



Maryland Innovation Initiative

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

September 1, 2022  
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Participating Board Members:**

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

**Participating TEDCO Staff**

Arti Santhanam  
Silvia Goncalves  
Griffin St. Louis  
Tammi Thomas  
Valery Gutierrez  
Troy LeMaile-Stovall  
Mindy Lehman  
Ira Schwartz, TEDCO Counsel

Guests: Dr. Anika Bissahoyo, BSU  
Johnetta Boseman Hardy, BSU  
Al Delia, FSU

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:16 a.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes of June 30, 2022**

The Board considered the minutes from the June 30, 2022, meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with a correction, and unanimously passed.

**III. MII Business**

M. Tung announced that she will be stepping down from the Board in January, at the end of the current Administration.

### **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 which pending grant applications to consider, given the rankings received and other relevant factors. The discussion might also relate to the characteristics of specific applications. The discussion will also concern the performance and compensation of various MII staffers.

**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. The MII board also believes that confidentiality is necessary to allow a candid discussion of the above mentioned personnel matters.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Board went into a closed session at 9:29 a.m. to consider and vote on various grant applications. Four of the seven applications from the July 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 four recommended applications.

The Board also discussed a conversion for an MII portfolio company. The Board voted to approve the conversion to equity.

The staff (except Dr. Santhanam and Mr. Stovall) were excused at 9:59a.m. and the Board discussed staff evaluations and bonuses.

#### **The meeting reopened at 11:24 a.m.**

A.Santhanam gave an overview of MII (the "Program") metrics from program to date as well as FY22. The Board was updated on the progress of all data migration into Salesforce, and the adoption of new databases for invoice and contract processing. A.Santhanam updated the Board on the search for a new Grants Management system.

A.Santhanam gave an overview of the impact each school has on the entrepreneurial ecosystem and gave each school an opportunity to speak about their individual programs.

Bowie State University's Dr. Anika Bissahoyo, Assistant Vice President of Research, and Johnetta Boseman Hardy, Executive Director, The Entrepreneurship Innovation Center, spoke about their vision for the Pilot Program and the steps they've taken to move the program forward.

Al Delia, Vice President for Regional Development and Engagement at Frostburg State University, spoke about the vision for the Pilot Program and the steps they are taking to create a structure for the program.

The Board asked MII staff to assist with program guidelines for the Pilots including an example list of allowable expenses.

A discussion ensued regarding increasing the Company Formation award to \$300K to be more competitive in the ecosystem and attract more companies to MII. A motion was made and seconded to approve the increase to take effect in the next cycle, November 2022, and it unanimously passed.

M. Lehman, Chief Government Relations & Policy Officer, briefed the Board on the MII's section of the Legislative Strategy Focus report that will be submitted to the State as part of TEDCO's report. TEDCO plans to ask the governor for an additional \$5M for next year.

A. Santhanam spoke about the Federal Lab Initiative and possible collaboration with Henry Jackson Foundation which could result in receiving federal dollars for the Program. The Board agreed that A. Santhanam should continue conversations with these entities.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.