

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS LIFE SCIENCES CENTER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 28, 2022

Hybrid: In-person at MLSC Offices and Virtual via Microsoft Teams

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1. **Call to Order**

Co-Chairperson Mark Fuller, presiding as chairperson of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (the “MLSC” or “Center”) called the meeting to order. The meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with its business. Members Mr. Fuller, Ms. Hornby, Dr. Chen, were present in person, Members Ms. Randhawa and Mr. Abelson were connected virtually. Members Dr. Gary Kearney and Dr. Uciane Scarlett were absent.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Chen identified one typographical error in minutes. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board resolved to accept and adopt the minutes, as amended, of the June 22, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

3. **Chairs Updates**

*Mark Fuller, Undersecretary of Business Growth, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development*  
*Catharine Hornby, Undersecretary, Executive Office for Administration and Finance*

Mr. Fuller mentioned that the likelihood of the economic development bill advancing are dwindling with time, and may not happen this year. Mr. Fuller said this is unfortunate, because of the initiatives included in the bill. Mr. Fuller stated Governor Baker has filed the end of year supplemental bill, making its way from administration to session.

Ms. Hornby added there are particular procedural issues around the bond portion of the economic development bill. The bonding piece requires formal session, not informal session. Ms. Hornby remains hopeful that there will be legislation coming out of this session regarding non-bonding portions.

4. **CEO Report**

*Kenneth Turner, President & CEO, MLSC*

Mr. Turner introduced new members of the MLSC team; new board member Dr. Uciane Scarlett is our newest board member and we look forward to welcoming her to our next board meeting. Mr. Turner gave a brief overview of opportunities for he and members of the MLSC team to attend and participate in ground breakings, ribbon cuttings, and visits to announce and highlight grant awardees across the Commonwealth since June. Mr. Turner then gave an overview of Discretionary Grant awards, including: Science club for girls, WPI, Quincy College, Bio-Process Group and The Base. Then Mr. Turner highlighted a visit with the Life Sciences coalition from North Carolina, and looks forward to building that relationship. Mr. Turner indicated the October board meeting will include an overview on MLSC strategic goals, and guest speakers.

5. **Extension of President and CEO Employment Agreement**

*Mark Fuller, Board Co-Chair*

Mr. Fuller indicated this agenda item will be postponed to the October board meeting.

6. **VOTE: Women’s Health Innovation Grants and First Look Awards**

*Katya Mantrova, Director of Industry Strategy and Investments*

Dr. Mantrova introduced the Women’s Health Initiative, including the full offering of MLSC grant programs that focus on Women’s Health. Dr. Mantrova presented a chronology of MLSC Women’s Health Programming from 2019 to present, which included the Women’s Health capital grants, Women’s Health Innovation grant program and the First Look Award program. Dr. Mantrova then highlighted the key takeaways from the 2020-2022 Women’s Health

Innovation program. Dr. Mantrova then provided an overview of the First Look Award program, and its history of success in the first and second year. Dr. Mantrova highlighted the key takeaways from the first two years, and stated that due to the success of the program, we are seeking an increase in allocation to this program from \$150,000 to \$250,000.

There being no questions for Dr. Mantrova, and no further discussion, the Board moved to take up the resolutions as presented.

The Board reviewed the relevant Resolution, and upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board resolved to authorize the expenditure of up to two hundred fifty-thousand dollars (\$250,000) to support the women's health program First Look Award.

The Board reviewed the relevant Resolution, and upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board adopted the Resolution to authorize the expenditure of up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from the MLSC's Investment Fund, for the women's health research competitive grant program.

7. **VOTE: MassNextGen Year 5**

*Katya Mantrova, Director of Industry Strategy and Investments*

Dr. Mantrova gave an overview of the Massachusetts Next Generation initiative (MassNextGen). Dr. Mantrova indicated how the program aligns with the strategic objectives of the MLSC, including innovation, Business Development to grow companies in MA, and regionalization efforts to expand outside of the Boston/Cambridge cluster. Dr. Mantrova highlighted the program sponsors. Dr. Mantrova presented on how MassNextGen includes a community wide effort, which also involves networking events to further support the entrepreneurs. After providing information on the executive coaching network provided for MassNextGen entrepreneurs, Dr. Mantrova highlighted the successes of program awardees.

Dr. Mantrova gave an overview of the Year 5 application pool, and then provided an in-depth summary of each proposed year 5 awardee. Dr. Mantrova provided information on the technology, regional location and capital raise successes for each of the awardees.

Dr. Chen asked what will happen after the current roundee, as the MassNextGen 1.0 sponsorships are coming to a close. Mr. Turner responded that we are evaluating how we will expand and grow the program for the next iteration(s) of this grant program. Mr. Fuller added that we should look at which companies are the intended target of this program, and how we approach that for the next iteration of this program. Additional discussion relating to the next iteration of the MassNextGen program concluded discussion of the MassNextGen program. There being no further questions or discussion, the matter moved to motion and vote.

