



Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, October 30, 2019

CSI Campus, Room 210B

Attendees:

CSI Board Members Present: Mr. Rolf Blizzard (Chair), Mr. Irvin Aldridge, Mr. Malcolm Fearing, Mr. Paul O'Neal, and Mr. James Rispoli

CSI Board Members Participating by Phone: Mr. Steve Keen

CSI Board Ex-Officio Members Present: Dr. Reide Corbett and Mr. Wally Overman

CSI Board Ex-Officio Members Participating by Phone: Dr. Kimberly van Noort and Dr. Harvey Seim

CSI Board Ex-Officio Members Absent: Dr. Harry Bass, Dr. Jay Golden, Dr. Ron Mitchelson, Dr. Margery Overton, and Dr. Martin Posey

CSI Staff Present: Mr. George Bonner and Mr. Robert McClendon

Guests: (for Dr. Jay Golden) Captain Keith Wheeler, USN, Retired, Executive Director of the Office of National Security and Industry Initiatives, Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement, ECU; Mr. Michael Kelly, CSI Representative, ECU Foundation

Convene:

Mr. Rolf Blizzard, Chair, welcomed everyone. Requested approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Malcolm Fearing. Motion was seconded by Mr. Wally Overman. All were in favor. Agenda was approved.

The minutes from the April 12, 2019 BOD meeting were approved.

Presentation by Mr. George Bonner, Director, North Carolina Renewable Ocean Energy Program (NCROEP):

Mr. Bonner introduced himself and provided an update on the program. He discussed meetings he had attended in Portland, OR, and in Washington, D.C. He provided an overview of projects at the various universities receiving funds from the NCROEP. Mr. Bonner stated that the focus areas for the next five years

include: 1) Bringing together interdisciplinary research and improving collaboration; 2) Testing and validation, such as devices at Jeannette's Pier and within the Department of Energy (DOE). Hope to participate in DOE testing program for marine energy technologies - the *U.S. Testing Expertise and Access for Marine Energy Research (TEAMER) Program*. TEAMER will bring together capabilities from universities and the national laboratory system to provide marine energy developers ready access to unique, world-class testing facilities and expertise; 3) Continue engagement with entire community (K-12 and universities) to help inspire innovation in this area of research. Also working with the NC Ferry Division and NC Department of Transportation to determine how CSI can help support their sustainability plans; 4) Hope to be selected to participate in the DOE sponsored *Waves to Water* competition. It is a 4-Stage competition that offers up to \$2.5 million in cash prizes, with a goal to demonstrate small, modular, cost-competitive desalination systems that use the power of ocean waves to provide clean drinking water for disaster recovery and for remote and coastal communities. Competition will begin in Spring 2021 with 10 teams participating.

Director's report:

Dr. Reide Corbett discussed the ECU Integrated Coastal Programs (ICP) organizational chart which includes the Department of Coastal Studies (DCS), the Coastal Studies Institute (CSI), and the Integrated Coastal Sciences PhD Program. He provided an update on the newly hired faculty, their backgrounds, research, and funding that accompanied them.

Mr. Blizzard asked about the number of employees now onsite.

Dr. Corbett replied there are 25.

Dr. Corbett discussed the increase in research proposals. In 2018, there were nine proposals requesting about \$5 million in research (including the NCROEP). In FY19 there were 36 proposals submitted requesting \$9 million. Thus far in FY20, there have been 18 proposals requesting \$5.2 million. Dr. Corbett stated that this growth is attributed to the reorganization of the department.

Mr. Fearing asked if he (and the Board members) could be informed about the research. Could Dr. Corbett share published papers?

Mr. Blizzard suggested reviewing CSI's website to keep up with ongoing research and publications.

Dr. Corbett mentioned Dr. Mitchelson's *First Monday*, a monthly newsletter which highlights research and accomplishments. Mr. Michael Kelly suggested that Dr. Corbett could forward that publication to the Board.

Dr. Corbett stated he is awaiting word on a grant proposal: National Science Foundation (NSF) – research education for undergraduates in the amount of \$35,000. The program is designed to bring undergraduates to CSI to gain research experience. Also waiting to hear of selection to participate in ECU's

College of Education, NSF grant in the amount of \$1.5 million which would involve working with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Dr. Corbett stated that CSI continues to make new and important connections to expand research and education opportunities. There are ongoing talks with the National Park Service (NPS) where there is also an interest in internship opportunities. Dr. Corbett has informed the NPS that they are welcome to utilize the scientific staff at CSI. He also speaks regularly with the staff at the Army Corp of Engineers Research Pier in Duck, discussing ways to partner and collaborate. He hopes that the Outer Banks is selected to participate in DOE's *Waves to Water* project.

CSI operated 17 camps this past summer. Next year, the plan is to scale back to about 14 camps. The regional science fair is slated to take place at CSI in the spring along with the renewable energy challenge – both are high school level events. The Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl, called the Blue Heron Bowl, will be hosted at CSI, January 31 – February 1, 2020. For the past four years, it has been held at UNC Wilmington. For the next two years, it will be hosted at CSI. The finalists will participate in the National Ocean Sciences Bowl in Gulfport, MS. Volunteers are needed to help with the Blue Heron Bowl. Dr. Corbett requested members to let him know of any interested parties.

Dr. Corbett stated that CSI continues to work with the College of the Albemarle (COA). The Dare County campus has expanded their welding program and CSI has loaned welding equipment and tools to assist with the program. He has been meeting with Mr. Timothy Sweeney (Dean, Dare County Campus) to discuss opportunities for COA and CSI students.

