



UNC Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, January 7, 2015, 12:00 PM
UNC CSI Campus, Room 242

Attendees:

UNC CSI Board Members Present: Mr. Rolf Blizzard (Chair), Mr. Irvin Aldridge, Mr. Charles Evans, Mr. Glenn Futrell, Mr. Michael Kelly, and Ms. Cheryl Oliver

UNC CSI Board Ex-officio Members Present: Mr. Warren Judge, Dr. Ron Mitchelson, Dr. Margery Overton, Dr. Harvey Seim, and Dr. Nancy White

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

UNC CSI Foundation Board Members Present: Mr. Tom Murphy, Ms. Feather Phillips, and Mr. Taylor Sugg

Guest: Mr. Paul Zigas, Senior Associate University Attorney, Health Sciences Campus, ECU

Convene and Introductions:

Mr. Rolf Blizzard, Chair, called the meeting of the UNC CSI Board of Directors (BOD) to order at 12:05 PM. Mr. Blizzard stated that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In a November meeting (for the purposes of Dr. White's evaluation), President Ross stated he was disappointed that the CSI BOD had not made more progress on the MOU. He was frustrated by the Board's failure to move forward. President Ross believes in order for CSI to be sustainable they need additional funding to continue to operate. The idea of obtaining that funding through UNC General Administration (GA) would be very difficult. The best chance for funding is by affiliating with a campus. President Ross is very supportive of the CSI Board staying in place. He is supportive of the multi-institutional campus concept. Mr. Blizzard did not sense any waning of support for CSI going forward. The president suggested having the MOU signed by all partner campuses. Mr. Blizzard hopes to review the MOU presented in the Board material and be prepared to discuss it with President Ross when he arrives later in the afternoon.

Dr. Margery Overton asked if the document has been reviewed by any other campuses.

Mr. Blizzard stated that the CSI BOD Executive Committee worked on the document with the CSI staff and desired to present it to the Board to obtain their approval before submitting it to other campuses.

Dr. Nancy White stated that President Ross will suggest how to discuss the document with other campuses.

Mr. Blizzard asked Board members to voice their opinions about the document.

Mr. Irvin Aldridge stated that he feels pretty comfortable with the situation.

Mr. Mike Kelly stated that he is excited that President Ross agreed to visit CSI today. He stated that the president is very engaged in CSI's mission and he thinks he will be pleased that he took the time to visit.

Mr. Warren Judge stated that he is comfortable with the agreement.

Dr. Ron Mitchelson stated the language of the agreement reflects the overarching policy of the UNC system.

Mr. Robert McClendon stated much of the content was taken directly out of the UNC Policy Manual, Section 400.5. Adjustments were made to accommodate the multi-campus construct of CSI.

Dr. White stated there is a conflict as to what kind of center or institute CSI belongs. The categories are extensions, research, and education. CSI seems to fall under the research category but it actually fits all three categories. Going forward there may need to be development of another category.

Mr. Glenn Futrell stated it is a complex situation but in the long run it will work if it proves to be beneficial to all involved. The document alone is not going to work no matter what the president may say.

Dr. White stated that CSI has presented the Board with two 5-year strategic plans. Once the new document is in place, a 2-year plan will be developed.

Mr. Futrell stated that he feels the Board has not been engaged enough.

Mr. McClendon stated Section 400.5 provides that an agreement needs to be made regarding an administrative campus. That agreement is this MOU. ECU has been the administrative campus since the beginning - eleven years. However, it has never really been codified so that is the idea behind the first part, "What is ECU going to do as administrative campus." This is helpful in that it provides information to other involved campuses so they know exactly what ECU will do.

Mr. Futrell asked if this is something that ECU really wants or are they just being handed it.

Mr. Blizzard suggested going around the table and asking the representatives from the partner campuses if the MOU meets their needs.

Dr. Mitchelson stated there is a large coastal enterprise at ECU – group of faculty and students who need access to studies. ECU presently has four full-time faculty members at CSI (Dr. Reide Corbett, Dr. Andy Keeler, Dr. Nathan Richards, and Dr. J. P. Walsh). ECU has much to gain from this partnership. He stated that CSI is the facility with which they most interact.

Mr. Blizzard asked if the structure of the document is agreeable to him.

Dr. Mitchelson responded, "Yes."