The Board reviewed the relevant Resolution, and upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board adopted the Resolution to authorize up to a total of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) of Center funds and available Sponsorship Funds to the Awardees as presented, and that, and that each company is certified as a Certified Life Sciences Company.

8. **VOTE: NIIMBL Project Call 5.2 Award Proposals,**

*Carla Reimold, Ph.D., Vice President of Industry Strategy & Investments*

*Ryan Mudawar, Vice President of Education & Workforce Programs*

Dr. Reimold commenced the presentation with a summary of NIIMBL organization and projects. Dr. Reimold explained how NIIMBL aligns with the MLSC strategic objectives of workforce development, regionalization and innovation among others. Dr. Reimold explained the premise and tenets of the Project Call 5.2.

Mr. Efe Sumer then gave a presentation on the two technical NIIMBL Project Call 5.2 projects proposed for MLSC funding. Mr. Efe presented the proposal overview for each, indicating how these projects are important to the life sciences ecosystem in Massachusetts, especially as they pertain to biomanufacturing.

Mr. Mudawar then presented on the workforce NIIMBL Project Call 5.2 proposed project. Mr. Mudawar explained how the project is focused on developing curriculum to enhance the workforce pipeline for vaccine manufacturers in MA. Mr. Mudawar indicated nothing like this currently exists in MA, and that this project is scalable to reach an increasing number of students. Mr. Mudawar gave details on the hands-on portion of the curriculum as well as the virtual/online components of the curriculum.

Discussion regarding industry sponsors and collaborators was initiated by Mr. Fuller. Mr. Turner discussed his participation on the workforce development panel of the National NIIMBL Summit. There being no further questions or discussion, the matter moved to motion and vote.

The Board reviewed the relevant Resolutions, and upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board adopted the Resolution to authorize the Center to provide capital funding to each NIIMBL Project as presented

9. **VOTE: Nucleate Challenge Proposal**

*Elizabeth Kennedy, Vice President of Business Development*

Ms. Kennedy presented on the Nucleate Challenge proposal, beginning with a highlight of the aspects of the MLSC strategic objectives that are closely served by this opportunity. Ms. Kennedy provided an overview and history of the Nucleate organization. Ms. Kennedy indicated that increasing diversity in the life sciences is an essential element of Nucleate programs and activities, as well as the advisory board and executive committee. Ms. Kennedy provided an overview of the alumni company founders coming out of Nucleate, and that there is a great deal of cross-program participating from Nucleate in the programs offered by MLSC.

Ms. Kennedy gave a synopsis of the Activator Challenge program, including the successful track record of spin-out companies. Ms. Kennedy provided detailed information on the Activator Challenge program. Ms. Kennedy presented details on the costs for the Activator Challenge, and how the MLSC funding would be allocated. Ms. Kennedy indicated the final pitch event would occur in May of 2023.

Dr. Chen initiated discussion, asking if Nucleate will remain in MA and Ms. Kennedy stated yes they are seeking to establish official headquarters in MA. Mr. Fuller inquired whether the MLSC would be involved in the pitch event. There being no further questions or discussion, the matter moved to motion and vote.

The Board reviewed the relevant Resolution, and upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board adopted the Resolution to authorize the expenditure of a grant up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to support the Nucleate Activator Challenge.

10. **VOTE: MassTAG**

*Jeanne LeClair, Senior Director Business Development*

Ms. LeClair began the presentation on the Massachusetts Transition and Growth (MassTAG) proposal, with highlights of the aspects of the MLSC strategic objectives served by this program. Ms. LeClair gave an overview and summary of the MassTAG program and how the grant funding is structured. Ms. LeClair gave a summary of MassTAG recipients since 2018, and the successes of those companies after they located in Massachusetts.

Ms. LeClair continued her presentation with the details of the proposed awardee, Phelcom. Ms. LeClair indicated Phelcom is seeking to create its first US presence with a location in Boston, with the intent to expand to the Lowell within three years for manufacturing and distribution.

Ms. Hornby initiated discussion, asking about the intent to locate to Boston but then relocate to Lowell. Ms. LeClair indicated that the Boston location would be to establish the business office to take advantage of networking and fundraising opportunities before locating the manufacturing operations to Lowell. There being no further questions or discussions, the matter moved to motion and vote.

The Board reviewed the relevant Resolution, and upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board adopted the Resolution to authorize up to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to Phelcom under the MassTAG program, and further that that Phelcom is hereby deemed to be a “certified life sciences company” within the meaning of the Life Sciences Act as of September 28, 2022.

There being no further business before the Board, Co-Chairperson Fuller called the meeting adjourned at 3:42pm.

**List of Materials Used During Meeting:**

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes from June 22, 2022 Board Meeting
- CEO Report
- Women’s Health Innovation Grants and First Look Awards Presentation
- MassNextGen Year 5 Presentation
- NIIMBL Project Call 5.2 Award Proposals Presentation
- Nucleate Challenge Proposal
- MassTAG Presentation