

Life Sciences Discovery Fund Authority

Board Minutes

Wednesday, January 3, 2007 | 10:00a-3:00p

Amgen, Helix Campus - Seattle WA

Trustees Present: Lura Powell, Jim Cook, Sen Jerome Delvin, Tony Hey, Gov Gary Locke, Bruce Montgomery, Rep Skip Priest, Cheryl Scott, Rita Colwell (via telecon)

Trustees Absent: Sen Lisa Brown, Rep Jeff Morris

Others Attending: Lee Huntsman, John DesRosier, Pamela Anderson (via telecon), Shan Mullin (via telecon), Brad Jurkovich, Alden Jones, Lisa Stewart, Lewis Rumpler, Jack Nagan, Ken Spitzer, Rich Murphy, Kara Durbin (via telecon)

MINUTES

Welcome – Powell and Terry Rosen (Vice President, Amgen) welcomed the group. Rosen provided Amgen update and brief of afternoon tour.

Approval of Minutes – Board approved minutes from the November 14, 2006 board meeting.

Election of Officers – Jeff Morris (treasurer) and Cheryl Scott (secretary) re-elected for second term.

Progress Reports and Next Steps

- **Fund Raising** – Philanthropy in place for LSDF 07-01.
- **Operations** – Jones provided update on progress of tenant improvements for new 2324 Eastlake Ave E space. Estimated move in date: early to mid February.
- **Grants Administration** – Stewart explained proposed Cybergrants software. Colwell suggested contacting Tom Cooley at NSF as an additional resource for grants administration systems. Discussion ensued re reconsidering goal of “jobs created” and whether the recent trend in unfilled positions may point to need for new metrics around internships, training opportunities, how grants will stimulate students in the pipeline. Suggestion to do reconnaissance around masters program to transition PhDs from lab to more management- and technology commercialization-oriented roles.
- **Near Term Announcement** – Current plan is to announce philanthropy and launch of LSDF 07-01 in media briefing coordinated with Governor and donors. If so, trustees fine with DesRosier proceeding with LSDF 07-01 road show without mentioning donors by name and precise dollar amount.
- **Legislative Session** – OFM confirmed no need for LSDF budget request for next biennium. Jurkovich working on “leave-behind” fact sheet (for legislators, WBBA Bioscience Day in Olympia on January 23, Invest NW in March). Scott recommends reaching out to Rep Sommers staff and institutions such as clinics, health departments and hospitals for LSDF 07-01.

Discussion Topics

- **Grant Programs** – DesRosier briefed board on recent program activities and timeline and reminded trustees that **proposal selection will occur at September 18 board meeting and to note on their calendars**. Recommendation to post video stream of a public information session on new Web site and to wordsmith RFP cassette adding “*or equivalent activities*” to the prior research experience of eligible applicants. Group also suggests standardized core criteria for RFP documents. Criteria being: 1) degree of scientific and technical merit; 2) what does project do for economic health of Washington state; and 3) what does project do for health of citizens of Washington. All agreed preference should be given to projects with the potential for near-term technological implementation. Regarding peer review, external reviewers will be compensated and will need to be from out of state. Trustees not to be involved in any aspect of peer review prior to final selection stage and free from conflicts of interest. Hey suggested annual summit to showcase projects vs. tendency to “fund and forget.”

- **Intellectual Property and Budget Considerations** – Trustees recommend consulting Attorney General's Office re intellectual property issues, particularly as it relates to open source and access to software generated through LSDF projects. Anderson asked to review cost sharing stipulations in legislation. Indirect cost issue and the importance of being consistent were noted. Target may be approximately 20% but further discussion required.
- **Opportunistic Grants** – Huntsman reintroduced idea of LSDF opportunistic grants with specific example of CTSA request, a multi-institution, multi-year grant. Trustees are open to an opportunity fund (including CTSA), but only after significant downstream discussions; and in the case of CTSA, contingent upon future funding and a performance evaluation. Group asked Anderson to determine whether with multi-year opportunistic commitments, we must reserve funds in advance or merely provide caveat such as “subject to availability....”

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 2:30p, followed by a brief tour of Amgen.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lee Huntsman*