



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

DATE: 12.20.2023
TIME: 2:00 p.m. EST
PLACE: MLSC 1075 Main Street, Suite 100, Waltham, MA

Members Present: Secretary Yvonne Hao
Stuart Abelson

Members Connected: Julie Chen, Ph.D, Designee for UMass President Marty Meehan
Pam Randhawa
Uciane Scarlett (joined late)

Members Absent: Khushbu Webber, Designee for Secretary Gorzkowicz
Gary Kearney, M.D.

Call to Order - Allyson McLaughlin Huntington, General Counsel

Allyson Huntington, General Counsel 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. Attendance was noted, with members Abelson and Hao present, members Chen, Randhawa and Scarlett connected virtually, and members Kearney and Webber absent from the meeting.

Approval of Minutes - Allyson McLaughlin Huntington, General Counsel

The Board reviewed the minutes of the November 8, 2023 Board meeting. Upon motions duly made, seconded and carried, the Board approved the minutes.

CEO Report - Jeanne LeClair, acting CEO, MLSC

Acting CEO Jeanne LeClair gave a brief update to the Board, beginning with a summary of activities and accomplishments of the Center year to date. Ms. LeClair then provided a review of current programs that have been launched, programs where application periods are closing or have closed. Ms. LeClair then provided the Board with updates on CEO discretionary grants to date. Ms. LeClair then gave highlights of the recent all-hands meeting with the EOED and quasi agencies reporting up to the EOED. The Board had an opportunity to present question to Ms. LeClair, and an initial inquiry related to current ARPA-H engagement and involvement. Mr. Joseph Sullivan provided insight into how MA can leverage its ecosystem with ARPA-H, and provided an update on a recent trip to the Dallas, TX ARPA-H hub with a delegation from MA. Secretary Hao added additional information regarding ARPA-H project management and engagement with the ARPA-H headquarters. Further discussion of engagement with the Consortium Management Firm (VentureWell) ensued.

VOTE: 2024 M2D2 Challenge - Cinar Efe Sumer, MSc, Senior Investment Associate

Cinar Efe Sumer, MSc, Senior Investment Associate presented the opportunity to sponsor the 2024 M2D2 \$200K Challenge, similar to past years. Mr. Sumer stated that the MLSC has supported the M2D2 \$200K challenge for several years. Mr. Sumer provided a comprehensive overview of the history of MLSC support for the M2D2 Challenge and successful

outcomes for past awardees. Mr. Sumer explained that the companies participating in the M2D2 Challenge are truly early-stage companies. After giving an overview of the MLSC engagement with similar Challenge programs across the Commonwealth, Mr. Sumer explained that participating in these challenges allows the MLSC to have a look inside the early-stage ecosystem. Mr. Sumer also provided information on how past M2D2 Challenge awardees have participated in other MLSC programs, like the Internship program. Mr. Sumer then provided the details on how the MLSC will engage in the Challenge process. Mr. Sumer requested Board of Directors allocate \$50,000 to an award at the 2022 M2D2 Challenge.

The Board then had an opportunity to pose questions to Mr. Sumer; the Board did not have specific questions, but did express support for the Challenge.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board resolved to allocate \$50,000 to the 2024 M2D2 \$200K Challenge, to be awarded to one or more companies.

Vote: Pathmaker Awards - Jeanne LeClair, Vice President of Economic Development & Partnerships

Jeanne LeClair, Vice President of Economic Development and Partnerships presented a proposed award for the Pathmaker Program. Ms. LeClair provided a brief summary of the overall objective of the program and the application and review process. Ms. LeClair continued with an update on current funding as approved by the Board in June of 2023, and a preview potential additional sources of funding for the program. Ms. LeClair then presented on the proposed awardee: Myra EB Systems partnering with Catalent DCMO for Biomanufacturing Training with VR. Ms. LeClair provided background information on the awardee and industry partner. Ms. LeClair reminded the Board that the goal of the program is to make sure that the curriculum and program of each training provider would become publicly accessible.

Ms. LeClair then fielded questions from the members of the Board of Directors. The Board commented on how the awardee presents an intriguing training model, and looks forward to an update and report on results from the training.

There being no further discussion, the Board moved to a vote. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board resolved to approve the allocation of up to \$220,000 of MLSC Investment Funds.

Co-Chairs' Updates –

Secretary Yvonne Hao, Executive Office of Economic Development

Secretary Hao provided an update on the Economic Development Plan (EDP), which was published earlier in December. Secretary Hao highlighted LSI 3.0 and how it is laid out in the EDP. Secy Hao then explained the next steps of the process, which is to translate the EDP into the Economic Development Bill. Secretary Hao invited input from the members of the Board, stating that we will have to make a strong case for 3.0 funding, given the current macroeconomic environment. The members of the Board then capitalized on the opportunity to discuss 3.0 and the Economic Development Bill.

Other Business: There being no further business before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned.