accelerator Challenge grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the need to make everyone aware of it. Vice President Gil elaborated further and emphasized the need for collaboration to move forward. The time frame to apply for funding is short: July 7 is the due date. The awards are at \$1.5-\$2.2 million. Further discussion about this funding opportunity will occur in a meeting on Friday, May 27, 2011 to consider different possibilities with other university counterparts. Some options revolve around commercialization of university research and virtual health opportunities across several universities. Further discussion will include interaction with international markets and development of growing workforce clusters. More information on the grant can be accessed online with EDA. Mr. Nero explained that the Beacon Council has applied for this EDA opportunity in the past and will be happy to provide a copy of their application. All should e-mail other comments to Dr. Grossman and indicate whether they need to opt out of including their educational program data.

Action Items

1. Members to complete data submission for Asset Map (educational programs and research capabilities).
2. Randy Berridge and Roger Pynn to work on renaming the corridor.
3. Dr. Grossman to follow up on Executive Committee nomination slate.
4. Dr. Grossman to update white papers and integrate revisions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM on May 25, 2011.