



Coastal Studies Institute  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2018  
UNC CSI Campus, Room 210B

**Attendees:**

**UNC CSI Board Members Present:** Mr. Rolf Blizzard (Chair) and Mr. Michael Kelly

**UNC CSI Board Members Participating by Phone:** Mr. Irvin Aldridge and Mr. Malcom Fearing

**UNC CSI Board Member Absent:** Mr. James Rispoli

**UNC CSI Board Ex-Officio Members Present:** Dr. Ron Mitchelson, Mr. Wally Overman, and Dr. Michael Piehler

**UNC CSI Board Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Dr. Harry Bass, Dr. Margery Overton, Dr. Martin Posey, Dr. Harvey Seim, and Dr. Kimberly van Noort

**UNC CSI Staff Present:** Ms. Kimberly Armstrong, Mr. Robert McClendon, and Mr. John McCord

*Convene:*

Mr. Rolf Blizzard called the meeting of the UNC CSI Board of Directors (BOD) to order at 2:00 PM. Ms. Kimberly Armstrong called the roll.

**Note:** *As there was not a quorum, approval of the minutes from the previous BOD meeting (October 23, 2017) will take place at the next meeting.*

*Provost's Report:*

Dr. Ron Mitchelson stated the UNC System desires to have CSI property designated as “millennial space.” The “millennial” designation makes state property available for lease to private development. Dr. Mitchelson stated that ECU’s Board of Trustees (BOT) will consider this recommendation. He requested an endorsement from the CSI Board to deliver to UNC Board of Governors (BOG).

Mr. Michael Kelly asked how the designation would affect the construction of dormitories.

Dr. Mitchelson stated it would allow for a private developer to construct the dormitories on the property. The designation frees up use of space; however, any development must be tied to the mission of the Institute.

Mr. Blizzard polled the Board members regarding the “millennial space” designation and all were in favor of the endorsement.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Mitchelson requested that Mr. Blizzard provide a letter stating that the Board endorses the “millennial space” recommendation. Dr. Mitchelson will provide the content of the letter. Dr. Mitchelson will present the letter to the BOG.

Mr. Wally Overman asked if the property will be advertised to developers.

Dr. Mitchelson stated that the property will be marketed.

Mr. Overman asked if development of the property requires Board approval.

Dr. Mitchelson stated that since the Board serves an advisory function, it would be favorable to have their advice. The authority for the property development resides with the BOT and the BOG. The space will be included in the master planning effort. The most important project is the construction of dormitories.

Dr. Mitchelson provided an update on the CSI Dean/Director position. There are three candidate finalists. Dr. Michael Piehler (Interim Executive Director, CSI) is one of the finalist. Dr. Jay Golden (ECU, Vice Chancellor of Research, Economic Development and Engagement) was to convene the Dean/Director search committee and make a recommendation to Dr. Mitchelson; however, due to a significant health issue, Dr. Golden will be unable to accomplish that task. Dr. Mitchelson will convene the search committee, hopefully the first week in March. Candidate evaluation forms have been received and that data is being assembled and summarized. Dr. Mitchelson invited Board members to share their opinions with him regarding the candidate via email ([mitchelsonr@ecu.edu](mailto:mitchelsonr@ecu.edu)) or phone (252-328-5419).

Dr. Mitchelson provided an update on the restructuring. They are close to having the faculty group selected for the new integrated coastal group (code unit). He will name the Chair for the group quickly – it will be an internal process, not an external search. In a year or two, there will be 12 – 15 faculty in the unit. The restructuring will go in to effect July 1, 2018. ECU’s Institute for Coastal Science and Policy (ICSP) will cease to exist on July 1. The group will report to the new CSI Dean/Director on July 1.

*Interim Executive Director’s Report:*

Dr. Piehler provided an update.

Facilities: CSI Staff/Faculty continue to improve their working relationship within the ECU system and are solving problems as they arise. Thought is being given to the accommodation (space requirements) of 12 additional faculty members at CSI.

Personnel: Dr. J. P. Walsh (*former* Co-Program Head, Coastal Processes) left CSI to accept a position at the University of Rhode Island as Director of the Coastal Resources Center. It is hoped that the new Program Head for Ocean Energy will be coming onboard soon along with his spouse - currently awaiting decision regarding a start date. There is an ongoing candidate search in ECU’s Biology Department for the position of *Coupled Natural and Human Systems Modeler*. There is also an ongoing search for a coastal engineer in ECU’s College of Engineering. There are eight research clusters at ECU. One of the research clusters is “Coastal.” Dr. Reide Corbett (CSI, Program Head, Coastal Processes) is co-lead on the coastal research cluster and is participating in the implementation of a plan for coastal research.

Financial Report: CSI’s core budget is financially stable. There is a need to increase external funding (with more grants). CSI will benefit from adding more faculty as it will increase revenue streams. Mr. Robert McClendon provided a budget spreadsheet for review.

Administrative: CSI is engaged with Dare County’s College of the Albemarle (COA) task force and is providing input as they work to revamp their programs. Dr. Corbett has been appointed to the COA Board

of Trustees. CSI is working with ECU Advancement Officer, Ms. Melissa Adamson. She participated in the Open House held by CSI on January 20. She is professional and engaging and is proving to be an asset for fund-raising efforts. Dr. Piehler thanked Mr. Kelly for his assistance in identifying potential donors. Dr. Piehler stated that the *CSI Founding Director Fund* has been initiated and is open for contributions.

*Board Committee Reports:*

Planning and Programs Committee - Mr. Blizzard stated the Committee needs to select a replacement for Dr. John Wells who served as Chair and departed the Board in October 2017.

Finance Committee – Mr. Malcolm Fearing, Chair of the Committee, stated the Committee will delay any action until the new CSI Dean/Director comes onboard.

Governance Committee – Mr. Kelly stated there are two vacancies on the Board. He presented bios on two prospective candidates: Mr. Paul O’Neal and Mr. Steve Keen. After discussion of the candidates’ qualifications, Mr. Kelly made a motion (in the role as CSI Executive Committee member) that the two candidates be considered for the vacancies. All were in favor of considering Mr. O’Neal and Mr. Keen for Board membership.

Mr. Blizzard stated that the Board needs to consider diversity (gender and race) when selecting new members.

Mr. Fearing suggested that it would be beneficial to have someone on the Board who has experience with the subject of fisheries.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Mitchelson stated that he will contact the chancellor at Elizabeth City State University to inquire about appointing a new representative from the school – a replacement for Dr. Harry Bass.

It was decided that CSI’s *Wall of Honor* would be discussed at the next Board meeting.

**The next CSI BOD meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2018.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Armstrong  
UNC Coastal Studies Institute