



Coastal Studies Institute  
A MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP  
Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Monday, October 22, 2018  
UNC CSI Campus, Room 210B

**Attendees:**

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

**UNC CSI Board Ex-Officio Members Present:** Dr. Reide Corbett, Dr. Jay Golden, and Mr. Wally Overman

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

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

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

**Guests:** Dr. Ron Mitchelson (former Ex-Officio Board member) and Mr. Michael Kelly (former Board member)

***Convene:***

Mr. Rolf Blizzard called the meeting of the UNC CSI Board of Directors (BOD) to order at 9:10 AM.

A motion for approval of the meeting agenda was made by Mr. Malcolm Fearing. Mr. Steve Keen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Agenda approved.

A motion for approval of the minutes from the June 25, 2018 BOD meeting was made by Mr. Fearing. Mr. Keen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Mr. Blizzard welcomed Dr. Reide Corbett as the new Dean and Director of CSI and turned the meeting over to him.

***Director’s Report:***

***Welcome and Introduction:*** Dr. Corbett began his presentation with a video that introduced him, his vision, and the direction that CSI is moving. The video can be viewed here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WG1ssEj\\_suk&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WG1ssEj_suk&feature=youtu.be)

***Integrated Coastal Program Administrative Structure:*** Dr. Corbett provided handouts of his Director's Report. He discussed the new administrative structure and where CSI fits. CSI is now considered ECU's Outer Banks Campus. CSI will be the primary part of this campus with hope to expand to include other activities in the future. The new structure does not change the multi-institutional mission of CSI. At ECU, CSI is part of the new Integrated Coastal Programs which brings together many different units across ECU comprising its coastal enterprise. Dr. Corbett is Dean of the Integrated Coastal Programs and works directly with Dr. Ron Mitchelson (Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor). The Department of Coastal Studies includes interdisciplinary faculty under one coded unit.

Dr. Jay Golden interjected that the desire is to keep ECU's Outer Banks Campus open to the possibility of future complementary innovative opportunities. CSI is just one part of the ECU OBX Campus. An entrepreneurial approach will be applied when adding to the entity of the campus.

Dr. Corbett added that areas of expansion could include engineering, tourism, hospitality, etc. He would like to secure community input regarding this endeavor.

Mr. Wally Overman asked about the possibility of a pharmaceutical program at CSI, utilizing resources from ocean and sound.

Dr. Corbett stated that ECU has a pharmaceutical program with research taking place in the Brody School of Medicine. Dr. Corbett will be meeting with Dr. David Collier in the Brody School to discuss: possible linkage of Brody with CSI, environmental health, and how CSI can expand the scope within its mission.

Dr. Golden stated that in relation to this topic, the Economic Growth Collaboratory is focusing on how natural resources can drive economic growth in eastern NC.

***Strategic Areas of Interest:*** Dr. Corbett discussed CSI's strategic areas of interest: ocean energy, maritime heritage, ocean-estuarine interactions, environmental health, coastal sustainability, and blue economy.

Regarding the Maritime Heritage Program, Dr. Corbett stated the loss of Dr. Nathan Richards (former Program Director) left a void. Dr. Corbett plans to meet with Mr. David Alberg, Superintendent, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA, to discuss innovative ways to possibly fill that position with NOAA.

Mr. Fearing suggested a field of research that has possibly been overlooked is inland waterways and the effects of storms, water quality, farming, etc. He stated it is an opportunity for CSI to take the lead.

Mr. Blizzard recommended identifying available funding to research some of the concerns identified by Mr. Fearing. He requested that Dr. Corbett let the Board know how they can help – to be advocates and use connections to find resources to pursue research of these areas.

Mr. Overman asked about beach nourishment. Can CSI assist with the process - particularly with "particle size" of sand used for nourishment?

Dr. Corbett responded that CSI is involved to some extent with sand nourishment, working with federal and state agencies. He explained there are many elements to take into consideration when determining particle size of sand.

**Strategic Plan:** Dr. Corbett stated that it has been a few years since CSI developed a strategic plan; therefore, he plans to develop a new 5-year plan over the next 6 months. He will ensure that CSI's institutional partners are engaged in the process.

Dr. Corbett announced CSI received millennial campus designation during the July ECU Board of Trustees meeting. The designation allows CSI to think about strategic partnerships. It is especially relevant in developing plans for student and faculty housing. Dr. Corbett would like to include the community in the housing discussion.

**Faculty Hiring:** Dr. Corbett stated there is a search underway for four new faculty: Applied Ecology, Environmental Engineer, Integrative Modeler focused on coastal/natural/human systems, and Coastal Processes. He hopes to have the positions filled by August 2019. Two other positions he would like to fill are Quantitative Coastal Ecology and Maritime Heritage (as stated earlier). It is most important that faculty are actively engaged in research.

**NCROEP (North Carolina Renewable Ocean Energy Program) Update:** Regarding the search for Ocean Energy Program Director, there is no longer a requirement for the candidate to have a PhD. – a master's degree will be acceptable. The search to fill this position will begin soon.

Mr. James Rispoli stated he would like to recommend Mr. George Bonner for consideration for the OE Program Director. Mr. Bonner is a professional engineer, retired from the Coast Guard, and a resident of Manteo. Dr. Corbett will provide Mr. Rispoli a link to the job description which he can share with Mr. Bonner.

Dr. Corbett discussed a recent meeting attended by him, Dr. Lindsay Dubbs, and Mr. Michael Muglia (both of whom have been assigned as associates with the Program), at Florida Atlantic University, specifically with Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center (SNMREC). The outcome was positive with an invitation to be a founding member of a western Atlantic marine renewable energy center. Short and long-term plans are being formulated for collaboration and would involve Department of Energy funds. An MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) will be created and he hopes to develop an active partnership within the next 6 months.

