

IHMC Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 4, 2023  
8:30 a.m. CST/9:30 a.m. EST

Roll Call	Chair Bill Dalton
Chair's Greetings	Chair Bill Dalton

Action Items

1. Approval of September 18, 2023 Minutes	Chair Bill Dalton
2. Discussion and Approval of June 30, 2023 Audited Financial Statements	Chair Bill Dalton
3. Discussion of September 2023 financials	Chair Bill Dalton

Chief Executive Officer's Report

1. Update on New Building	Dr. Ken Ford
2. Research Update	Dr. Ken Ford
3. 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, Eugene Franklin, Hal Hudson, Eric Nickelsen, Mort O'Sullivan, Jay Patel, Jim Reeves, Ray Russenberger, Martha Saunders, and Gordon Sprague. Also in attendance were Ken Ford, Morley Stone, Ronnie Armstrong, Phil Turner, Ryan Tilley, Alan Ordway, Carol Carlan and Julie Sheppard.

Dr. Dalton greeted everyone and thanked everyone for being in attendance in person and also those who 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 18, 2023 minutes. Director O'Sullivan moved approval followed by Director Sprague's second. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Dalton then introduced Agenda Item 2, the discussion and approval of the June 30 audited financials stating that he would ask Dick Baker, IHMC Chair of Finance and Audit to discuss the finalized audit and current IHMC financials but he is in Hawaii and its 4:30 am there so he informed the Board that he would be standing in for Dick adding that Dick

has sent in the following comments concerning the draft Audit “as for many years our Saltmarsh Cleveland & Gund thorough audit comes with an unqualified opinion and no comments or recommendations. While a draft, certainly the final audit will not change in any significant way. Besides auditing IHMC financials, Saltmarsh must also do audit functions required by federal and state agencies. This audit certainly confirms the excellent leadership, management, and staff at IHMC.”

Chair Dalton thanked Dick in absentia and informed the Board that Ronnie was present and available to answer any questions. Hearing no questions, Director Reeves made a motion to approve the June 30 audited financials and the motion was seconded by Director Sprague. With no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Dalton then mentioned that Director Baker normally also discusses the most recent financials and read from Dick’s notes on the September 30<sup>th</sup> financials: “IHMC doesn’t exist to build assets or make money. However, the first 3 months of this fiscal year ending September 30<sup>th</sup> were very good. Cash assets were \$8.6 million, up from \$2.8 million a year ago. Net assets increased by \$1.8 million to \$22.8 million. He then took the Board back 15 years to 2008 explaining that revenue for what we do for the 3 months is \$6.5 million --- 15 years ago it was \$2.1 million and net assets now are \$22.8 million where in comparison 15 years ago they were \$5.6 million. All in all, a very great and tremendously talented team doing amazing things.”

Chair Dalton entertained discussion and asked the Board if anyone had questions for Ronnie on the September 30, 2023 financials. The Board discussed in general the strong financials and asked no specific questions. Chair Dalton reminded everyone that December is year-end and a busy time, but that the Board should see the calendar year end financials at the March meeting.

Chair Dalton then turned to Dr. Ford and asked him to provide his report.

Dr. Ford thanked Chair Dalton for the opportunity to provide his report and said good morning to the Board members. He began his comments with the State Legislative report remarking that legislative committee weeks have been underway since September adding that the agenda has been fairly light as lawmakers are waiting for the start of the regular session in January to tackle some major issues, including healthcare and transportation funding. He added that additionally, many legislative races are already underway for the election in November 2024 with primary elections to be held August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Ford informed the Board that all major Legislative positions remain in place from the previous session, with Senator Doug Broxson continuing to lead Appropriations in the Senate. He remarked that one major development has been the campaign filing of former Senator Don Gaetz to run to replace term-limited Doug Broxson adding that Gaetz would be returning to the seat he held for ten years, which included service as Senate President

from 2012-2014. Dr. Ford also noted that Rep. Stan McClain remains the only filed candidate for the State Senate seat in Marion County.

Dr. Ford stated that Reps. Salzman and Andrade should be easily re-elected in the Escambia County House seats adding that the Marion County House seats will see some turnover, with candidates running to replace Reps. Payne and McClain. He added that new state representative, Ryan Chamberlin, replaced Joe Harding in a special election earlier this year.

