IHMC Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 12, 2022
8:30 a.m. CST/9:30 a.m. EST

Roll Call
Chair Bill Dalton
Greetings
Chair Bill Dalton

Action Items

1. Approval of September 19, 2022 Minutes
Chair Bill Dalton
2. Discussion and Approval of Draft 2022
IHMC Financial Statements
Director Dick Baker
3. Discussion of October Financials
Director Dick Baker

Chief Executive Officer’s Report

1. Research Update
Dr. Ken Ford
2. State & Federal Legislative Update
Dr. Ken Ford

Adjournment

IHMC Chair Bill Dalton called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. CST. Directors in attendance included: Bill Dalton, Ron Ewers, Eugene Franklin, Hal Hudson, Mort O’Sullivan, Jay Patel, Jim Reeves, Martha Saunders, Gordon Sprague, and Glenn Sturm. Also in attendance were Ken Ford, Morley Stone, Ronnie Armstrong, Phil Turner, Ryan Tilley, Alan Ordway, Carol Carlan and Julie Sheppard.

Dr. Dalton thanked everyone who was in person and dialed in and informed the Board that there were three items to discuss followed by Dr. Ford’s report.

He introduced Action Item 1 and after asking if everyone had reviewed the minutes he asked for an approval of the September 19, 2022 minutes. Director O’Sullivan moved approval followed by Director Patel’s second. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
Chair Dalton then introduced Agenda Item 2, asking IHMC Chief Financial Officer Ronnie Armstrong, to discuss the draft 2022 audited financial statements. He also informed the Board that Dick Baker, IHMC Chair of Finance and Audit has reviewed and approved these; however, Dick is in Honolulu with his wife and her family and could not be here today. Ronnie discussed the audited financials with the Board. Director Reeves moved approval followed by a second from Director Franklin and hearing no discussion, the motion to approve the 2022 Financial Statements passed unanimously.

Chair Dalton thanked Ronnie and the IHMC staff for another clean audit and turned to Agenda Item 3, a discussion on the October financials. He informed the Board that again Director Baker has reviewed as well as Director O’Sullivan who is present. Director O’Sullivan and Ronnie discussed the revenue, net assets, and cash on hand at the end of October as well as the almost 50% increase in property and casualty insurance and answered questions.

Chair Dalton thanked both Director Sullivan and Ronnie and informed the Board that this afternoon at 1:30, the construction firm of Brasfield Gorrie will be meeting at IHMC to present final pricing, a guaranteed maximum price, and a timeline to begin construction in January. Several Board members discussed the issues in supply chain and Director Patel discussed the nickel shortage and electrical delays. The Board wishes IHMC good luck!

Chair Dalton then asked Dr. Ford to provide his report.

Dr. Ford thanked Chair Dalton for the opportunity to provide his report stating that it has been a busy three months. He explained that now that the November election is behind us, we have a lot of clarity about the people we will be working with in state government leadership for IHMC’s priorities. He added that, as expected, Gov DeSantis easily won re-election and will continue to govern with a mandate. He commented that Kathleen Passidomo and Paul Renner will lead the state Senate and House and that leading the overall budget committee in the Senate is Pensacola’s Doug Broxson, a very plum position for the hometown senator. Dr. Ford explained that Senator Broxson’s counterpart on the House side will be Tom Leek from Volusia County. He commented that the education appropriations subcommittees will be led by Senator Keith Perry and Rep. Jason Shoaf adding that Senator Perry’s district contains our Ocala campus. He also mentioned that Senator
Shoaf represents the largest district in the House in the rural area encircling Tallahassee. Dr. Ford stated that having north central and north Florida leaders in all these positions should be a benefit for IHMC. He mentioned that a special session on property insurance will take attention this month and then the legislature will get into committee weeks in January and February before commencing regular session in March and April. He commented that revenue projections continue to be very optimistic, even with inflationary increases and that Florida is projected to have budget surpluses for the next several years.

Dr. Ford then turned to the Federal November 2022 elections, stating that the Democrats retained control of the U.S. Senate while Republicans gained control of the House. He added that things in Washington continue to be in flux and currently Congress is working with a continuing resolution with ongoing deliberations to pass an omnibus bill that includes the National Defense Authorization Act before the holidays. He mentioned that a new agency update is the maturation of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) with the director, Dr. Renee Wegrzyn being named since our September board meeting adding that Adam Russell is the Deputy Director.

Dr. Ford then turned the discussion to new employees mentioning that it always gives him great pleasure to introduce some of the IHMC new teammates.

