

IHMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 8, 2025
8:30 a.m. CST/9:30 a.m. EST

Roll Call
Chair's Greetings

Chair William S. Dalton
Chair William S. Dalton

Action Items

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| 1. Approval of June 9, 2025, Minutes | Chair William S. Dalton |
| 2. Discussion and Approval of IHMC Financials | Chair Finance Dick Baker |

Chief Executive Officer's Report

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| 1. State and Federal Legislative Update | Dr. Morley Stone |
| 2. Staffing Update – New Team Members & Promotions | Dr. Morley Stone |
| 3. Triumph Gulf Coast Update | Ryan Tilley |
| 4. Research Update | Dr. Morley Stone |
| 5. Philanthropic Update | Carol Carlan |
| 6. Community & Educational Outreach | Dr. Morley Stone |

Board Meeting Adjourned

Board Minutes:

IHMC Chair William S. Dalton called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. CST. The Chair and Directors in attendance included: William S. Dalton, as Chair, and Directors Dick Baker (Chair Finance), Eric Nickelsen, J. Mort O'Sullivan III, Jay Patel, Gordon J. Sprague, Jim Reeves, Wes Reeder, Ron Ewers, David Bear, Ray Russenberger, and Glenn Sturm. Also in attendance were representatives of IHMC: Dr. Morley Stone, Cassandra Guilliams, Ronnie Armstrong, Alan Ordway, Stephanie Tillery Rothfeder, Carol Carlan, and Ryan Tilley. Board Members not in attendance for the September meeting included: Eugene Franklin, Jon L. Mills, and Hal Hudson.

Chair Dalton greeted everyone and thanked those attending in person and those joining via Zoom. He noted that there were two action items to address prior to Dr. Stone's Officer Report.

Chair Dalton introduced Action Item one (1) by asking if everyone had reviewed and approved the June 9, 2025, minutes. Without discussion, Director Sprague moved to approve the minutes, with Directors O'Sullivan, Reeder and Reeves seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dalton then transitioned to Action Item two (2), the discussion and approval of IHMC's financials, and transferred the floor to Director and Finance Chair Dick Baker.

Upon completion of the Action Items, Chair Dalton thanked the Board and invited Dr. Stone to present his Officer's Report.

Dr. Stone thanked Chair Dalton and the Board for the opportunity to present his report and then began with the State Legislative update.

Dr. Stone reported that on June 30, the Governor signed the FY 2025–2026 Budget totaling \$117.4 billion. He was pleased to share that IHMC received recurring appropriations in the amount of \$9.34 million, reinforcing the State's strong support for IHMC's mission and impact. He emphasized that this recurring funding provides stability and reflects the continued value IHMC brings to Florida and the Northwest Florida region.

Dr. Stone then provided an overview of the state's economic landscape, noting that Florida's economy continues to outperform the national average with unemployment at 3.7% and projected GDP growth between 2.5%–3%, including a 1.4% annualized increase in Q1. Northwest Florida's economy remains more mixed but is steadily diversifying beyond traditional sectors through growing investments in advanced manufacturing and technology trends beneficial to IHMC's mission.

Dr. Stone encouraged Board Members to continue their advocacy for IHMC when engaging with local and statewide legislators.

After finalizing his remarks related to the state legislature, Dr. Stone provided his Federal Legislative Update.

Dr. Stone reported that, similar to state approving a budget, Congress passed and the President signed H.R.1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act on July 4, 2025. He mentioned that having a federal budget in place supports IHMC's long-term planning efforts.

He further stated that as of mid-August, the House had advanced 11 of the 12 full-year appropriations bills, while the Senate had passed eight. Both chambers' bills include defense spending increases \$831.5 billion in the House and \$851.9 billion in the Senate. Dr. Stone noted that all 12 must be reconciled and signed before September 30 to avoid the need for a Continuing Resolution.

He highlighted potential RDT&E (Research, Development, Test & Evaluation) priorities particularly relevant to IHMC: unmanned systems, mathematics and computer science, space technologies, sensors, and intelligence areas aligned with IHMC's NCCA initiatives.

Dr. Stone then addressed concerns regarding NIH funding. He explained that although the Administration has proposed significant reductions to NIH's FY 2026 budget, including 40% cut and additional reductions following the recent Supreme Court ruling that upheld the Administration's \$800 million cut to NIH grants tied to DEI initiatives, there remains strong bipartisan support in Congress to instead raise NIH's base funding to \$47 billion. He emphasized that NIH's growing focus on healthspan aligns directly with IHMC's HRP priorities and noted that IHMC does not anticipate any negative impact on

ongoing HRP initiatives. He stated that IHMC remains cautiously optimistic and that final funding levels will ultimately depend on Congress reconciling differences between the House, the Senate, and the Administration.

