

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING
MARYLAND INNOVATION INITIATIVE (MII)**

January 12, 2023
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Participating Board Members:

Renee Winsky, Chair
Wendy Martin
Mary Morris
Nicole Snell
Kenneth Porter
Wayne Swann

Participating TEDCO Staff

Arti Santhanam
Silvia Goncalves
Griffin St. Louis
Tammi Thomas
Ira Schwartz, TEDCO Counsel

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2022

The Board considered the minutes from the November 10, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by M. Morris and seconded by N. Snell to approve the minutes, and unanimously passed.

III. Chairman's Report

R. Winsky informed staff, not present during the closed session, that personnel evaluations were discussed. In addition, a waiver was given to Dr. Rahman for re-submission which allows him to submit a fourth application for his technology.

IV. Director's Report

A.Santhanam gave an overview of the MII Budget Analysis and remaining funds for the next cycle. It was suggested that the May cycle be approved in June in order to draw down the funds.

A.Santhanam informed the Board that 8 applications were received for the January deadline. This included one company application and seven projects.

A.Santhanam updated the Board on the progress of data migration into Salesforce up to FY17, the successful incorporation of the DEI Initiative into the application submission system, and the adoption of AmpliFund as the Grants Management system to be implemented in FY24.

A.Santhanam informed the Board that the DEI training for the Reviewers is in the process of being completed and will be ready soon. The Board was asked if the reviewers should be compensated \$250.00 yearly for taking the training. W. Swann made a motion and Renee second it to approve the compensation.

A discussion ensued on whether the Board members that are not associated with the universities and have not taken the DEI training at their workplaces should be required to take the training as well. R. Winsky made the motion and W. Swann second to approve that all Board members must take the training or provide proof that they've taken it.

A.Santhanam announced that the Company Formation updated RFA has been uploaded to the MII webpage and the Technology Assessment is still being updated and will be uploaded soon.

V. MII Staff Report

S.Goncalves gave an update on the quarterly reporting, royalties collected, and convertible notes due.

G. St.Louis gave an update on portfolio highlights, award management and follow on funding.

A.Santhanam gave an overview of the next steps regarding the MII Pilot. W. Swann made a motion and W. Martin second the motion to approve the draft Research Agreement for the MII Pilot. A. Santhanam announced that a draft RFA for the Technology Validation Grant has been sent to Bowie State University for review and once reviewed by BSU will be brought to the Board for approval

A.Santhanam updated the Board on the collaboration with Henry Jackson Foundation and the Federal Lab Initiative. A. Santhanam announced that an event has been scheduled for February 8th at the Henry Jackson Foundation location in Bethesda, Maryland.

T. Thomas gave an update on the articles the Marketing team have been working on to highlight the universities.

A.Santhanam announced the MII is interested in applying for the REACH grant in collaboration with JHU and UMB and Children's National. The Board discussed if MII should be part of the REACH agreement with JHU and UMB and the Board was in favor, except for M. Morris who abstained.

A discussion ensued on the issues MII and the PI's are encountering with the administration offices at the schools, specifically with joint applications where the lead universities are not processing their paperwork with the joint applicant in a timely manner and therefore, delaying progress on the projects. It was decided that MII will notify the joint school Board member as well as the co-PI of the award in an effort to create more accountability toward the fulfillment of administrative responsibilities.

A.Santhanam informed the Board of the progress with the AmpliFund installation. We hope to have the new grant management system ready to launch for the fiscal year 2024.

A.Santhanam updated the Board on the collection of DEI data collection in Salesforce. MII was successful in collecting DEI data for the previous two cycles, however, we are still working with IT to run the reports.

VI. Closed Session

- (i.) The motion made by Mary Morris, seconded by Mary Beth Tung, and passed unanimously. The staff were excused, and the Board went into a closed session at 3:37 p.m. to discuss staff personnel evaluations.

Statement for Closing the Meeting

A motion was made and seconded that the Board go into closed session. The motion included the following:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION

General Provisions Article of the MD Code, Section 3-108(a)(5):

A public body may meet in closed session ... to consider the investment of public funds.

General Provisions Article of the MD Code, Section 3-305(b)(1):

A public body may adjourn an open session to discuss personnel matters that affect one or more specific individuals.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED: The MII board will discuss the performance and compensation of MII staff.

REASON FOR CLOSING: The MII board believes that confidentiality is essential to protect sensitive information about plans and processes that applicants divulge, to avoid a chilling effect on future submissions, and to enable candid discussion of how best to invest limited resources. MII board also believes that confidentiality is necessary to allow a candid discussion of the above-mentioned personnel matters.

- (ii.) Staff were invited to rejoin the closed meeting for the consideration of award applications at 2:39 p.m. by Mary Morris. The Board considered and voted on various grant applications. Two of the five applications from the September 2022 submissions were recommended to the Board for consideration. In accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Public Ethics Law, Board members recused themselves from that portion of the discussion that pertained to applications from their own universities. The members then discussed and approved the two recommended applications.

The meeting reopened at 3:08 p.m.

VII. Old / New Business

W. Swann announced that Morgan State University will be holding its 5th Annual Innovation of the Year awards on November 9th.

K.Porter spoke about the review process regarding non-life science applications in regard to the commercialization section of the application.

A.Santhanam introduced a list of tentative dates for the next Board Meetings in 2023, half in-person and half held virtually over Zoom.

S. Goncalves informed the Board that Arti Santhanam was featured in the World Leaders Magazine.

M. Beth Tung announced that this was her last meeting as she is stepping down from the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by R. Winsky at 3:56 p.m.