Dr. Ford commented that despite national worries over inflation and potential for economic downturn, Florida's economic picture remains very strong. He added that official estimates suggest an increase of \$2.7 billion in state revenue over the next two years. He commented that IHMC has requested a recurring line item of \$8.5 million and well as a non-recurring project of \$2.2 million for flood mitigation for the new facility.

Dr. Ford also stated that we continue to benefit from support from Gov. DeSantis's team, Senator Broxson, House Speaker Designate Danny Perez, and other important legislative leaders. He explained that IHMC believes we have a strong case for increased funding to support our expansion and to repair and maintain our existing infrastructure adding that we are optimistic about the 2024 session.

Dr. Ford also stated that the first day of session will begin January 9, 2024, and session will conclude on March 8, 2024, the last day of Regular Session, assuming the Legislature completes its work in 60 days. He asked that any support Board members can provide for IHMC this session with Senator Broxson, Senator Baxley and others in the Senate and House and Governor's office is greatly appreciated.

Dr. Ford then turned to the federal legislative update explaining that Congress avoided a federal government shutdown, passing the Furthering Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (H.R. 6363), which provides government funding in a two-step "laddered CR" for fiscal year 2024 through January 19<sup>th</sup> for four appropriations bills and through February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the remaining eight bills. He added that President Biden signed H.R. 6363 into law on Thursday.

He explained that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is generally considered "must-pass legislation" with over 60 years of bipartisan support. He stated that both chambers have passed the NDAA, with the House legislation (H.R. 2670) funded at \$874.2 billion and the Senate version (S. 2226) at \$876.8 billion adding that Congress will resolve this funding level difference between the House and Senate bills in conference. He explained that the House bill has many amendments with no potential of passing in the Senate, adding that the NDAA is likely to receive attention as one of the first legislative initiatives when Congress returns as leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees have been meeting for months.

He also mentioned that Congress may also act on the Biden administration's emergency supplemental funding requests from October, including \$106 billion for Israel, Ukraine, and the U.S.-Mexico border.

Dr. Ford then discussed new teammates informing the Board that Katherine Mortimore will be joining IHMC in January working as a Research Associate with Dr. Toshi Miyatsu and the human performance group. He stated that Katherine currently works as a Research Coordinator at the Cognition and Cortical Dynamics Lab at the University of Washington and holds a Bachelors in neuroscience and a minor in data science and applied mathematics from the University of Washington.

He stated that Matteo Bassini joined IHMC full-time in October 2023 as a Research Associate after previously serving as an intern. He explained that Matteo's main research interests are machine learning and artificial intelligence, and that he will be focusing his research activities on reinforcement learning applied to networking and communication protocols and will be primarily working with Dr. Niranjan Suri's team. Dr. Ford added that Matteo has been a student at the University of Padua pursuing his BS in informatics engineering and at the University of Ferrara obtaining his MS degree in in automation and informatics engineering where he graduated cum laude with a thesis developed during his internship at IHMC. Dr. Ford stated that during the second year of his master's, Matteo participated in the school's international partnership program, which enabled him to earn a master's degree in computer science at the University of West Florida as well.

Dr. Ford also mentioned that Trevor Perry joined IHMC in October 2023 as a research associate working with Dr. Jeremy McAdam and the human performance research team explaining that Trevor's work will include building out the data collection tools to support the HRP team's efforts. He added that Trevor earned a bachelor's degree at the University of West Florida.

Dr. Ford also stated that Katherine Vanselow joined IHMC in October 2023 as research associate working with Dr. Zach Graham and Kana Meece and their team on Healthspan, Resilience, and Performance research. He explained that Katherine joins the team from private sector work as a molecular technologist and specimen processor adding that she is a licensed Molecular Technologist through the Florida Board of Health but realized that research was her passion. He added that Katherine earned a bachelor's degree in genomics and molecular genetics from Florida Institute of Technology.

Dr. Ford turned to Triumph Gulf Coast funding explaining that the Triumph funding continues to provide valuable resources to our growing HRP research focus. He explained that since receiving final grant approval, IHMC has utilized approximately \$10 million to purchase state of the art equipment and hire new researchers adding that these Triumph funds continue to play a key role in equipping our new HRP facility. He explained that

IHMC has utilized these funds to make 23 hires and, as discussed in the past, the new personnel we are hiring continue to roll into important new funded research projects allowing IHMC to stretch the funds further than anticipated.

