



Coastal Studies Institute  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Monday, June 25, 2018  
UNC CSI Campus, Room 210B

**Attendees:**

**UNC CSI Board Members Present:** Mr. Rolf Blizzard (Chair), Mr. Irvin Aldridge, Mr. Malcolm Fearing, Mr. Steve Keen, Mr. Michael Kelly, Mr. Paul O’Neal, and Mr. James Rispoli

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

**UNC CSI Board Ex-Officio Members Participating by Phone:** Dr. Margery Overton and Dr. Harvey Seim

**UNC CSI Board Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Dr. Harry Bass, Dr. Ron Mitchelson, Dr. Martin Posey, and Dr. Kimberly van Noort

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

**Guest:** Dr. Michael Van Scott (for Dr. Ron Mitchelson)

Prior to the start of the Board meeting, Mr. John McCord (Engagement & Outreach, CSI) presented a brief lecture and video on Shoreline Stabilization.

*Convene:*

Mr. Rolf Blizzard called the meeting of the UNC CSI Board of Directors (BOD) to order at 12:55 PM.

A motion for approval of the meeting agenda was made by Mr. Malcolm Fearing. Mr. Paul O’Neal seconded the motion. All were in favor. Agenda approved.

A motion for approval of the minutes from the February 15, 2018 BOD meeting was made by Mr. Fearing. Mr. Wally Overman seconded the motion. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

*Provost’s Report:*

Dr. Michael Van Scott (for Provost Ron Mitchelson) stated that after conducting an internal search for founding members of the new coastal department, the following were chosen: Dr. Reide Corbett (CSI), Dr. Andy Keeler (CSI), Dr. Michael O’Driscoll (ECU), and Dr. David Griffith (ECU). Next step is to conduct search for Department Chair and to develop the CRM (Coastal Research Management) Ph.D. program. ICSP (Institute for Coastal Science and Policy, ECU) has been dissolved and resources will be folded into CSI. ICSP has 14 faculty members – two of the faculty members – Dr. Griffith and Dr. Corbett - will be moving into the new department. Dr. Siddhartha Mitra oversees the CRM program and a portion of his effort will be assigned to the new coastal department. Three other faculty members who are tenure-tracked have joint appointments with CSI and will spend some of their time conducting research at CSI. The

remaining ICSP faculty will go back to their discipline-based departments and will have the opportunity to apply for appointments with CSI. The request to dissolve ICSP will be presented to ECU's Board of Trustees (BOT) in July. After a protracted recruitment process, Dr. Vince Neary (candidate for CSI Engineering Program Head) notified the search committee on June 6 that he was no longer interested in the position. Effort is being made to get that search up and running again - Provost Mitchelson is being assisted by Dr. Morton Barlaz (Head, Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, NCSU). In the meantime, Dr. Mo Gabr (NCSU) will continue as Director of the program. Dr. Jay Golden (Vice Chancellor for Research) is the lead on the search for CSI Dean/Director. There are three candidates who remain under consideration. All three have strengths but none have the full complement of skills desired. There is an additional candidate who will be revealed in the next few days and will be making a presentation. Since Dr. Michael Piehler's term as CSI's Interim Director ends June 30, Provost Mitchelson will serve as Interim Director of CSI.

Mr. Fearing asked whether the CSI Board will still have an opportunity for input regarding Director/Dean candidates.

Dr. Van Scott stated that the Board should take the opportunity to weigh in with their opinions. They may communicate with Dr. Golden via email or phone.

Mr. Blizzard encouraged Board members to share their opinions. Dr. Golden will visit CSI July 15, 16, and 17. During this time, he will be available to talk to anyone about CSI. Mr. Blizzard commented that CSI will begin to come under the direction of Dr. Golden. Eventually, Provost Mitchelson will relinquish his Board Ex-officio role to Dr. Golden. Mr. Blizzard encouraged any members that can, to meet with Dr. Golden. However, Mr. Blizzard regrets that he will be unable to meet with Dr. Golden.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mr. Blizzard requests that a link to information regarding the three candidates be sent to all Board members along with an evaluation form. It is important to keep Board members notified.

Mr. James Rispoli commented on the importance of choosing a director who has established connections for federal government funding support.

Dr. Van Scott stated that ECU and COA (College of the Albemarle) have established a co-admission relationship. When students register at COA they are automatically registered at ECU also. This provides COA students with rights and privileges at ECU.

Mr. Blizzard inquired about the millennial campus designation status. He submitted the requested Board approval letter to Provost Mitchelson. Has the BOT signed off yet?

Dr. Van Scott stated they are waiting to place it on the agenda for their next meeting.

*Director's report:*

**Facilities:** Dr. Piehler stated they are looking forward to getting the new research pier fully outfitted. Plans for the fuel dock are still underway. There has been a site visit and a pre-construction meeting.

Mr. Fearing asked whether there is a start and end date on the contract for the fuel dock. He is concerned that the project has been going on for over two years. Mr. McClendon stated that local contractors involved have at times been slow to respond. This conversation led to a discussion of CSI's working relationship with ECU's facilities services, as well as with ITCS (Information Technology and Computing Services). Dr. Piehler stated that CSI and ECU continue to make strides toward improved communication and response regarding work within the two departments.

Personnel: Dr. Piehler stated Dr. Nathan Richards, Program Head, Maritime Heritage, will be leaving CSI to return to ECU. Dr. Piehler, Program Head, Estuarine Ecology and Human Health, will be leaving to accept the position of Director of the Institute for the Environment at UNC, Chapel Hill. In addition, Mr. Thomas Rusconi, Information Technology Support Technician, will be departing CSI. Interviews have been held for the position of Coupled Natural Human Systems Modeling. This position will be hired through ECU's Biology Department but will be physically located at CSI. In the fall, efforts will be made to hire three faculty for the faculty cluster.

Financial: Mr. McClendon provided handouts of budget spreadsheets and provided explanatory information.

Administration: Dr. Piehler stated that CSI has established a relationship with ECU's Honors College which will result in teaching opportunities for CSI faculty. Work is underway to establish an ECU spring field site at CSI. The program will resemble the UNC fall field site. Dr. Piehler stated that CSI is cultivating a collaboration with the National Park Service.

Dr. Piehler commented that there has been discussion regarding the re-branding of CSI. One possibility is renaming the facility "Roanoke Island Research Campus." The idea is that the name change would allow for more options and opportunities.

*Board Committee Reports:*

Planning and Programming: No report.

Governance Committee: Mr. Michael Kelly stated they continue to work on the "Wall of Honor." Plans are to display photographs of founders of CSI, past Board Chairs, and the current BOD.

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

Mr. Fearing acknowledged that this meeting marks Mr. Kelly's last. As Mr. Kelly is the CSI representative on the ECU Foundation, perhaps it would be possible to have him serve as an Ex-officio member of the Board.

Mr. Blizzard will determine if the proposed role is consistent with the Board bylaws and MOU.

Mr. Blizzard thanked Mr. Kelly for his many years of service and presented him with a framed photograph of CSI's campus.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM. A meeting of the Executive Committee was to follow.

**The next CSI BOD meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2018.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Armstrong