

UNC Coastal Studies Institute Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Monday, January 14, 2013
UNC CSI Campus, Room 262
Wanchese, NC

ATTENDEES

Board Members Present: Mr. Michael Kelly (Chair), Mr. G. Irvin Aldridge, Mr. Rolf Blizzard, Dr. V. Charles Bruton, Mr. Charles Evans, Mr. Malcolm Fearing, Mr. Glenn Futrell, Mr. Richard Johnson, Mr. William Kealy, Ms. Cheryl Oliver, Mr. Michael Thompson, Ms. Joan Weld, and Dr. John Wells

Ex-officio: Dr. Nancy White, Dr. Dan Baden, Dr. Harry Bass, Ms. Willo Kelly (UNC CSI Foundation Chair), Dr. Ron Mitchelson, Dr. Margery Overton, and Dr. Harry Seim

Via Phone: Ex-officio Member Dr. Christopher Brown

UNC CSI Staff: Ms. Kimberly Armstrong

Guest: Mr. Warren Judge, Chair, Dare County Commissioners

CONVENE AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Michael Kelly, Chair, called the meeting of the UNC-CSI Board of Directors to order at 2:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance. Ms. Armstrong conducted the roll call.

Mr. Kelly commented that it was the first time to have all Board members and representatives from all partner schools present at a Board meeting.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda was approved. The minutes from the last Board meeting (September 21, 2012) were approved.

Announcements:

Mr. Michael Thompson stated that Advanced Energy (located in Raleigh) plans to conduct their quarterly Board of Directors meeting at UNC CSI on April 19. Mr. Thompson is a Board member at Advanced Energy.

REPORTS AND CONTINUING BUSINESS

Academic Planning:

Dr. Nancy White stated that the Academic planning committee has submitted its first piece of inter-disciplinary, cross-institutional curriculum: “Summester at the Coast”. It is a month-long undergraduate course and will be hosted by UNC CSI, May 15 – June 11. The course is being taught by UNC CSI personnel who are affiliated with NC State, ECU, and Chapel Hill. It will consist of an intensive, 7 credit hour course for undergraduates wherein students will receive a broad exposure to coastal science, geology, ecology, economics, and policies.

Events Planning Committee:

The events committee is focused on a whole “Season of Openings.” Dr. White stated that UNC CSI plans to hold a Community Open House on Saturday, February 2, from 1 -3 PM. Other events planned during the “Season of Openings” include “Science Teacher Day” and “Friends and Family Day.”

Operational Agreements Review:

Mr. Kelly inquired about the status of the ECU-CSI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Dr. White requested Dr. Ron Mitchelson provide an update of the MOU.

Dr. Mitchelson stated that part of the process has been determining exactly what both sides want to accomplish. There are basic administrative operations and academic program operations which have different sets of issues, some of which are unresolved. Plans are to continue working with General Administration (GA) to outline the business of inter-institutional management. One of the most important aspects of the agreement is to allow for flexibility.

Discussion of the President's Review of UNC Marine Science Programs:

Dr. Christopher Brown provided status on the upcoming review. The AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) review panel has been assembled. In regards to the site visit, the idea is to describe the program, not only where it has been but where you would like it to go. He recommended leaving time for an open discussion with the review panel. Focus should be placed on future aspirations. Point out opportunities but also point out impediments to accomplishing your goals. The site visit is scheduled for the last week of January. Dr. Brown stated he would like to receive the panel's findings and prepare a report for President Ross by March. This timeframe will allow the opportunity to present a briefing on the findings to the Board of Governors in either April or May.

Discussion of UNC Biennial Budget Submission:

Dr. White stated that the budget is wrapped up with the strategic planning being undertaken at GA. She requested Dr. Brown provide an update.

Dr. Brown stated that the General Assembly was sworn in on Wednesday (1/9/13). They will return the end of January. All the campuses have submitted their various expansion budget requests (including CSI). The budget requests are not on hold but GA is very consumed with the strategic directions initiative that the Board of Governors is pushing. Each budget request will be fully discussed at GA and they hope to review them in the next couple of weeks to a month.

Dr. White requested Dr. Brown discuss the different areas of the strategic initiatives.

Dr. Brown stated he is working with the area of research and economic development. The plan is to invest in seven areas of strategic research, engagement, and scholarship. Included are areas where strengths exist but with added investment the "needle can be moved" in terms of research funding, commercial spin-offs, and publications. The areas (in addition to research and economic development) are: advance manufacturing; energy; pharmaceutical engineering; defense military and homeland security; culture and tourism; and coastal and marine science. Over the next two years (although, it is a five-year plan), funds would be invested for added faculty lines, for retention, and for rewarding faculty in those strategic areas. The funding levels are recurring levels up to 4 -6 million per year. They are looking for ways to reward and utilize faculty that are already here performing great work.

Dr. White asked if somewhere in the process, they had identified some of the critical issues on the coast.

Dr. Brown responded that does not occur in this particular document. Those issues are just being introduced. The strategy being proposed is that within the stated areas, faculty and stakeholder groups will be convened to determine the tactics for moving forward.

Mr. Rolf Blizzard requested a copy of the expansion budget submission.

Dr. White stated that she would provide a copy for all Board members.

A discussion ensued regarding the shoaling issues in Oregon Inlet and ways to work to address the myriad problems. Mr. Warren Judge provided status on work being done and resolutions under consideration.

The next UNC CSI Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 to join with the UNC CSI Foundation Board for a presentation by CSI staff Dave Sybert (Antarctica) and Dr. Billy Edge (Ocean Energy).

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Armstrong
Recording Secretary