

NEW YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL MATCHING (HECap) GRANT PROGRAM

Board Meeting November 15, 2017 3:00 pm

NEW YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL MATCHING (HECap) GRANT PROGRAM

BOARD MEETING AGENDA November 15, 2017 3:00 pm

- I. Election of Chair of the Board
- II. Adoption of Minutes of February 4, 2016 Meeting
- III. Summary of the Previous Non-Competitive and Competitive Round
- IV. Review/Approve HECap Request for Grant Application Competitive Round 2 Process

A RESOLUTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL MATCHING (HECap) GRANT PROGRAM BOARD ELECTING THE CHAIR

BE IT RESOLVED by the Members of the New York State Higher Education Capital Matching (HECap) Grant Program Board that Robert F. Mujica, Member, be elected Chair of the HECap Board and shall hold such office until the next Annual Meeting of the HECap Board or until his successor is elected.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Robert F. Mujica

Member

Honorable Deborah J. Glick

Member

Lisa Clare Kombrink

Member

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Minutes of HECap Board Meeting February 4, 2016

The New York State Higher Education Capital Matching Grant Program ("HECap") Board met by video conference at the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York's Albany office located at 515 Broadway, Albany, New York, and its New York City Office located at One Penn Plaza, 52nd Floor, New York, New York on February 4, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

The Meeting was called to order by Robert F. Mujica, Chair and a quorum was present. Those Members present and absent for the Meeting were as follows:

HECap Board Members Present:

(Albany) Robert F. Mujica, Chair, Member

(New York City Office) Honorable Deborah J. Glick, Member

Lisa Clare Kombrink, Member

HECap Board Members Absent: None

Dormitory Authority Staff (acting as staff to the HECap Board)

(Albany): Debra Pulenskey Drescher, Esq., Managing General

Counsel

Sarah D. Antonacci, Senior Grant Administrator

Joshua Isaacson, Systems Specialist

(NYC Office): Sara Richards, Esq., Associate Counsel

Others Present:

Matthew Golden, NYS Assembly Ways and

Means Committee

David Thoman, Senate Finance Committee

Jeffrey Beal, Division of the Budget

Edward Durivage, Division of the Budget

Laura Anglin, Commission on Independent

Colleges and Universities

Christopher Nolin, Rensselaer Polytechnic

Institute

John Kiernan, Esq., Davidoff Hutcher & Citron LLP

Kate Corkery, Ostroff Associates

Chair Mujica called the meeting to order and welcomed participants from the Albany and New York City offices. Chair Mujica thanked DASNY staff that serves the HECap Board. He introduced Debra Pulenskey Drescher, Esq., Managing General Counsel of DASNY, who introduced DASNY staff working on the HECap Program.

Election of the Chair of the Board and Adoption of Minutes of the October 29, 2014 Meeting

Chair Mujica stated that the first order of business was to elect a Chair for the HECap Board. Assembly Member Glick made a motion to elect Robert F. Mujica as the Chair of the HECap Board:

A RESOLUTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL MATCHING (HECap) GRANT PROGRAM BOARD ELECTING THE CHAIR

Ms. Kombrink seconded the motion and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Minutes of the October 29, 2014 HECap Board Meeting were then reviewed and approved by the Members. Chair Mujica noted that two of the Members, himself included, were new to the HECap Board and did not attend the last meeting of the HECap Board. However, he stated that new Members should have conferred with staff present at the last HECap Board Meeting to inquire as to whether the draft minutes previously provided to the Members represent an accurate record of the HECap Board Meeting. He asked if there were any comments or corrections. Assembly Member Glick and Ms. Kombrink stated that there were none. A motion was made by Assembly Member Glick to adopt the Minutes, seconded by Ms. Kombrink. All voted in favor.

Chair Mujica then asked Ms. Drescher to summarize the process of the Competitive Request for Grant Applications (RGA). Ms. Drescher explained that, at the last meeting of the HECap Board which was held on October 29, 2014, the Board authorized DASNY to publish the RGA for purposes of selecting, through a competitive process, projects that would be funded through a HECap grant.

Ms. Drescher stated that the RGA was published on November 19, 2014 with responses due on January 30, 2015. She reported that DASNY received sixty-two (62) proposals. Ms. Drescher explained that the proposals were reviewed by a committee consisting of five DASNY staff members, including the Senior Director, Portfolio Monitoring, Larry Volk; Assistant Director, Portfolio Monitoring, Todd Meyer; Grant Administrators, Chad Pirro and Tammie Barnhart; and Associate Counsel, Sara Richards,

Esq. Ms. Drescher noted that the final awarding of the grants was delayed due to a HECap Board vacancy for several months.

