



Brad Little, Governor  
Tom Kealey, Director

**IGEM Council Meeting**  
May 11, 2021  
Idaho Department of Commerce  
Teleconference Meeting Link: MS Team Link  
700 W. State Street – JR Williams Building East Conference Room  
Meeting held virtually and meeting location provided for public attendance

<b>IGEM Council Members Present:</b>	<b>Idaho Commerce Staff Present:</b>
Dr. David Hill	Jake Reynolds, Administrator
Director Tom Kealey	Cathy Perry, Grant Analyst
Bill Gilbert	Carmen Achabal, IGEM Program Manager
Dr. Donna Lybecker	Ewa Szewczyk, Grants Manager
Dr. Harold Blackman	Dr. Nirmala Kandadai, Boise State University
Dr. Christopher Nomura	Dr. Devinder Saini, Fiberguide
Rick Stott	Dr. Damon Woods, University of Idaho
Dr. Marianne Walck	Mr. Matthew Mead, Hempitecture
Damond Watkins	Dr. Armando McDonald, University of Idaho
	Rachel Kolts, Deputy Attorney General

**Call to Order**

Dr. David Hill called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.  
Carmen publicly greeted members as they joined the meeting. Membership meets quorum. The minutes reflect that this meeting was hosted by Idaho Commerce, the meeting link was published in the public domain, and the East Conference room of the JR Williams Building has been retained to provide a location for members of the public who want to attend the meeting. Jake Reynolds, Idaho Commerce Administrator was physically present in the public meeting area.

**Action Item: Approval of Minutes**

**Motion: To approve the minutes from the IGEM Council meetings on 02-23-2021 and 05-07-2021**

Moved: Bill Gilbert  
Seconded: Dr. Harold Blackman  
All in favor, no discussion.  
Motion approved.

**Investment Subcommittee Meeting Recap – Carmen Achabal**

Three applications were submitted, nearly half a million was requested in funding (\$482,970). One application did not proceed forward. It was a resubmission from round 1 and did not provide information on the addressable market and did not substantiate how large of a problem the prospective solution was solving.

The two projects presenting today came out of the IGEM Investment Subcommittee with a “do pass” recommendation for funding.

Project Presentation

#4672: Novel Metallic and Nanomaterial Coatings and Application Process for Optical Fibers and Sensors

Boise State University with Industry Partner, Fiberguide a Molex company, are requesting \$125,522. This project looks to advance a new coating technology for fiber optics and sensors in harsh environments. The team will have 20 minutes to present, with 10 minutes for questions from the IGEM Council after the presentation. PI made a correction that the start date of the project would be July 1, 2021.

Project # 4674: Testing New Manufacturing Methods of Natural Fiber Insulation Batts  
The University of Idaho with Industry Partner, Hempitecture Inc. are requesting \$206,624. Hempitecture has a patented natural fiber building insulation product called HempWool. Research team will conduct insulation and fire resistance tests. They will also conduct testing for thermal conductivity. This project also quantifies moisture resistance and biological decay. Additionally, the hemp used is currently manufactured in Canada. Hempitecture would like to move manufacturing to Idaho. They need assistance in knowing which equipment to import for local manufacturing in Idaho. The team will have 20 minutes to present, with 10 minutes for questions from the IGEM Council after the presentation.

#### **Funding Considerations – Dr. David Hill, Chair**

**#4672: BSU - Novel Metallic Nanomaterial Coatings and Application Process for Optical Fibers and Sensors**

**Motion: Approve for funding \$125,522 starting 07/01/2021**

Moved by: Bill Gilbert

Seconded by: Rick Stott

All in favor.

Motion approved.

Dr. Harold Blackman abstained.

**#4674: UI - Testing New Manufacturing Methods of Natural Fiber Insulation Batts**

**Motion: Approve for funding \$206,604**

Moved by: Bill Gilbert

Seconded by: Damond Watkins

All in favor.

Motion approved.

Dr. Christopher Nomura abstained.

#### **No Cost Extension (NCE) Requests – Dr. David Hill, Chair**

**App #3455: Converting Agricultural Plant Waste into An Effective Pest Control Product and Fertilizer**

**Motion: Approve six month NCE**

Moved by: Rick Stott

Seconded by: Dr. Donna Lybecker

All in favor.

Motion approved.

Dr. Christopher Nomura abstained.

**App #3637: RNA Based Testing**

**Motion: Approve twelve-month NCE**

Moved by: Dr. Christopher Nomura

Seconded by: Tom Kealey

All in favor.

Motion approved.  
Dr. Harold Blackman abstained.

**App #3986: Free to Feed Food Allergen Test Kit for Human Milk**

**Motion: Approve twelve-month NCE**

Moved by: Dr. Harold Blackman

Seconded by: Tom Kealey

All in favor.

Motion approved.

Dr. Christopher Nomura abstained.

**Due to a late request from Boise State University, this budget modification was added to the agenda.**

**App #3952: Novel Movement & Inspection System for Drones**

**Motion: Approve budget modification**

Moved by: Rick Stott

Seconded by: Damond Watkins

All in favor.

Motion approved.

Dr. Harold Blackman abstained.

**Change to agenda (awaiting to connect with Rachel Kolts)**

**Public Comments**

Round 4 of IGEM funding will begin on May 12<sup>th</sup>. A doodle poll will be sent to the IGEM Council and the Investment Subcommittee to determine when the next meetings will be held.

**Ethics in Government: Rachel Kolts, Deputy Attorney General**

Ms. Kolts provided a succinct overview to the IGEM Council on ethics in government, conflicts of interest, and confidentiality.

**Public Comments:**

Dr. David Hill thanked Dr. Harold Blackman for his service on the IGEM Council, his service to Boise State, his leadership at the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, and Idaho.

**Action Items – Dr. David Hill, Chair**

Ethics in Government form will be emailed to Council members and need to be returned to Idaho Commerce.

Doodle Poll will be sent to schedule Round 4 IGEM Investment Subcommittee and Council meetings.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting**

**Moved:** Tom Kealey

**Seconded:** Dr. Donna Lybecker

All in favor, no discussion.

**Motion approved.**

Meeting adjourned by Dr. David Hill at 10:56 a.m.