

UNC Coastal Studies Institute Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Sunday, April 28, 2013
UNC CSI Campus, Room 210B
Wanchese, NC

ATTENDEES

Board Members Present: Mr. Michael Kelly (Chair), Mr. G. Irvin Aldridge, Mr. Rolf Blizzard, Dr. Charles Bruton, Mr. Charles Evans, Mr. Malcolm Fearing, and Mr. Glenn Futrell

Ex-officio: Dr. Nancy White, Dr. Dan Baden, Dr. Harry Bass, Dr. Chris Brown, Dr. Ron Mitchelson, and Dr. Margery Overton

Via Phone: Ms. Joan Weld

UNC CSI Staff: Ms. Marie Magee, Ms. Kimberly Armstrong, Mr. Mike Muglia, Mr. Robert McClendon, Dr. Andy Keeler, Dr. Mike Piehler, Dr. Reide Corbett, and Dr. J. P. Walsh

Guests: Ms. Lauren Heesemann (NOAA); Mr. Warren Judge, Chair, Dare County Commissioners; and Mr. Peter Hans, Chair, UNC Board of Governors

CONVENE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Michael Kelly, Chair, called the meeting of the UNC-CSI Board of Directors to order at 12:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance. Ms. Armstrong conducted the roll call.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

Dr. Nancy White requested that the agenda be changed as follows: under *New & Continuing Business*, *Strategic Plan* should read *Marine Science Report*. The agenda (with the change) was approved.

Mr. Malcolm Fearing requested that the minutes from the January 14 meeting be amended to include his submission of information in regards to the Alabama construction company.

The minutes (with the amendment) were approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ms. Heesemann presented the *Monitor National Sanctuary Final Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*.

REPORTS AND CONTINUING BUSINESS

Director's Report:

Dr. Nancy White provided a few updates. Dr. Billy Edge will not be retiring. Beginning July 1, Dr. Edge and Dr. Mo Gabr (structural engineer, NCSU) will share responsibilities of the Ocean Energy Program. Dr. Gabr will focus on the curriculum and faculty development side of the program and Dr. Edge will focus on projects.

UNC CSI has hosted two open houses. An estimated 500 – 600 people attended the first open house. The second open house drew about 200 – 250 people. Dr. White stated she received many supportive comments.

Mr. Kelly stated that CSI appreciates the 12 – 15 UNC CSI Foundation members who participated in the Open Houses.

Dr. White stated that UNC President Ross awarded \$540,476 to CSI. The money was used to purchase equipment. There is \$12,000 remaining. Investments were made in data storage and processing. Equipment was purchased for the Maritime Heritage Program and black-out curtains were purchased for the seminar room. A few more audio-visual items were bought to allow the system to work to its potential. The money is considered a strategic initiative investment on the part of President Ross. It was strategic for CSI because it filled some critical gaps that enhance the functionality of the programs.

The Town of Nags Head took over CSI's portion of the lease on the Lab in Nags Head and refunded \$28,000 to CSI.

Dr. White stated the hope is to have a more robust relationship with NOAA. The Operations Committee will meet to review the CSI-NOAA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The operations review committee members are: Mr. Kelly, Mr. Fearing, Mr. Rolf Blizzard, and Mr. Irvin Aldridge.

There are plans to establish a partnership with East Carolina University's (ECU) School of Art and Design. It will be referred to as the art and science collaborative. ECU is considering offering a degree in science communication and graphic design. An exploration of the relationship between art and science has been initiated. An MOU for this collaboration will be drafted and forwarded to the Operations Committee for review.

Dr. White further stated that UNC CSI has established a relationship with the Whalehead Preservation Trust. There is discussion about creating a Heritage Park in that area where visitors can learn about the heritage of the Outer Banks and Currituck.

Dr. White stated that CSI staff has been working with the Oregon Inlet Task Force, appointed by Dare County, to discuss solutions for Oregon Inlet. It is a great opportunity to work with a group who is dealing with a critical, controversial issue and to help them have access to science and provide assistance in the decision-making process. CSI has been working with the task force and some of the commissioners, as well as the governor's staff, over the last couple of months. Dare County plans to fund a stakeholder assessment process.

Mr. Kelly commented that he has received phone calls expressing appreciation for CSI offering expertise in the Oregon inlet discussion.

Mr. Fearing stated CSI's involvement with the task force is a good example of how CSI can impact the community. If this issue gets resolved, it will be a great accomplishment for CSI.

Dr. White stated that CSI hosted a Bluefin tuna workshop (conducted by the Pew Trust). Although the meeting had the potential to be controversial, as Bluefin tuna is a contentious issue, it was a great success. Several local, interested fishermen were invited to participate.

Dr. White stated that a partnership between CSI and the Nature Resource Center is being explored. Brian Rosborough, chair of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences Nature Resource Center Advisory Committee, plans to visit CSI May 11.

Academic Planning

Dr. J. P. Walsh provided updates on programming. Dr. Nathan Richard's Maritime History Program is one of the premier programs in the country. He conducts a fall and summer field school. Mr. John McCord has been busy with K-12 programming. The UNC Institute for the Environment Program run by Dr. Lindsay Dubbs is offering a "Maymester" two-week class focusing on ocean energy and the coastal environment. Dr. Dubbs plans to have another short

course just before the academic year starts and then she and Dr. Andy Keeler will coordinate the Outer Banks Field Site which is a semester long program.

Dr. Walsh stated the “Summester at the Coast” is a strategically designed summer program for undergraduates and involves a number of faculty. It allows undergraduates to live at the coast for a month while taking a range of classes. The academic credits (7) for this program are currently run through ECU. In the future, it is hoped to have faculty from different universities involved with credits coming from different universities. Currently, there have been five courses approved. Three of them are in geology, one in economics, and one in maritime history. The “Summester at the Coast” has nine students enrolled. There were hopes for a larger enrollment but the course met with delays in the approval process. Dr. Walsh projects more students next year.

