

IFTI Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Herff College of Engineering Executive Conference Center
University of Memphis
9:00 am – 11:30 pm

Members Present:

- James Dobbins
- Gene Eckstein
- Michael Garriga
- Sandi Hoff
- Martin Lipinski
- Cliff Lynch
- Andy Meyers
- Dexter Muller
- Keith Reardon

IFTI Staff Present:

- Sean Ellis, Associate Director
- Kimberly Grantham, Marketing Manager
- Dan Pallme, Interim Director of IFTI

IFTI Researcher Present:

- Dr. Mike Golias

Meeting Minutes:

Slide 1 -2: Dr. Martin Lipinski, Director, opened the meeting by welcoming the board to campus. All board members introduced themselves.

Dr. Lipinski shared that IFTI has had a great year. Dr. Lipinski remarked that during the meeting, each staff member would review portions of IFTI's progress.

Slide 3: Dr. Andy Meyers, Vice-Provost for Research provided a University of Memphis update. Dr. Meyers said we have lots of opportunities and changes coming our way as the new Provost, Dr. David Rudd, steps into his position. All changes are opportunities to further the success and progress of the University of Memphis. Dr. Rudd is interested in recruiting/retaining and graduating students who contribute to the community. Dr. Rudd is the former Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Science at the University of Utah. He is a graduate of Princeton and the University of Texas.

Dr. Meyers also reminded everyone that Dr. Shirley Raines, president of the University is retiring as of May 31, 2013. Mr. Brad Martin has been appointed Interim President. Mr. Martin is a U of M graduate and former student government association president. He has served in the TN House of Representatives, founded the U of M Earthquake Center and is the past Board of Visitors President.

Slide 4: Dr. Gene Eckstein, Interim Dean for the Herff College of Engineering provided a Herff College update. Dr. Eckstein said he enjoyed working with the IFTI staff and was thrilled to share information about Dr. Rick Sweigard, the incoming Herff College Dean. Dr. Sweigard has been the associate dean of engineering for administration and academic affairs at the University of Kentucky since 2007, where he has also been an associate professor or professor since 1988. He served as chair of the Department of Mining Engineering at UK for 14 years. He has also held teaching positions at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and The Pennsylvania State University.

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Slides 5 – 12: Dr. Lipinski reviewed IFTI's strategic plan and assured the board that the staff actively uses this plan to guide our work; therefore, we were able to benchmark progress on the slides. Dr. Lipinski also noted that the vision statement was slightly adjusted after the last Executive Board meeting to incorporate the specific phrase: linking people to solutions as suggested by board member Keith Reardon.

On slide 10, the group supported IFTI's desire to create a transportation undergraduate program and a master's program. Dr. Eckstein explained how the University College program works. Dan Pallme explained that IFTI has started conversations and will continue to explore options and opportunities to make these classes a reality.

Slides 13 – 25, Dr. Mike Golias reviewed IFTI's research capabilities, personnel/skills, as well as ongoing and completed projects. IFTI is a multi-disciplinary research institute. The research is organized into three areas: 1) engineering, 2) business and 3) workforce development. [Click here](#) to view completed project reports and current project proposals. IFTI research and personnel are making impacts on a national scale.

Slide 26, Dr. Jimmy Dobbins reviewed key research projects being conducted at Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt's research focus including, but not limited to network analysis, waterborne cargo system, and forward thinking initiatives with regard to climate change activity.

Slides 27-28 Dr. Lipinski reviewed the CFIRE relationship. He explained the history of the new format, the call for proposal and selection process as well as an update on the working relationship between the universities. Of the 63 University Transportation Center applications received, RITA awarded 22 grants, each worth \$3.5 million dollars. Forty-six of the applicants competed to be one of the 10 Tier 1 Centers.

CFIRE includes 10 universities. The University of Memphis is coordinating the "southern hub," which includes Vanderbilt University, the University of Alabama-Huntsville, and the University of Southern Mississippi. The University of Wisconsin-Madison serves as the lead institute of CFIRE and will lead the "northern hub," which includes the University of Wisconsin-Superior, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the University of Toledo, the University of Illinois-Chicago, and Michigan Technological University.

In the CFIRE proposal, we identified specific research projects, work force development events and tech transfer activities. Under the CFIRE umbrella, the University of Memphis is heading two projects - the economic impact of short line railroads and livability considerations in freight-centric communities. Vanderbilt is leading projects on inland waterway data sources and climate change. The U of M is hosting regular project update webinars for the consortium.

Slides 29-31, RITA had another call for the next round of UTCs. The University of Memphis submitted proposals in each of the three categories. We hope to hear the results of the competition in mid-July.

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Slides 32 – 40 highlight and explain IFTI's current education and outreach activities. IFTI partners with industry experts and government officials to conduct impactful and informative conferences and workshops.

Slides 41-46, Sean Ellis, Associate Director, quickly reviewed a financial update.

Slides 47 – 50, Sean also provided an update about students working for IFTI which include one associate researcher, five doctoral candidates, and eight graduate students.

Slides 51-52, Dan Pallme asked members to look over the bylaws in particular the sections on Executive Board membership and executive board roles. He welcomed members to send him any additions to the information already listed.

Slides 53 – 55, Slides Dr. Lipinski reviewed upcoming events.