He concluded by reaffirming that IHMC's long-standing relationships in Washington and active communication with the D.C. team help IHMC closely monitor funding developments and maintain a position of optimism.

Dr. Stone then transitioned to staffing by emphasizing the excitement of welcoming new team members and celebrating staff achievements.

He began by introducing Dr. Alberto Parmiggiani, who joined IHMC's Robotics team from the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT). Dr. Parmiggiani brings extensive experience in humanoid robotics hardware, mechatronics, lightweight design, and additive manufacturing, and he was instrumental in the development of IIT's iCub humanoid robot. He concluded his introduction by noting that, since 2019, Dr. Parmiggiani has coordinated IIT's manufacturing and design unit, further demonstrating his strong background in humanoid robotics hardware, mechatronics, additive manufacturing, digital fabrication, and lightweight design.

Dr. Stone then introduced Dr. Monica Gori, Dr. Parmiggiani's wife, who recently joined IHMC as a senior researcher. He stated that Dr. Gori is internationally recognized for her work in sensory neuroscience, visual impairment, multisensory integration, and spatial perception. She previously led the U-VIP laboratory at IIT, overseeing 23 researchers, and has received numerous prestigious European awards. He highlighted her expertise in human sensory neuroscience, multisensory integration, visual disability, and spatial perception, noting her recognition through awards such as the Italian TR35, an ERC Starting Grant, and multiple European research projects. He expressed enthusiasm that her research—ranging from multisensory development in infancy to innovative rehabilitative technologies—is new to IHMC and opens exciting opportunities for collaborative research and novel applications in human-machine teaming.

Dr. Stone next introduced Dr. Elliott Rouse, who joined IHMC part-time as a Senior Research Scientist while continuing his role as an Associate Professor at the University of Michigan. His expertise in exoskeletons, human locomotion, neural control of movement, and wearable robotics will significantly strengthen IHMC's research portfolio. Dr. Rouse's work has been widely recognized, including the NSF CAREER Award and the University of Michigan's Henry Russel Award, and his lab's innovations, such as the Open-Source Leg, have advanced wearable robotics research. Dr. Stone stated that IHMC is excited to welcome Dr. Rouse to IHMC, where his expertise in wearable robotics and human augmentation will undoubtedly contribute to advancing our research initiatives.

He ended his researcher introductions with Dr. Michael J. Prietula, who joined IHMC as a part-time Senior Research Scientist. He noted that Dr. Prietula brings decades of expertise in computational organization theory, AI, and human performance research, with prior appointments at Dartmouth, Carnegie Mellon, and Johns Hopkins. He concluded his introduction of Dr. Prietula by noting that Dr. Prietula brings deep

expertise in computational organization theory, AI, and human performance research, helping advance interdisciplinary projects that enhance human- machine interaction and decision-making.

Dr. Stone then recognized a new addition to the Robotics support team, Claudia Artzer, a Research Coordinator who brings more than six years of international administrative experience. He stated that Claudia holds a Bachelor's in Communications and Master's degrees in Law and Art History from the University of Lorraine, as well as a Conservatory Degree in Classical Guitar. Originally from France, she is fluent in French, Spanish, Italian, and English. He concluded by noting that Claudia has been invaluable in assisting other international new hires as they adjust to working in the U.S., and expressed gratitude for having her as part of the team.

After concluding his introduction of Claudia, Dr. Stone introduced two new members of IHMC's front desk team, Molly Selby and Benjamin Smith.

He then announced the promotions of Dr. Dawn Kernagis, who was promoted to Senior Visiting Research Scientist and Dr. Ian Perera, who was promoted to Senior Research Scientist. He noted that both individuals have demonstrated stellar contributions to IHMC's mission and research success.

Dr. Stone concluded his staffing remarks stating that IHMC welcomed several dozen interns this summer representing institutions such as UCLA, Williams College, Villanova University, Florida State, University College London, Georgia Tech, UWF, UAB, and Gulf Breeze High School - all studying disciplines ranging from Mechanical Engineering and Robotics to Neuroscience and Applied Information Science.

