

IHMC Board of Directors Teleconference Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 4, 2024  
8:30 a.m. CST/9:30 a.m. EST  
Call in Number 470-250-9358

Roll Call	Chair Bill Dalton
Chair's Greetings	Chair Bill Dalton
Action Items	
1. Approval of December 4, 2023 Minutes	Chair Bill Dalton
2. Discussion of January 2024 Financials	Director Dick Baker
3. Discussion and Approval of IHMC Bridge Financing	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: Dick Baker, Bill Dalton, Ron Ewers, Eugene Franklin, Hal Hudson, Jon Mills, Eric Nickelsen, Mort O'Sullivan, Jay Patel, Ray Russenberger, Jim Reeves, Ray Russenberger, and Gordon Sprague. Also in attendance were Ken Ford, Morley Stone, Tim Broderick, Phil Turner, Carol Carlan, Ryan Tilley, Ronnie Armstrong, Alan Ordway, and Julie Sheppard.

Chair Dalton welcomed everyone attending in person and those who dialed in. He explained that he would move directly into the meeting discussing the three agenda items and then moving into Dr. Ford's report.

Chair Dalton then introduced Action Item 1 calling for discussion and approval of the December 4, 2023 minutes. Director Hudson moved approved followed by a second from Director Baker. With no amendments, the December 4, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Dalton then introduced Agenda Item 2 and asked Dick Baker, IHMC Chair of Finance and Audit to discuss the January 2024 Financials. Director Baker thanked Chair Dalton and discussed the strong research growth over the 7-month period with a 39% increase in revenue. Chair Dalton then introduced Action Item 3 and asked Director Baker if he would also discuss the Board action item to approve bridge financing of up to \$4M to close out the new construction project.

Director Baker continued the financial discussion indicating that as the building wrapped up in late March early April that there would possibly be funding and timing delays between invoicing and receivable. He reminded the Board that IHMC borrowed \$25M in bond financing and that with architect fees and building costs the total project cost \$32M. He explained that the TRIUMPH portion of the equipment and furnishings would require requests for reimbursements and could take 70 plus days for reimbursement as well as other delays in receipts including the 90–120-day timeframe for federal receivables. He explained that to pay bills timely pending receipt of

reimbursement funding, IHMC proposed to obtain bridge financing from SmartBank of up to \$4M at 7% interest with an interest only amortization repayment schedule. He indicated that this bridge financing debt would then be retired as soon as possible. Director Baker moved approval of the January financials and the Board bridge financing resolution to request up to \$4M in bridge financing from SmartBank. Director Nickelsen seconded the motion and without further discussion both Action Item 2 and 3 passed unanimously.

Chair Dalton thanked the Board and Director Baker and turned to Dr. Ford to provide his report. Dr. Ford thanked the Board and Chair Dalton for the opportunity to update everyone.

Dr. Ford informed the Board that Tallahassee had an early and interesting session this year dominated by many issues including insurance affordability. He commented that going into this morning's meeting, it appears IHMC has retained its recurring funding and has a stormwater item for the new infrastructure at 41 S. Alcaniz St of \$1.1M sponsored by Representative Salzman.

He also discussed the Federal Legislative outlook explaining that unfortunately, everyone is still waiting on Congress to pass the FY24 budget. He added that Morley Stone and Tim Broderick were on Capitol Hill last week and that as soon as this meeting adjourns, that he would be traveling to DC with IHMC Associate Director Niranjana Suri and that the purpose of these trips is to work on FY25 advocacy.