Dr. Harvey Seim stated the phrasing that is most relevant to him is that "existing MOUs will be accepted." That phrase addresses most of his concerns. He does not have any issue with the concept. If it is an agreement between ECU and CSI, what is the rationale for having all the campuses signing off?

Mr. Blizzard stated that is an issue to discuss with President Ross. Mr. Blizzard believes it will give the other campuses a greater voice.

Dr. Seim expressed his concern that the Board of Governors (BOG) has another agenda. He would like to know more about what is going on with the BOG because it will have an impact on the proceedings. Are there decisions being made that will override whatever agreement is reached amongst the campuses?

Mr. Blizzard stated that President Ross fears that if this issue is not addressed and taken off the table it will attract the attention of the BOG and then he may lose control over it. Mr. Blizzard asked Dr. Overton if she is in agreement with moving forward with the MOU.

Dr. Overton stated she does not know because it has not been vetted at NCSU. She will gather information from this meeting and present it on campus.

Dr. Mitchelson stated that ECU would request to see an inventory of CSI's MOUs.

Mr. Blizzard stated he believes the document accomplishes the list of things the CSI Board desired: a strong engaged Board, strong local involvement, and an inter-institutional nature. At this point he would like to have adoption of this proposal with the understanding that there will be some changes and that it will have to be vetted legally and by the campuses.

Dr. White stated she would like to have a conversation directed towards the idea of the CSI Multi-Institutional Council (CMIC) to determine if it is a model that will work. In the MOU it is referred to as the Institutional Coordinating Committee. It would require representation from the campuses to continue to work on issues. This would be the working body that convenes when decisions are made regarding development of classes to be offered throughout the system or for a new faculty position, etc. She is curious to know if the construct of such a committee is workable.

Dr. Mitchelson stated that the concept of having that sort of expertise to review and work things out and then present to the larger Board is a good idea.

Dr. White stated the campus representatives currently on the Board were appointed by the campus chancellors at the request of President Ross. Once the MOU is adopted, this action will be revised whereby the ECU chancellor will request the chancellor at each partner campus to appoint a representative.

Mr. Blizzard stated the key to success is having the campuses work together in a joint relationship. That is why it is beneficial in having each campus to sign the MOU. It encourages them to embrace the process.

Dr. Mitchelson stated the multi-institutional concept is an opportunity to get better and bigger.

Dr. White stated that a good question to pose is, "What do the partner campuses need from President Ross and GA to facilitate their ability to operate on campus and to be fully committed to the concept?"

Dr. Seim responded that he will not know the answer to that question until the idea is presented on his campus.

Mr. Blizzard stated that if CSI is placed under another campus there will be other revenue streams of which to take advantage. GA does not have the capacity to allocate funds to a particular organization. The big catchphrase in the General Assembly is *what is the return on investment?* In order for the concept to work like it should, it requires more money. The MOU with ECU is a way to go about accomplishing that.

Dr. White stated that President Ross understands that he has a role to play as far as providing leadership during the integration process.

Dr. Mitchelson stated that President Ross will communicate clearly to the chancellors his desire to have this relationship exist.

Dr. White agreed. President Ross wants it to be a success.

Mr. Charles Evans asked if there was an alternative.

Mr. Blizzard stated that if the Board cannot come to a consensus then he believes President Ross will convene his legal counsel to draft a document on their own which may or may not leave the Board in place. He stated it is his hope that before the president arrives there is a consensus amongst the campuses that they agree with the construct of the document.

Mr. Kelly stated he feels pretty optimistic that the document is what President Ross is expecting.

Mr. Judge made a motion to adopt the document as CSI's working MOU to use in today's discussions with President Ross. He suggested moving forward to procure the best possible situation for CSI and the partner universities.

Mr. Evans stated the key to making this a success it to have the five campuses meet and discuss how to best make it work and serve their purposes.

Mr. Kelly seconded the motion made by Mr. Judge.

Mr. Blizzard asked for a vote. All were in favor.

There was a discussion begun regarding suggested changes to the document but this discussion was later resumed when a small group met with President Ross. The members of the group who worked on document revisions: Dr. Nancy White, Mr. Robert McClendon, Mr. Rolf Blizzard, Mr. Irvin Aldridge, Dr. Ron Mitchelson, Mr. Paul Zigas, Dr. Chris Brown, and Mr. David Harrison.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Armstrong