With his comments on the interns complete, Dr. Stone turned the floor over to Ryan Tilley to provide an update on IHMC's partnership with Triumph Gulf Coast

Ryan Tilley thanked Dr. Stone and reported that Triumph funding continues to provide critical support for IHMC's Healthspan, Resilience, and Performance research initiatives as well as the ongoing development of the National Center for Collaborative Autonomy (NCCA).

Ryan highlighted that on August 27, the Triumph Board approved IHMC's amendment allowing HRP grant funds to support commercialization efforts—a significant milestone for IHMC. He noted that this approval strengthens IHMC's impact in research translation, innovation, and regional economic development.

Ryan concluded by expressing gratitude for Triumph's continued partnership and optimism for future collaboration opportunities.

Dr. Stone thanked Ryan and then proceeded to provide an update on matters related to IHMCs facilities.

Dr. Stone reminded the Board that the upgraded drainage system and pervious paver project had been approved with initial state funding. IHMC submitted an updated plan to reflect the full project scope and is currently awaiting final approval from DEP. Contractors estimate the project will require 9–10 weeks and are prepared to begin immediately once final authorization is received.

Dr. Stone reported that the HVAC replacement project is approximately 85% complete, with remaining work focused on control system testing and balancing. While the goal was to complete the project by summer's end, an additional few months will be needed.

Dr. Stone emphasized that while facilities improvements are important, IHMC's identity and impact are defined by its research—transitioning next into the Research Update.

Dr. Stone highlighted that IHMC submitted or is preparing 43 proposals since the June Board meeting. He noted that August alone produced ten (10) new awards, representing a strong month for IHMC's research portfolio.

He explained that the DoD research landscape is evolving toward applied, mission-aligned solutions, and IHMC is adapting strategically to meet these changing priorities. He stated that the awarded projects reflect IHMC's continued competitiveness, scientific rigor, and responsiveness to sponsor needs.

Dr. Stone then proceeded to discuss various awarded projects.

The first awarded project highlighted by Dr. Stone was a DARPA award called KALLISTI, secured by Senior Research Scientist Ian Perera, along with Drs. Matt Johnson, Pete Pirolli, and Mark Orr. Submitted in February under the title “Metacognitive Intelligence and Maneuvers for Influence and Resolution,” the research aims to develop a cognitive model of comprehension to infer risk and reward propensities from beliefs and partially observable behavior traces. Dr. Stone noted that the team successfully progressed through multiple approval stages, and the project is anticipated to begin on September 26.

The second funding award mentioned by Dr. Stone was for Research Scientist Dr. Zach Graham and Senior Research Scientist/Georgia Tech Professor Greg Sawicki for their NIH project, “Mechanisms of the Age-Related Changes in Gait Biomechanics and the Impact on the Increased Metabolic Cost of Walking.” This five-year project, starting in mid-September, uses a multi-scale computational and experimental approach to investigate molecular, cellular, tissue, and joint-level mechanisms. The goal is to understand how age-related shifts in motor coordination contribute to higher walking costs and reduced speed in older adults.

The third awarded project referenced by Dr. Stone was a project requested by an ONR program officer and submitted by Connor Tate, an IHMC PhD employee, titled “Diver Health Hub for Operational Monitoring and Situational Awareness (H2O).” Recommended for funding and currently awaiting an award date, the project addresses the lack of real-time physiological and cognitive monitoring during missions. Dr. Stone

explained that the H2O system will deliver real-time insights directly to divers and supervisors, overcoming limitations of subjective self-assessment and intermittent topside monitoring.

The fourth award highlighted by Dr. Stone involved Dr. Niranjan Suri, who submitted an AFRL Engineering Change Proposal titled “LoRa-Based Emergency Communications for ACE.” Selected for award in August starting October 1, the project enhances the capabilities and performance of the Kennel (LECA) program, raises the Technology Readiness Level of the technology, and aligns it for potential service-wide transition.

The fifth funding award mentioned by Dr. Stone was a one-year contract for Dr. Matt Johnson to continue the Workbench project for the U.S. Special Operations Command. This VR platform enables operator-centric design and evaluation of new technology concepts, incorporating operator feedback to assess mission utility, compare hardware, sensors, algorithms, and interfaces, and identify critical issues in emerging technologies.

The sixth project involved Drs. Matt Johnson and Peter Pirolli, who were awarded a six-month Air Force SBIR project titled “PRISMS: Predictive Real-time Insight for Structuring Multi-team Systems.” Dr. Stone explained that PRISMS uses AI and human expertise to monitor team activities, identify potential issues, and recommend solutions. This collaborative effort with Kairos Research is expected to be the first of many ongoing partnerships.