He stated that IHMC is developing a new Triumph modification which will add nearly \$8M in additional funding and that if approved by the Triumph Board, these new funds will support the purchase of equipment as well as the construction and support of a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). He explained that the new SCIF will bolster IHMC's ability to meet federal grant and contract security requirements. He explained that IHMC is pleased to be on the Triumph agenda for the December 13<sup>th</sup> Triumph Board meeting at Pensacola State College and as always are appreciative if you would reach out to any Triumph Board members you may know to support the new IHMC proposal.

Dr. Ford also mentioned that he was pleased to provide an update on an existing research program led by Dr. Morley Stone called STAK. He explained that the objective of STAK is to assess the efficacy of ketone supplementation on reducing negative downstream effects of mild traumatic brain injury. He added that in late October, a small IHMC team traveled to Ft. Moore and conducted the final data collection and blood processing effort after which the field lab at Ft. Moore was broken down and all remaining supplies and equipment brought back to IHMC. He added that in addition, IHMC briefed the Basic Airborne Course leadership on the successful completion of data collection and expressed IHMC's sincere appreciation for their outstanding support. Dr. Ford concluded the STAK discussion by stating that the BAC leadership group is very happy with the study and are looking forward to the final report and that with data collection complete, IHMC is now moving into the data analysis phase and by late summer we should have results to report.

Dr. Ford then turned to the research update beginning by informing the Board that this has been a trying Fall season with several threats of a government shutdown which has slowed or delayed several new starts and contracting processes. In spite of that, Dr. Ford mentioned that he would provide an update of IHMC's notable research progress.

He then explained that for the 2023 Fiscal Year which runs from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, IHMC had 94 research proposal submissions which included 60 full Cost Proposals; 34 Abstracts and Whitepapers for a total submission of approximately \$94M of which \$27M was funded. He added that so far, the new fiscal year is progressing nicely with a large number of new projects scheduled for submission at the end of December and early in January.

He stated that in spite of a slow Fall, he was happy to report that IHMC continues to be successful with new research funding and that since our September meeting through today, IHMC has received award notice or are under contract for several new awards comprising

of approximately \$1.7 million in new research funding. He added that for the sake of time, he would only mention one of the new funded projects.

Dr. Ford informed the Board that Dr. Mark Williams, Senior Research Scientist, has received an award from SOCOM for 30 months in the amount of \$1.1 million entitled CEREBRO which will deliver technology, systems, and procedures to assess and enhance operator decision-making during rotary wing aircraft and dismounted lethal force scenarios. He explained that the project will combine the realism of contemporary military simulators with the precision of neurocognitive tests (e.g., threat/non-threat) and biometrics (e.g., heart rate and eye tracking) to develop assessment batteries and training curricula to improve cognitive functions (e.g., working memory, information processing, dual tasking) during military operations. He continued by stating that to accomplish this goal, researchers will conduct technology enhancements, laboratory experiments, and field-based validation studies to deliver a set of simulator tools for Special operations cadre and cognitive performance specialists.

Dr. Ford also informed the Board that on November 6-7, 2023, IHMC hosted in Pensacola, a Blue Sky workshop for the Marion County Community titled “Building a Resilient Firefighting Community.” He stated that it was very well received and featured 23 participants, many of whom traveled to Pensacola from Marion County and throughout the nation to participate. He commented further that on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, we will be hosting another Blue Sky on the “Scientific Foundations for Forecasting, Planning, and Response to the Next Pandemic” led by IHMC’s Senior Research Scientist Peter Pirolli that also includes 20 participants.

Dr. Ford turned to the new construction project stating that the construction on the HRP project is proceeding very well and is currently still on schedule. He commented that we have had minimal weather delays to date and no safety issues and that windows, large HVAC units, and the electrical transformer have been installed. He added that the Brickwork is currently underway along with initial sitework including the retention pond along the western edge of the site. Ford mentioned that inside the building; hard ceilings, prime painting, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and tile work are ongoing adding that the “DIRTT” moveable partitions, lab casework, and furniture will be delivered in late December for initial installation. He also stated that we are continuing to work with Triumph Florida to fund equipment, moveable partitions, lab casework, and furniture mentioning that the funding request for the upgraded drainage system and pervious pavers has been resubmitted to the Florida legislature for potential funding. He concluded his remarks on the new building by informing the Board that the Owner Direct Purchase system (ODP) is working well, with the current savings of approximately \$200,000 to date.