Ms. Drescher reiterated the purpose for which HECap funds may be used, as well as the requirements of the program. She explained that the RGA was structured such that the smaller projects would not be competing with the larger projects, so that the Colleges with smaller projects would not be disadvantaged. Ms. Drescher turned the discussion over to Sara Richards who explained further details of the process including the funding levels.

Ms. Richards explained that a great deal of thought went into developing the RGA based upon the feedback DASNY received during administration of the non-competitive round of the HECap Program. She stated that there was consideration of the various types of entities that would be applying for HECap Grants. She indicated that DASNY staff did meet, on several occasions during this process, with staff assisting the HECap Board Members. She explained that through these meetings a structure was established that would enable institutions of all sizes to apply for projects varying in size.

Ms. Richards further explained that the HECap statute requires a 3:1 equity match, and therefore some institutions wanted the ability to apply for smaller, lower-dollar value projects, while at the same time, not being put in a position where the level of the equity contribution might be higher than desired. She stated that there is sensitivity to smaller value or smaller scale projects being on the same level as larger, more expensive, projects. Ms. Richards concluded that, therefore, the development of the grant funding level concept was established, allowing institutions to apply for grants ranging from \$125,000 up to \$2.5 million, depending upon the size of the capital project. She stated that applicants can choose which grant funding level for which they will apply. Ms. Richards reported that eligible capital projects ranged from \$500,000 to over \$7 million dollars.

Ms. Richards further explained that after the RGA was issued on November 19, there was a question and answer period during which 155 questions were submitted and responses given on the website, such that all applicants had the benefit of reviewing all information available with respect to the RGA, the statute, and eligibility requirements. Ms. Richards reported that the sixty-two (62) applications received totaled \$64.5 million, and were for various projects that spanned all three areas set forth in the statute - economic development, enhancement to programmatic offerings or improvement to student life. She noted that DASNY received applications for large and small projects and the successful applicants ranged from grant amounts as low as \$153,000 up to \$2.5 million. Ms. Richards reported that the projects to be funded will include equipping science labs, renovating libraries, fitness centers, athletic facilities, and academic spaces. She stated that DASNY received a broad range of projects from applicants across the State.

Ms. Richards stated that the RGA required that applications receive a score of at least 70 out of 100 in order to be funded and qualify for a grant award. She reported that, of the sixty-two (62) applications received, twenty-nine (29) applicants achieved a score of 70 or above. She stated that all twenty-nine (29) of the grantee applicants received a grant in the full amount requested for a total of \$35,458,980.

Ms. Drescher stated that once the HECap Board makes the awards, DASNY staff will be forwarding award letters to the successful applicants and undertaking a programmatic, financial and SEQR review. She further stated that, upon successful completion of the aforementioned review, the HECap Board will enter into a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) with the applicant and the grant will be funded.

Assemblywoman Glick inquired if these awards would be the end of the funding in this round, leaving no remaining balance in the HECap funding. Ms. Richards replied that there are funds available remaining that would either carry over to a future round or the Board could decide at a later date how those remaining funds would be addressed.

Assembly Member Glick made a motion to approve the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM (HECap) BOARD AWARDING HECAP GRANTS

Ms. Kombrink seconded the motion and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Chair Mujica noted that this concluded the new business for the HECap Board and inquired if there was any further business to be presented to the Board. Chair Mujica thanked Ms. Drescher and Ms. Richards for the update and DASNY staff for their work undertaken to date, as well as the respective staffs of the Members. The HECap Board Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Pulenskey Drescher

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A RESOLUTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL MATCHING (HECap) GRANT PROGRAM BOARD APPROVING THE HECap REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE ROUND 2

Be it resolved as follows:

- That the HECap Board approves in substantial form the Draft Request for Grant Applications for Competitive Round 2 (RGA), dated November 7, 2017, and hereby authorizes an Authorized Officer of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY"), as staff, to make such minor additions or deletions as is necessary to finalize the RGA; and
- That DASNY is hereby authorized to release the RGA for the purpose of soliciting proposals for HECap projects to be considered by the HECap Board for grant awards; and
- 3. That an Authorized Officer of DASNY, as staff, may determine the total amount of funds available to be awarded pursuant to the RGA, based upon information in DASNY's possession, which total amount shall not exceed \$86,500,000.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Robert F. Mujica
Member

Honorable Deborah J. Glick
Member

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