The seventh award highlighted by Dr. Stone was for Dr. Robert Griffin, who received a one (1) year contract from ONR for the SquadBot v3 project, marking his third SquadBot contract. This research focuses on designing the next-generation humanoid robot for outdoor urban operations, integrating advanced controllers, enhancing simulations, developing exploration behaviors, and conducting field testing. Although the original proposal requested a five year project, the first contract year offers significant expansion potential.

The eighth project noted by Dr. Stone was a three-year award to Dr. Griffin from ONR titled “Audio-Visual Integration in Operational Environments.” The research aims to improve how autonomous systems combine auditory and visual information to detect, recognize, and track objects in complex environments. Dr. Stone highlighted that the award originated from a white paper submission, reflecting Dr. Griffin’s expertise and strong track record.

The ninth awarded project mentioned by Dr. Stone involved Dr. Anil Raj, who secured a six-month Phase One Air Force SBIR project with Quasar titled “EAGLE: Eye Tracking for Aviation Gaze & Load.” The project focuses on building and evaluating a functional head-worn eye-tracking system prototype, defining system requirements, establishing safety protocols, and specifying an open software API for integration and customization.

The tenth funding award highlighted by Dr. Stone was for Dr. Marcos Bamman, who received a project titled “Omics Applications for Assessing the Diverging Effects of Varying Military Stressors” with USARIEM. Dr. Stone explained that Dr. Bamman’s team

will conduct 'omics analyses, identify metabolic biomarkers linked to military stressors, process and quality-check blood and muscle samples, and manage sample inventory and storage throughout the study.

In addition to reporting awarded projects, Dr. Stone concluded the research update by noting three ongoing efforts that IHMC has a strong chance of securing before year-end: a DARPA RESTORE proposal and two NIH submissions—"BOOST," led by Dr. Marcas Bamman, and "Novel treadmill-based exercise prescription to improve walking performance using a dual-mode powered ankle exoskeleton," led by Dr. Zach Graham

Dr. Stone then discussed the launch of the National Center for Collaborative Autonomy (NCCA). He highlighted that Drs. Matt Johnson, Niranjani Suri and Robert Griffin are leading this initiative, which includes forming a dedicated research team, building a state-of-the-art research environment, recruiting new talent, and launching a standalone NCCA website.

He emphasized the increasing importance of collaborative autonomy research across SOCOM S&T, AFRL, and other military partners and positioned NCCA as a critical step in IHMC's leadership in human-machine teaming, operational autonomy, and advanced AI.

Dr. Stone then turned the discussion to philanthropy and asked Carol Carlan to provide a brief philanthropy update.

Carol thanked Dr. Stone and began her report by highlighting the Better Together sessions. Carol noted that the sessions were held on June 5th, and August 7th continued to inform and inspire attendees about IHMC's research. Carol thanked Season Sponsor Emmanuel, Sheppard & Condon for their support and noted that the final 2025 session is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, from 8:30–11:30 a.m. Carol reported that since January 2023, 157 participants have attended, gaining a deeper appreciation of IHMC's mission and supporting the Institute philanthropically.

The second initiative then mentioned by Carol was that the HRP Complex Celebration, scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, from 5:00–7:00 p.m., recognizing all who have supported the Healthspan, Resilience, and Performance (HRP) Complex. Carol noted that formal invitations will be shared soon.

Carol then discussed the third initiative involving the Rotary International's Empowering Girls program. The Philanthropy team will welcome 30–40 fourth-grade girls from Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties to the STEM event Move, Measure, & Marvel on Saturday, October 11, from 8:30–11:30 a.m., led by Nicole Rendos, PhD. Carol emphasized that the event will be a morning of discovery, fun, and inspiration.

Carol concluded her philanthropy update by looking ahead to 2026, Carol shared plans for a community 5K & Health Fair, partnering with a local business to combine fitness, engagement, and health awareness, and an Evening Lecture Series in Seaside in

collaboration with the Seaside Institute and Founder Robert Davis. More details on these initiatives will be shared in the coming months.

Dr. Stone thanked Carol and then proceeded to provide an update on IHMC's Community and Education Outreach efforts.

Moving into the Community Outreach section of the report, Dr. Stone highlighted recent visits from several distinguished leaders. IHMC recently hosted Interim University of West Florida President Manny Diaz, IHMC Board member and UWF Board of Trustees Chair Rebecca Matthews, and Representative Sam Garrison of Florida's 11th House District. During their visits, they toured IHMC's campus and facilities, gaining firsthand insight into the Institute's research and innovative projects.

