

ICR Governing Board Meeting
June 18th, 2025 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Meeting By Zoom

Meeting Minutes:

In Attendance: Dr. Cinnamon Bidwell, Ms. Elyse Contreras, Dr. John Harloe, Dr. Melissa Reynolds, Mr. Sherard Rogers, Dr. Chad Kinney, Mr. Michael McMaster, Ms. Julie Powell, Dr. Jeff Smith, Dr. John Williamson

Absent: Dr. Malik Hasan, Mr. Michael Hennesy, Dr. Gail Mackin, Mr. Scott McWhorter, Dr. Jon Reuter, Dr. Joanna Zeiger

I. Welcome (1:00-1:02pm) Dr. Kinney

- a. Five board members present; did not meet quorum.

II. Consent Agenda (1:02-1:05pm) Dr. Reuter

- a. May 21, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
- b. In-person Sept Meeting Poll Data
- c. Journal of Cannabis Research Follow-up
- d. Cannabis Research Conference Updates
- e. ICR Certificate of Foundational Studies in Cannabis Updates
- f. Marketing and Communication - Executive Summary

III. Utilization of Advancement Dinner Revenue/Donations (1:05-1:22pm) Dr. Kinney

- a. Approximately \$36K available
- b. Seed grant(s), special call for a challenge area, etc.?
 - Dr. Kinney: Consider providing resources to one or two research teams to generate preliminary data that could support a full application to the ICR or other federal funding agencies. This might focus on a challenge area, or high risk, high reward type of applications.
 - Dr. Bidwell: Suggested dissertation awards. Up for discussion.
 - Dr. Harloe: Pointed out that it has already been represented to donors that the funds will go to research, so it needs to go to seed grants or one big grant.
 - Dr. Kinney: Agreed, these funds will go to research. Assumed Dr. Bidwell's recommendation would be to support research done by graduate students. Dr. Bidwell confirmed this.
 - Ms. Contreras: Is there a time limit when these need to be spent?
 - Dr. Kinney: No. This is outside of the State's fiscal cycle since it is not derived from state appropriated funds. Can sit with the CSU Pueblo Foundation until we decide how and when to utilize it. The Foundation charges 3% annually for their operating expenses. It's in the best interest of supporting as much research as possible to decide in the next several months how to proceed.
 - Ms. Contreras: Were there any finalists from the last RFA who were not funded and were around the \$30k mark?
 - Dr. Kinney: No, there weren't any applications in that \$30k range. Appreciates the idea of utilizing the applications that were already reviewed. There would need to be a significant reduction and discussion

about the scale of the project. The other top applicants were on the high side of the allowable requested budget.

- Dr. Reynolds: Likes Dr. Bidwell's idea around supporting students. Idea about incorporating students outside of current ICR-funded projects to broaden statewide impact. Suggested a pseudo short RFP related to student research in the cannabis space. This might make the money go further and enable participation from universities without graduate programs to be all encompassing.
 - Dr. Harloe: Asked for clarification about what specifically is being funded. Wants a good story to tell donors at the next fundraising event. Acknowledges that there is also a marketing aspect to this.
 - Dr. Reynolds: Students already engaged in cannabis research would be asked to submit a one- to two-page summary of their work, with expectations for continued research and possibly a small stipend for supplies. The initiative could also help advertise the range of cannabis research being conducted and may be broadened to include industry participation, such as funding for internships.
 - Dr. Harloe: Personally prefers the funds go to support academia. Supportive of Dr. Bidwell and Dr. Reynolds' ideas around the funding going to support student research.
- Dr. Kinney: Great ideas and starting point to consider building a call for applications. **The research subcommittee might be able to run with and build ideas around this.**

IV. **Annual in person board meeting planning (see content in consent agenda, 1:22-1:40) – Dr. Kinney**

a. Refine Agenda Ideas

- In-person board meeting on **September 10, 2025**
- Dr. Kinney: **Suggests that all the subcommittees meet before the in-person meeting to develop a list of goals that the subcommittees will address in the year to come and items for full board feedback.** The research subcommittee could refine the earlier ideas and present a more developed idea at the in-person board meeting, aiming for feedback and potential alignment with the next RFP timeline.
- Refer to consent agenda for summary of poll results about agenda ideas.
- Additional ideas
 - Dr. Reynolds: Suggested to delay discussions on aligning with state legislative priorities until there is more clarity on the state budget and potential opportunities for agency growth.
 - Dr. Kinney: Discussed the long-standing goal of better understanding and incorporating state needs into the RFP process, as this input has not traditionally been clearly communicated to the ICR. Proposed the idea of holding a fall event where researchers could present their work to regulators, state agencies, legislators, industry, etc. to create a forum to both share research outcomes and gather input on state priorities.
 - Dr. Reynolds: Supports Dr. Kinney's idea, noting it could help broaden collaborations and talking points Colorado entities, better positioning the group for future opportunities.

- b. Refine location (site lead)
 - Denver is the front runner, but need to choose a specific location
 - Dr. Kinney: CSU Spur suggestion.
 - Ms. Contreras: Suggested Daniels Fund in Cherry Creek, benefits of possibly being free to state government, close to hotels and food. Will send contact info to ICR.
 - Ms. Contreras: Suggested CDPHE or a state lab.
 - Mr. McMaster: Suggested Ralph Carr Judicial Center, variety of meeting spaces, centrally located, will gather and send contact info to ICR.
 - Goal is to have the location finalized by the July board meeting.
- c. Subcommittee led discussions
 - Dr. Kinney: [Chairs of subcommittees, please coordinate with Julie Powell to schedule subcommittee meetings in July or August to discuss talking points related to the subcommittee's agenda for the upcoming year.](#)

V. **Marketing and Communication (1:40 – 1:55) – Dr. Kinney, Dr. Smith, and Ms. Powell**

- a. FY26 budget – up to \$35K
 - Increase in budget compared to past years
- b. SOW for Bid
 - Pre-read is available in board documents
 - Increased focus on advancement initiatives
 - Questions and discussion
 - Ms. Contreras: Is Daphne's conference work separate from this?
 - Dr. Kinney: Daphne has a separate contract. Hopes that the new marketing service will collaborate more with Daphne. Ultimately revenue from the conferences pays for Daphne's fees.
- c. Bid process next steps
 - Julie Powell is in communication with the individuals who manage the bid process for the CSU System.
 - Once the bid is out, please promote the RFP to ensure we build high quality bids.

VI. **Public Comment (1:55-2:00pm)**

- a. Dr. Kinney: 194 abstracts have been submitted for the conference, which is significantly more than in past years. Haven't identified a specific reason for the increase but does acknowledge that John Williamson is taking the lead role for the ICR and has reached out to numerous organizations throughout the country including other cannabis research institutes, center, and folks at the Federal level. Acknowledges the outstanding work Joanna Zeiger is doing on the executive planning committee along with John Williamson and Jennifer Durringer. Abstract submission is open until June 20th. The abstract submissions are an encouraging point at this stage as it points towards increased attendance.
- b. Dr. Kinney: Scott McWhorter notified Dr. Kinney that he intends to step down from the governing board. It is acknowledged that Scott has provided valuable input to the ICR over an extended number of years, and his input and contributions will certainly be missed.