Dr. White stated that it is a great class because it exposes undergrads to a broad array of coastal sciences.

Dr. Walsh stated that he and Dr. Reide Corbett have submitted a proposal to train teachers across the state using distance education. They are discussing graduate field courses that will be held at CSI.

Events and Space

Mr. Robert McClendon stated there have been about 1500 people come through the facility since CSI took occupation in December. There have been about 20 individual professional meetings held. The space has been made available to groups whose mission parallels that of CSI.

Dr. White stated that CSI currently is not charging for the use of space. Those whose programs are synergistic with CSI’s programs are encouraged to utilize the space. It is a public resource; therefore, they are welcome to use the facility.

Mr. McClendon stated it is an advantage to have people become familiar with the facility.

Mr. Charles Evans suggested having a Coastal Studies Club at Manteo High School to encourage students to get involved.

Dr. White stated that the primary limiting factor in that endeavor is resources. Another education position added to the staff would help Mr. McCord keep up with the demand. CSI is working with ECU to begin charging a fee for the programming that Mr. McCord conducts in the schools. Plans are to enroll a hundred or more students in programs at CSI and charge \$8 a student. It is hoped to carry forward enough revenue to take on interns to assist with the program.

Mr. Evans stated that CSI should have announcements regarding scheduled activities and events in the local paper on a regular basis.

Mr. Kelly suggested that some Board members may be able to assist with the Coastal Studies Club.

Mr. Fearing suggested inviting students to attend some of the activities at CSI, such as the Ocean Energy Symposium.

Dr. White stated that CSI has an issue with volunteers in the state system. Currently, volunteers are not allowed. Details are being worked out with human resources at ECU.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Kelly stated there are two Board member vacancies coming up in September – Mr. Richard Johnson and Dr. John Wells. They are both eligible for reappointment and will be asked if they would like to continue serving. This issue will probably be handled via email. In addition, another appointment will be made from the Dare County Commissioner.

Dr. White stated that the new CSI bylaws call for an ex-officio from Dare County.

Mr. Warren Judge stated the appointment will be addressed at the next Commissioners' meeting on May 6.

New and Continuing Business

Regarding the ECU MOU, Dr. Ron Mitchelson stated the draft is on the chancellor's desk. Currently, the aspect of Facilities and Administrative cost-sharing is being addressed. There is concern regarding intellectual property that may emanate from the Ocean Energy Program. Dr. Mitchelson stated that working within a multi-institutional environment can be complicated.

Dr. White stated that Dr. Mitchelson's help in working through the MOU is much appreciated.

Mr. Kelly stated that the Foundation MOU will be finalized for the June BOD meeting. UNC and ECU will also need to review.

Dr. White stated that the Operations Committee will need to meet and discuss the MOU.

Mr. Kelly stated the Operations Committee will meet sometime in May.

Dr. Chris Brown asked if UNC GA will also need to review the Foundation MOU.

Dr. White stated that UNC GA and ECU will need to review.

Budget Expenditure Update

Dr. White stated since CSI is no longer responsible for paying utility bills, a little more revenue has been generated. Most of the money that is allocated is used for salaries.

Mr. Blizzard requested that in future budget reporting, provide last year's budget for comparison to the current year. He stated it would be good to have a spreadsheet that showed all activity. As it is now, the spreadsheet does not accurately characterize the financial status of CSI. Mr. Blizzard further recommended showing receipt of Foundation money. This additional information would allow Board members to discuss the budget intelligently.

Mr. Fearing asked if it would be helpful to have a financial reporting standard.

Dr. White recommended appointing a group to address the issue. The group could work towards creating a report to assist the board in understanding the budget.

Ms. Joan Weld stated that the time will come when the Board will need to explain the budget. She recommended moving forward to determine how best to explain it despite the complexity involved.

Mr. Kelly suggested Dr. White, Dr. Keeler, Mr. McClendon, and Ms. Marie Magee be appointed to the committee.

Dr. Keeler suggested organizing the report so that it tells a story to the Board about where the money originates and where it is disbursed. It should address where problems and opportunities lie.

Marine Science Review

Dr. Chris Brown stated that about three weeks ago, the review committee submitted their draft report to him. He is not at liberty to share the contents of the report. The panel recognized the breadth and depth of the programs in North Carolina. The panelists were impressed and recognized CSI as a real resource. Dr. Brown will receive the report on or before May 10. It will then be presented to the UNC Board of Governors at the June 13 meeting. The actual report is for President Tom Ross.

Mr. McClendon asked what action the Board of Governors would take with the report.

Mr. Peter Hans stated that action depends on the circumstances of the report, the president's recommendation, and the BOG's reaction to it.

Dr. Brown stated that the report will not affect budget discussions this year but it will have some impact on the next budget cycle.

Dr. White stated that as a person who participated in the process, she found it extremely helpful to go through the self-study process, to think carefully about exactly what CSI does and what direction to take. It was a useful exercise to participate in all the other reviews and to learn more about other programs.

Mr. Hans stated he believes President Ross has a full appreciation of the diversity of programs across the system and with CSI specifically - how it impacts the community, how it is interconnected with other programs, and its potential ramifications. Collaboration across the campuses is a favorable situation.

Mr. Kelly announced that the next BOD meeting is scheduled for June 7. He suggested canceling that meeting.

After some discussion, it was agreed to cancel the meeting. The next meeting (the annual meeting) will be held on September 20, 2013.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Armstrong
Recording Secretary