As this was President Diaz's second day in office, Dr. Stone noted that the visit provided an early opportunity to explore potential collaborative initiatives between IHMC and UWF, fostering joint research, technology development, and educational opportunities. He noted that Representative Garrison's visit on August 7 underscored the importance of engaging with policymakers, allowing IHMC to showcase research capabilities, demonstrate project impact, and strengthen relationships with decision-makers.

Building on engagements with government and academic leaders, Dr. Stone highlighted additional visits from distinguished researchers and collaborators. Dr. Stone then stated that these visits provided valuable opportunities to strengthen partnerships and explore collaborative research initiatives. He began with the April 15 visit from NAS Pensacola Commanding Officer Captain Chandra "Mamsan" Newman. Dr. Warren Dixon, Professor and Interim Engineering Dean at the University of Florida, toured the campus on June 24, followed by Dr. Andy McKinley, a Biomedical Engineer at the Air Force Research Laboratory, on July 14 to discuss joint research initiatives. More recently, on August 8, Professor Mari Dezawa from Tohoku University engaged with IHMC teams, and on August 20, Professor Daniel Ferris from the University of Florida participated in collaborative discussions. Dr. Stone emphasized that these visits demonstrate IHMC's ongoing commitment to expanding its research network and fostering new partnership opportunities.

Transitioning from these high-level engagements, Dr. Stone highlighted IHMC's direct community outreach through student programs. Dr. Stone stated that this summer, IHMC hosted Robotics Camps in Pensacola and Ocala, with 60 students attending the three-week Pensacola camp and 37 students in Ocala. These camps, focused on Lego Mindstorms and hands-on programming, provide students with immersive STEM experiences, fostering interest in science and engineering.

Expanding on STEM education initiatives, Dr. Stone reported on Science Saturdays and Evening Lectures. He started by stating that the Ocala Science Saturday Fall program launched on September 6 with Electric Circuits taught by Dr. Arash Mahyari. Remaining classes include Computer Game Design (October 4), Natural History of Butterflies (November 8), and Reaction Time (December 6). The Pensacola series begins September 20 with Optical Illusions, led by Katherine Mortimore, followed by Electric Motors

(October 18), Balloon Cars (November 22), and Computer Game Design (December 13). Dr. Stone highlighted the importance of partnerships with universities and community leaders in making these events successful.

Looking ahead, Dr. Stone shared that IHMC will participate in the U.S. Navy's 250th Anniversary STEM celebration at NAS Pensacola from November 6–8. This event will include a STEM expo for students from grades 9 through graduate school, showcasing IHMC research and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Turning to IHMC's Fall Lecture Series, Dr. Stone outlined upcoming lectures in Pensacola and Ocala. Pensacola lectures include Dr. Jonathon Sullivan (September 18), Dr. Thom Mayer (October 7), Dr. Charles Serhan (November 13), and Dr. Zach Graham (December 4). Ocala lectures include Dr. Andrew Koutnik (September 9), Bruce Welt (October 16), Dr. Dave Rabin (November 13), and Dr. Robert Griffin (December 9). Dr. Stone emphasized that these lectures reflect IHMC's ongoing commitment to public education and community engagement.

Finally, Dr. Stone provided an update on STEM-Talk, IHMC's widely listened-to podcast and has had well over 4.5 million episodes downloaded. Since the June Board meeting, three episodes were released: Episode #183 featuring Michael Schmidt on space exploration, Episode #184 with Drs. Ken Ford and Dawn Kernagis in an "Ask Me Anything" format, and Episode #185 with Andrew Koutnik discussing metabolic health and Type 1 diabetes. Episode #186, featuring Professor Mari Dezawa, focuses on MUSE cells in both basic research and clinical applications.

Dr. Stone reminded the Board that IHMC's annual Christmas celebrations will be held in Pensacola on Thursday, December 18 and Ocala on December 11. He reminded the Board that IHMC's Christmas celebrations offer a special opportunity for all of us to come together, celebrate our accomplishments, and enjoy the holiday season as a community and to be on the lookout for the official invitation with additional details.

Dr. Stone concluded his report by thanking the Board for their continued support of IHMC. "Thank you all once again for your support of IHMC. This concludes my report, Chair Dalton."

Chair Dalton thanked Dr. Stone for another excellent and comprehensive report.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.