Dr. Ford then turned the conversation to Triumph explaining to the Board that our funding continues to provide valuable resources to our growing Healthspan, Resilience, and Performance (HRP) research. He stated that since receiving final grant approval, IHMC has utilized approximately \$10.4M of the funds to purchase state of the art equipment and hire new research team members. He remarked that the Triumph funds continue to play a key role in equipping the new state of the art HRP facility commenting that IHMC has utilized these funds to make 23 hires and that these new personnel continue to quickly roll into important new funded research projects allowing IHMC to stretch the funds further than anticipated. He commented that IHMC was successful in its 3<sup>rd</sup> request to Triumph Gulf Coast to modify our existing grant, adding an additional \$7.9M in funding and bringing the total award to \$19.9M. He concluded by mentioning that Triumph noted our continued success with the first rounds of funding as clear support for the additional award. He mentioned that these additional funds will support the purchase of additional state of the art equipment as well as the build out and support of a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). He added that the new SCIF will bolster IHMC's ability to meet federal grant and contract security requirements and expand IHMC's overall capabilities.

Dr. Ford then updated the Board on the new construction with a *Healthspan, Resilience, and Performance Research Complex Update*. He remarked that the new building project is nearing completion and that punch list inspections are scheduled for later this month, starting with the second floor adding that furniture will be installed in mid-April. He stated that exterior finish work, handrails etc. are being installed and that interior electrical, plumbing, HVAC trim work and touch up painting are being completed. He explained that the generator is in the process of being installed as is the elevator which should be completed sometime this month. He remarked that the Owner Direct Purchase system is working well, and we are seeing the final items of equipment being delivered to the site with current participation savings of approximately \$225,000 which will be added back into the project.

He concluded by stating that as mentioned earlier, the SCIF project has received TRIUMPH approval for \$4 million. And that preliminary meetings with IHMC staff, the architects, and contractor are underway to determine design and costs. He added that we hope to start this in the fall of 2024 with projected completion anticipated for August 2025.

Dr. Ford then turned his discussion to new team members announcing that Dr. Chris Bates joined IHMC as a Research Scientist in January 2024 working with Dr. Ian Perera and his team in the Ocala office. He explained that his research has included studying efficient data compression in perception and perceptual memory and included looking at how deep neural networks compress memory to glean clues about how our brains might use similar strategies to manage memory storage. He mentioned that Chris earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at Purdue University, his Ph.D. in cognitive science at the University of Rochester and that prior to coming to IHMC he was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University.

Dr. Ford also remarked that Dr. Edward "Drew" Cranford joined IHMC as a Research Scientist in January and will be working with Dr. Kevin Gluck, among others. He explained that Drew's research interests include decision-making, learning, and expertise in human-machine interactions, with a focus on developing methods for integrating computational cognitive models with machines to personalize human-machine interactions. He stated that Drew earned his Ph.D. in cognitive science from Mississippi State University and that most recently, he was a faculty researcher at Carnegie Mellon University.

Dr. Ford also stated that Katherine Mortimore joined IHMC in January 2024 as a research associate working with Dr. Toshi Miyatsu and his colleagues. He mentioned that Kate's research interests lie in applying neuroscience and data science to critical challenges in healthcare and medicine and that while at IHMC, she will build upon her experience at the University of Washington, where she was research coordinator for the Cognition and Cortical Dynamics Lab. He remarked that she earned her bachelor's degree in neuroscience at Washington and also served a student internship for the U.S. Navy at the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific in Silverdale, Washington.

Dr. Ford also announced that David Selby joined IHMC as Chief of Security in February 2024 stating that David will be reporting to Dr. Morley Stone and will play a prominent role assisting IHMC with its planning and execution of the SCIF facility and be responsible for leadership of IHMC's security program. He remarked that David has long been a leader in the fields of counterintelligence, security, and information technology working with the private sector, the military, and the private sector in classified and non-classified domains. Dr. Ford commented that David earned a bachelor's degree in intelligence studies from the American Military University, where he also is pursuing a master's degree in cybersecurity studies.

Dr. Ford also announced that Louis Richardson joined IHMC as a Senior Research Associate working with the robotics lab. He commented that Louis brings more than a decade of commercial experience in mechanical engineering, industrial design, conceptual design, and manufacturing in the creation of innovative and immersive animatronic characters and experiences. He mentioned that Louis earned his bachelor's degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design, where he began to blend his artistic creativity with mechanical design.