Mr. John McCord (Assistant Director of Engagement and Outreach) and Mr. David Sybert (K-12 Education Specialist) developed an advisory board consisting of Dare, Currituck, and Tyrell County teachers to develop curricula that meet school system requirements.

Dr. Corbett discussed the Spring semester undergraduate program to take place at CSI. The new faculty will teach the classes – they have teaching obligations and he would rather them fulfill their obligations at CSI than on main campus. The goal is to make opportunities available for undergraduate and graduate students at CSI and integrate science across different disciplines. Dr. Corbett has implemented a heavy marketing campaign for the Spring semester program. He hopes to have 20 students enrolled. The PhD program has undergone some revisions - changed curriculum and aligned it with organizational changes. He would like to have 10 – 15 PhD students working with faculty at CSI.

Mr. Blizzard asked whether anything was happening with the Maritime Heritage program.

Dr. Corbett stated that since Dr. Nathan Richards (who previously oversaw the program) returned to ECU, the Maritime History Department is attempting to develop a new faculty position to be split between CSI and ECU. He would like to continue the program as it is an important aspect of CSI's mission.

Mr. Blizzard asked if thought has been given to expanding the types of courses offered to increase utilization of the facility. For instance, health care or hospitality management which is a large part of the industry on the Outer Banks.

Dr. Corbett responded that thought has been given to expanding course offerings. The challenge in the near term is space. But with future growth of the campus, it is a possibility.

Mr. Fearing asked whether anything relating to the farming or fishing industries could be considered.

At this time, Mr. Keith Wheeler provided an overview of innovations throughout the country (including farm-raised fish) which have been reviewed by ECU's Division of Research, Economic Development, and Engagement (REDE). The group is looking for ways to incorporate new industries and collaborative opportunities into ECU programs.

Mr. Steve Keen asked whether the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been included in any of the discussions.

Dr. Corbett stated they have been interacting with departments within the DEQ.

Mr. Wheeler stated that one of the things they ask when working towards collaborative efforts, is "who else needs to be included?"

Mr. Paul O'Neal stated that COA and NCSU have an agriculture program. Farming in Currituck County has changed, and many farms have been sold. Traditional farming is challenged. Agriculture in NE NC needs to be diversified. There are opportunities for networking to change the business model (such as farm-to-table). Mr. O'Neal asked whether CSI is conducting any research regarding fish populations.

Dr. Corbett stated there are four fisheries focused faculty at ECU. Dr. Jim Morley is a fisheries-based ecologist. He is working with the DEQ and Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) on oyster aquaculture.

Mr. Wally Overman asked if there are plans to observe changes in Oregon Inlet once all new bridges are in place.

Dr. Corbett stated there is some modeling effort taking place. A study with NC Fish and Wildlife Service (NCFWS) to monitor changes will take place over the next few years. The challenge is finding the funds to do that type of work.

Mr. Blizzard offered a reminder of the Board's role to review on a continuing basis the status of coastal issues facing the citizens of NC. And, to advise the chancellor of ECU with respect to whether the research, programming, and other activities of CSI are meeting special research, economic, and cultural needs of the state.

Facilities Report:

Dr. Corbett stated the entrance to CSI (from the highway) is nearly complete. The last item is the lighting of the sign. Contractors are in the process of installing

blue light phones on campus. Blue light phones are devices that are placed around college campuses for students to use when they need assistance (i.e., jumping a dead battery), experience an emergency, or witness a crime. They will connect directly with the local police. As CSI continues to expand its campus, safety is paramount. Dr. Corbett stated there is about \$50,000 left in a construction account which may be utilized for construction of a kayak launch.

Financial Report:

Various financial reports were provided for discussion. Dr. Corbett stated there was a slight cut in state funds last year and a larger cut (\$83,000) is scheduled for next fiscal year. When ECU recovers from the budget cuts, reinvestment will be based on strategic initiatives.

Mr. James Rispoli requested more information on federal funding – where are we getting money and where are we not getting money? Mr. Robert McClendon (Assistant Director for Administration) stated he will provide Mr. Rispoli additional information.

Mr. Blizzard stated it is important that Board members understand the financial information so that they may advocate for the Institute.

Dr. Corbett asked what kind of information they want and at what level of detail. Would they like to see what the state is providing to support the organization vs. what the organization is bringing in?

The Board Finance Committee will work to determine what the Board needs and wants.

ECU Foundation:

Mr. Kelly provided overview of activity. He would like to have the Foundation Board of Directors visit CSI so they can see the work being accomplished, become more familiar with the program, and witness the progress that has been made.

Mr. Keen suggested maintaining a listserv to distribute information regarding research and events at CSI.

Dr. Corbett stated he will follow up with Mr. McCord and review the current listserv and policies in place regarding adding names. However, he is hesitant to add names to a list without securing permission. He will get back with Mr. Keen.

Mr. Kelly will also discuss this issue with the Foundation. He will schedule a meeting at ECU and invite Mr. Keen to join him.

Bylaws:

As Mr. Overman had been charged with revision of the bylaws, he opened a lengthy discussion of revisions. The revised bylaws will be voted on during the next meeting.

Future Student Housing:

Dr. Corbett stated that this past August, ECU sent out a bid request for dorms. There was one respondent: Friends of Elizabeth. The property at Friends of Elizabeth was inspected by ECU student housing staff. ECU has leased the property for the spring semester to accommodate the projected 20 students.

At this point, it was decided that due to time constraints, discussion of housing would continue during the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Continuance of BOD meeting - October 30, 2019, 3:00 PM:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Blizzard.

Mr. Rispoli moved to approve the revised bylaws. Mr. Fearing seconded the motion. Bylaws were approved. The revised bylaws will now be forwarded to the ECU chancellor for approval.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Armstrong