Dr. Ford then asked Carol Carlan to provide a philanthropy update. Carol thanked Dr. Ford and informed the Board that on December 1, IHMC held its final Better Together Event and that concluded the year with 200 influencers in five sessions learning more about

IHMC. She added that these people can help open doors and create a deeper interest in the community to support IHMC. She commented that Ken, Morley, Julie, Marcas, Niranjana, Robert, Gwen and Matt all gave freely of their time to make the events successful and let the Board know that it was also successful because of the amazing efforts put in by Gillian, Alan, Shaner, Michelle and Billy, all of whom played key roles. Carol also stated that next year's efforts would continue with new building tours. Carol thanked all of the Board of Directors for helping with the Philanthropy efforts.

Dr. Ford thanked Carol and turned the discussion to recognition and events informing the Board that Team IHMC won the top prize overall in the 27th Corporate Cup Games, hosted by the YMCA of NW Florida. He stated that the daylong event featured 14 teams, 17 events and more than 300 people representing businesses and organizations across the region adding that the IHMC team, led by Dr. Matt Johnson, also won first in the small team division.

Dr. Ford further commented that IHMC was recently honored with the U.S. Department of labor's HIRE Vets gold medallion award adding that this is the second time in three years that we have been so honored. He explained that between its Pensacola and Ocala branches, nearly 15% of IHMC's new hires last year were veterans, according to Associate General Counsel Stephanie Tillery Rothfeder, who coordinated IHMC's submission for the award. Dr. Ford also mentioned that on Oct. 11, the Rotary District 6940 partnered with IHMC to host a group of fourth-grade girls from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties for recognition of the International Day of the Girl adding that the girls were able to 3D print their own name badges and tour the robotics lab.

Dr. Ford then turned to Science Saturdays stating that this season all sessions have been well attended with waiting lists in both locations. He remarked that Science Saturdays concludes this season in Pensacola on December 16<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Toshi Miyatsu demonstrating Vision and Optical Illusions adding that Ocala concluded this past Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the City of Ocala's Gabriella Sullivan demonstrating healthy wetlands. He informed the Board that as a fun fact, Gabriela was a previous Science Saturday's high school volunteer and comes back as a professional and a presenter and that she graduated from UF with a degree in environmental science.

Dr. Ford stated that IHMC recently released episode 160 of STEM-Talk. He mentioned that attendance continues to be strong with over 4 million listeners adding that over 93% of these are impactful plays where the listener was engaged for over 75% of the episode.

Dr. Ford also stated that Ocala will conclude the Fall Season of the evening lecture series tomorrow December 5<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Morley Stone presenting his talk, "Quantified Human and Future Opportunities and Implications for Healthspan, Resilience and Performance" and that Pensacola will conclude on December 12<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Dallas Little discussing "Simplicity beyond Complexity: Engineering Solutions to infrastructure Problems."

Dr. Ford concluded his remarks commenting that he looked forward to seeing you all at one of the two upcoming Holiday parties adding that in Pensacola, the party is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8 and the theme is Outer Space. He mentioned that in Ocala, due to some unfortunate issues with staff, we will be postponing the party until January 23<sup>rd</sup> when we will host a celebration to welcome the new year.

Dr. Ford then thanked all the Board members for their unwavering service on the IHMC Board of Directors and informed Chair Dalton that this concluded his remarks.

Chair Dalton thanked Dr. Ford for another excellent report and informed the Board that the next scheduled meeting will be a teleconference meeting on March 4, 2024 and an in person meeting hopefully to be held on Sunday and Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Pensacola.

Chair Dalton asked the Board for any additional items or comments and hearing none, he added his wished for a wonderful holiday, a happy new year and good health and adjourned the meeting at 9:25 am central time.

Respectfully Submitted  
Julie Sheppard  
Corporate Secretary