He started by informing the Board that Alessandro Amato joined IHMC as a Research Associate in November 2022 after previously serving as an intern adding that Alessandro joins the team working with Dr. Niranjan Suri on research for the Army Research Lab. He stated that Alessandro was a student at both the University of West Florida and the University of Ferrara through the schools’ international partnership program and that his hobbies include playing video games and spending time in nature.

Dr. Ford stated that Amritpal Kaur joined IHMC as a Research Associate in November working with Dr. Marcas Bamman and his team on a variety of projects. He commented that Amrit earned a bachelor’s degree in nutrition and dietetics, and a master’s degree in food and nutrition science from Punjab Agricultural University, and a master’s degree in nutritional science from Oklahoma State University. He added that previously she worked at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in Oklahoma City.
Dr. Ford also commented that Landon Casey joined IHMC in October 2022 as a research associate working with Dr. Jeff Phillips and his team on human performance research projects. He stated that before joining IHMC, Landon graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in computer engineering and that post college, Landon worked part time running a prototype and product design company, helping inventors, entrepreneurs, and other small businesses create tangible prototypes of their products and ideas. Landon also took on project management roles with these customers, working with manufacturers to take these products to market. He explained that Landon’s work spanned a wide range of categories such as athletics/sports, medical devices, and children's toys and that he hopes to be able to use his product development skills at IHMC to help take projects from napkin sketch to physical prototype.

Dr. Ford then stated that Kana Meece joined IHMC as a Senior Research Associate in November 2022 working with Dr. Marcas Bamman and his team on a variety of projects. He explained that Kana has a bachelor’s degree in child psychology from Kyoto Women’s University, and a bachelor’s and a master’s degrees in biology from the University of West Florida.

He then introduced another new employee, Rachel Wright, adding that Rachel also joined IHMC as a Research Associate in November 2022 working with Dr. Marcas Bamman and his team on a variety of projects. He commented that Rachel is a graduate of the University of West Florida with a bachelor’s degree in biomedical sciences where she was a college athlete and has also worked as a softball instructor.

Dr. Ford also informed the Board that Alex Ball will join IHMC full time in early January as a Research Associate working with Dr. Anil Raj and Dr. Toshi Miyatsu on human performance research projects. He explained that Alex has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from FSU and is a certified specialist in Psychometry.

Dr. Ford then turned his discussion to some big news on Triumph grant funding explaining that on November 3rd, IHMC went back to the Triumph board of directors requesting a modification to its existing $6 million agreement. He explained that this modification would add an additional $5.9 million to the agreement bringing IHMC’s aggregate Triumph funding to a total of approximately $12 million. He stated that the Triumph board approved the amendment, and the
agreement was signed and executed later that day adding that IHMC’s Ryan Tilley coordinated the successful project modification for IHMC and will continue to be the Project Manager.

Dr. Ford noted that much of IHMC’s success in acquiring the additional funds is due to our strong progress towards our required grant metrics adding that IHMC is far ahead of schedule for meeting our 10-year competitively awarded match requirement of $18 million in funding. He explained that since receiving the initial award in March of 2021, IHMC has leveraged the Triumph grant funds so well that, with the addition of the new APEX award, we have already exceeded the match requirement adding that IHMC also remains on pace to meet its economic outreach metrics.

Dr. Ford commented that as IHMC continues to grow and build its new facility, the additional Triumph grant funding will be used to help equip the facility with modern state-of-the-art equipment. He explained that the addition of this new equipment will not only provide IHMC additional capabilities allowing it to target new research opportunities but will also make IHMC a more sought-after partner for future research collaborations. He mentioned that another key use of these new Triumph funds in the new facility will be for modular wall systems and associated equipment which allow for rapid changes in lab space and can speed up construction timelines by as much as 30%. Dr. Ford concluded his comments on this topic explaining that since receiving initial Triumph grant approval, IHMC has utilized approximately $2.7 million to purchase equipment and has hired 16 new team members that initially began with Triumph funding and are now working on funded projects.

Dr. Ford also informed the Board that on October 24th, IHMC spent a day with a group of FSU visitors hosted by Morley Stone and himself adding that in the group was President Richard McCullough, First Lady Dr. Jai Vartikar, and the rest of their senior leadership team. He commented that the FSU delegation spent the day visiting with leadership, scientists, and touring labs adding that we believe there are numerous potential collaboration opportunities and hope to keep the discussions about new ways to partner moving forward.

Dr. Ford then turned to IHMC research activities mentioning that IHMC recently hosted government sponsors from AFRL and industry and academic partners for the kickoff of A2PEX over a 3-day event November 14th through 16th. He explained
that the government sponsor is the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory, and academic partners include the Georgia Institute of Technology and Ohio State with industry partners Triple Ring Technologies, Polar, ElectroCore, and Abbott Biowearables. He mentioned that the five-year, $46M program ($23M sponsored / $23M cost-share) will implement a first of its kind sense-assess-augment feedback paradigm to address Air Force and Space Force Guardian operator cognitive performance sustainment and enhancement in extreme environments, including fatigue from long-duration operations.