Rounding out the new personnel appointments, Dr. Ford stated that Elizabeth Christensen joined IHMC as accounting coordinator in February 2024. He explained that her background in bookkeeping, accounting, and office management in the private sector adds depth and additional support to the administrative team adding that Elizabeth earned an Associate degree at Pensacola State College and is a Florida Notary Public.

Dr. Ford then turned to recent IHMC promotions announcing that promotions are a time for celebration and stating that in February, IHMC celebrated the promotion of three of our research colleagues. He announced that Dr. Matt Johnson was promoted to Senior Research Scientist, a well-deserved promotion, commenting that at IHMC, a Senior Research Scientist is equivalent to a full-professor at a research-oriented university. He remarked that Matt has established a robust research program and is a well-respected leader in human/machine teaming research.

He then announced that Dr. Brodie Mather, although he has worked at IHMC for some time, and a recent graduate of the UWF/IHMC joint PhD program, was promoted to Research Scientist which is roughly equivalent to Assistant Professor at a university. He explained that Brodie's research interests span artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cognitive architectures, social psychology, natural language processing, and more adding that Brodie has come out of the box flying and you will hear in a few minutes about his first large major federal grant award.

And lastly, Dr. Ford announced that Dr. Brady DeCouto, who joined IHMC as a postdoctoral fellow in June 2022, has now been promoted to Research Scientist. He explained that Brady's research interests concern the development of expert performance, which entails perceptual-cognitive skills, motor skills, and psychosocial influences. He added that Brady has been a great addition to IHMC and is already collaborating with many seasoned IHMC Research Scientists and submitting his own proposals.

Dr. Ford then turned the discussion to IHMC research stating that he was happy to present that we continue to be successful with new research funding and between our December meeting and today, even given the fact that there is no federal budget in place, thus no new starts on FY 24 funding, that he would mention one of the new funded projects.

He informed the Board that Dr. Brodie Mather has received a \$3M award from the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) in partnership with Stanford Research Institute. He explained that IARPA is the research and development arm of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, investing in high-risk/high-payoff research to tackle the Intelligence Community's most difficult challenges. He added that the IARPA program is titled Reimagining Security with Cyberpsychology-Informed Network Defenses (ReSCIND) mentioning that this program aims to improve cybersecurity by developing a new set of cyberpsychology-informed defenses that leverage attacker's human limitations, such as innate decision-making biases and cognitive vulnerabilities.

He also stated that IHMC also has more than \$70M in new proposals under review.

Dr. Ford then turned the discussion to education and outreach announcing that IHMC will host its annual Robotics Open house on April 11<sup>th</sup>. He explained that while robotics is the focus of the event, most of our disciplines will be well represented including the visualizations, drones and

other IHMC projects that excite young people to pursue careers in STEM fields. He told the Board that as they may recall, this is an annual community event, and we typically tour 1,000 people through our facility between 4 and 8 pm as well as hosting field trips from local schools.

Dr. Ford also announced that in late May, IHMC will host the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Dynamic Walking Conference, set for May 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> at Pensacola Beach. He explained that this conference includes experts and researchers in biomechanics, human and animal locomotion, prosthetics and orthotics, robot design and control, wearable robotics, and exoskeletons. He added that it has been six years since IHMC previously hosted the conference, which rotates between the United States and Europe. He remarked that IHMC will host participants from all around the globe and showcase both Pensacola as well as the work at IHMC.

Dr. Ford also mentioned that IHMC's podcast, STEM-Talk continues to be a great success with millions of downloads and listens. We recently released EPISODE 164 featuring Michael Leon on Olfactory Stimulation as a Buffer for Dementia Symptoms.