**Facilities Update:** New entrance sign at the highway proclaiming "ECU Outer Banks Campus," increased number of workstations in student computer lab, and completion of the fuel dock (going through final stages of environmental health and safety requirements check-list). With the new administrative structure, there is an initiative to improve the linkage of research vessel resources across the two campuses to increase efficiency.

**Education Update:** There were 14 summer camps (all STEAM – Science Technology Engineering Art Mathematics - oriented) involving more than 300 students (age range 10 - 16). Currently have four high school interns (seniors from local schools). The Outer Banks Field School (OBXFS) students are onsite for the fall semester. There are 12 undergraduates from UNC Chapel Hill. This year, the OBXFS Capstone is focused on groundwater/storm water dynamics.

Dr. Corbett stated the goal is to draw more students to CSI. As the proposed PhD program develops, he would like to have faculty teaching courses at CSI that will require PhD students to come to CSI. There is an initiative to develop undergraduate classes for the ECU Honors College during the Spring semester. Also under consideration is ECU Semester at the Coast, which would be similar to the OBXFS. It would comprise a full semester in the Spring and would be facilitated by the hiring of new faculty. In addition, it is hoped

to develop a Minor area of study focused on a coastal studies program with students enrolled in those courses at CSI.

There was discussion of the continuing effort to engage with College of the Albemarle (COA) – how to offer opportunities and collaborate. When students enroll at COA, they are automatically enrolled at ECU allowing them to take advantage of all opportunities at ECU and to continue their education there.

Dr. Mitchelson stated that it is important to keep in mind that the UNC Board of Governors evaluates programs and institutions on credit hour production, graduation rate, and research dollars.

Mr. Paul O’Neal stated that Currituck County needs more information on CSI. It is his general impression that many are unaware of the existence of CSI and what it has to offer. He suggested it is important to engage with local, political representatives to get the word out and to create interest and enthusiasm which will help accomplish the mission. Mr. O’Neal has arranged for Dr. Corbett to make a presentation at the next Currituck County commissioner’s meeting.

**Other:** Dr. Corbett stated that CSI is hosting the “Rising: Perspectives of Change Along the North Carolina Coast” exhibit through January. Also, the ECU Foundation is scheduled to have their meeting at CSI in February.

Mr. McClendon discussed CSI’s partnership with AmeriCorps: Corporation for National and Community Service. Ms. Erin Rexin, AmeriCorps member, is assigned to CSI and is working on the Roanoke Island trail system. Ms. Rexin will be here until June 30, 2019.

### ***Financial Report:***

Mr. McClendon provided end-of-year and year-to-date spreadsheet summaries regarding state, foundation, grant, and program funds. Mr. Blizzard stated that in the future, it would be helpful to specify research dollars as this information would be beneficial when advocating for CSI.

### ***Board member Initiatives:***

**Future Student Housing** – This topic was discussed to some extent during Dr. Corbett’s presentation.

Mr. Fearing asked if Dr. Corbett would consider holding a community meeting regarding this issue. He added there are other housing needs in the community as well - Lost Colony performers, local school teachers, and National Parks Service employees. Need to determine what accommodations are currently available and whether there is a possibility for shared housing.

Dr. Golden mentioned that when considering housing, it’s important to include the transportation factor, as some students may not have vehicles. He suggested developing a draft paper of what the housing goals are, so that everyone is on the same page.

Dr. Mitchelson noted that the location of the housing is important - it should not be a long distance from the campus. Need to have appropriate ECU personnel visit and take a tour to get a feel for the area.

Mr. Blizzard decided to create an ad hoc committee to work on the housing initiative. Members assigned to this committee are: Mr. Overman, Mr. Keen, Mr. O’Neal, and Mr. Fearing (Chair). Mr. Blizzard charged

the committee with arranging to meet with the appropriate ECU officials and tour potential housing sites. The committee is to provide results of this endeavor at the next BOD next meeting.

**Strategic Property Allowances – NCWRC (North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission) Property:**

This property is located behind the Outer Banks Visitors Center in Manteo. Mr. Fearing asked if there is any interest in collaborative use of this property. It is owned by the NCWRC and is not permitted to house a structure; however, it has potential to be used for interpretive education. The point of contact for the property is Mr. Gordon Myers. Dr. Mitchelson suggested that Dr. Corbett contact Mr. Myers to discuss potential use of the property.

**Committee Assignments:**

Mr. Blizzard will look at the current Board committee assignments and make changes. He is concerned that committee involvement has not been optimal. The Board Committees are: Governance; Finance; Program and Planning; and Executive (comprised of the three committee Chairs and Board Chair). He requested Board members to let him know if they prefer a committee.

**Board Development:**

Mr. Blizzard stated it is important to think in terms of the Board structure. There is a need to maintain continuity and to focus on more diverse membership and industry partners. He requested members to let him know if they have member recommendations.

Mr. O’Neal asked what to look for in a potential Board member.

Mr. Blizzard said the Board should try to keep a balance of community-oriented members but also consider academical credibility. Mr. Blizzard stated that he, Mr. Irvin Aldridge, and Mr. Fearing will be leaving the Board in October 2019. Need to identify someone interested in taking over Board Chair responsibilities.

**Other New Business:**

None.

No date has been set for the next BOD meeting. Mr. Blizzard will establish a date within the next 30 days.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Armstrong