Dr. Ford then turned to new research stating that he was happy to present that IHMC continues to be successful with new funding both institutional efforts and PI driven research funding. He stated that between our September meeting and today, IHMC has received award notices or are under contract for over $10 million in new funding.

He added that in addition to the $5.8 million award from Triumph, that he was also happy to announce that Space Florida is awarding IHMC funding in the amount of $2 million. IHMC will be able to use this funding for the new construction and in return will provide Space Florida with some small office space and signage in the new facility and assist them in evaluating technologies from a scientific and engineering perspective. He mentioned that Julie Sheppard took point on this effort and did a great job bringing this relationship to fruition.

Dr. Ford then turned the discussion to new PI-driven research grants, explaining that the most significant since our last meeting is a project called VISTa or Virtual Integrated Social Task. He commented that this $2M effort is funded by SOCOM adding that objective measurement of cognitive readiness is important for service members, particularly in populations where traumatic brain injury is common and under-reported, such as in special operations. He explained that the overarching goals are to develop and test VISTa as a novel and engaging assessment instrument for neurocognitive and aptitude measurement that is ecologically valid for service member performance environments and responsive to mTBI.

Dr. Ford also mentioned that Jeff Phillips, Matt Johnson, David Fries, and Anil Raj have also received research awards since our last board meeting.
Dr. Ford then turned to the facilities update adding that as everyone can imagine from the number of new hires this past year, we are very short on office space. He explained that in November, IHMC was successful in renting a small building at 99 South Alcaniz St. He explained that this building will provide an additional 14 offices and a conference room as well as storage. He added that the building needed some renovations for IHMC use including new carpet and interior painting (which have been completed), additional wiring and equipment for data, new locks, and that a security system have also been installed. He mentioned that new furniture has been ordered and will be installed around December 21st and that IHMC personnel will be moving in upon furniture installation.

He then turned the discussion to the new human performance building, stating that we expect to receive final construction pricing from Brasfield and Gorrie this afternoon. He mentioned that permitting for potable and irrigation water meters has been completed along with the civil/site permit which will allow construction activities to start in early January 2023. He explained that final building permits are underway and expected to be approved by the end of the year and that contracting will be finalized upon final approval of the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) and schedule with a formal groundbreaking event being planned for late January on the site.

Dr Ford then turned to outreach explaining that Science Saturdays for the fall of 2022 will be completed this month in both Pensacola and Ocala and that attendance numbers are increasing, post-Covid at both locations. He explained that once again, we are achieving 30+ sign-ups with occasional waiting lists, and the no-show numbers are declining. He added that IHMC is averaging around 25 attendees per session, which is a good group size number.

He explained that the upcoming session of Science Saturdays for Pensacola and Ocala are final for 2022 and that in Pensacola the presenters are Marcas Bamman, Meredith Yeager, Lakshmi Prayaga (UWF), and Gwen Bryan and in Ocala, the presenters are Scott Weeks (Florida Engineering Society), Erin Benavides (Silver River Museum), Graham Young (CF), and Peter Pollack (Ocala Eye).

In Pensacola, Dr Ford also commented that we are concluding another successful Evening Lecture season which wraps-up for the year with a lecture tomorrow night.
in Pensacola by IHMC’s own Marcas Bamman adding that the Spring lecture lineup is outstanding as well.

He added that this past week, the Ocala office wrapped up the Fall 2022 lecture season with a talk by Todd White from Dry Farm Wines and that while we are continuing to work on Ocala’s Spring line-up, thus far it looks excellent and that he hopes many Board members can attend one or more talks at either location. Dr. Ford also stated that StemTalk just released its 145th episode and numbers are staying strong with over 3.5 million downloads.

Dr. Ford concluded his remarks by commenting that he looks forward to seeing you all again in person in the near future. He added that he hoped many of the Board would be in attendance at the Evening Lecture tomorrow night, December 13th by Dr. Marcas Bamman and at the Pensacola Christmas party this Thursday, December 15th. He explained that many IHMC people were in Ocala last week for the evening lecture and the wonderful Christmas party.

Dr. Ford then thanked the Board for their continued support of IHMC and wished all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

He then informed Chair Dalton that he had concluded his report.

Dr. Dalton thanked Dr. Ford for another great report and asked Board members for any new business. Hearing none, he wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Sheppard, Corporate Secretary