He announced the dates for our summer robotics camp as set for June 17<sup>th</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup> in Pensacola, drawing students in grades 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> adding that in Ocala the dates are weeks of July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Ford commented that the Evening Lecture Series continues to be popular in both Pensacola and Ocala stating that in Pensacola, on March 14<sup>th</sup> Dr. Tom Jones, a veteran NASA astronaut, scientist, and author will lecture. He informed the Board that Tom holds a doctorate in planetary sciences, and in more than eleven years with NASA, flew on four space shuttle missions. Dr. Ford mentioned that IHMC is collaborating with Bodacious Bookstore for a book signing featuring his latest book, "Space Shuttle Stories" before the lecture starts remarking that many of the Board may have met Tom in the past as he is a Visiting Senior Research Scientist at IHMC.

Dr. Ford also stated that on April 25<sup>th</sup>, IHMC Pensacola will host Benjamin Bikman whose research focus is to elucidate the molecular mechanisms that mediate the disruption that causes and accompanies metabolic disorders, such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, and dementia. He then turned the discussion to Ocala where 276 persons attended the Michael Okun talk in January and we anticipate another sellout crowd for the February lecture, featuring Dominic D'Agostino. He remarked that Ocala will host IHMC Senior Research Scientist, Dr. Kevin Gluck, on March 28<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Michael Larson on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Ford also commented that the winter/spring season of Science Saturdays is now half over, with only the March and April events remaining. He explained that registration numbers remain strong, with a waiting list for most sessions at both locations and that attendance numbers are solid as well, generally with 25 or more students participating in all sessions, and over 30 students in some. He remarked that the now completed Pensacola topics are "Balloon Cars" with Dr. Gwen Bryan and "Secret Codes" with Meredith Yeager and in Ocala we offered "Bridges" with Scott Weeks (Florida Engineering Society) and "More Computer Game Design" with Dr. Archana Bhatia. Dr. Ford informed the Board that in March, Science Saturdays will feature "What Genes are you Wearing?", with Dr. Marcos Bamman in Pensacola and "Optical Illusions", with Dr. Peter Polack (Ocala Eye) in Ocala. He stated that the current season will conclude in April with "Photo Editing"

with Graham Young (College of Central Florida), in Ocala and “The Science of Design” with Teresa dos Santos in Pensacola.

Dr. Ford also remarked that in Ocala, IHMC hosted its rescheduled holiday party “Ring in 2024” on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and it was very well attended, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. He also informed the Board that the Ocala office will be hosting a series of city town halls, regarding the 2050 vision plan for Ocala in March.

Dr. Ford then turned to Carol Carlan for a Philanthropy Update. Carol thanked Dr. Ford for the opportunity to provide a report and updated the Board that she has been working with 250 individuals and companies to offer a “peek behind that curtain” and better understand IHMC. She explained that momentum is continuing to build as IHMC tells its story and asked the Board to hold November 21, 2024 for a celebratory event of IHMC’s 20 years as an independent organization to be held at the Pensacola Yacht Club. She remarked that this event will be a donor cultivation event looking at the past present and future of IHMC. Carol thanked Dr. Ford for the opportunity to provide her report.

Dr. Ford thanked Carol for the update and stated that he was looking forward to seeing all of the Board members again in person in the near future and was very excited about touring everyone in the new facility when it opens. He explained that IHMC was planning a ribbon cutting event, perhaps in June, and all the Board were honored guests and added that Dr. Pam Dana will be coordinating this event. He thanked the Board for their continued support of IHMC and informed Chair Dalton that this concluded his report.

Chair Dalton thanked Dr. Ford for another excellent report and asked the Board if anyone had questions or additional items for the Board. Hearing none, he announced that the next IHMC Board meeting will be the in person meeting to be held in Pensacola on Sunday/Monday June 9 and 10, 2024. He added that IHMC staff will be providing additional information as we get closer to the time frame but to plan on a dinner Sunday evening June 9<sup>th</sup> followed by a meeting Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>. He added that he was sure we would also be touring the newly opened facility and that it should prove to be a very exciting meeting.

Hearing no additional items for the Board, Dr. Dalton concluded the meeting at 9:10 am wishing everyone a wonderful spring.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julie Sheppard  
IHMC Corporate Secretary