

## UNC Coastal Studies Institute Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Friday, September 20, 2013  
UNC CSI Campus, Room 210B  
Wanchese, NC

### **ATTENDEES**

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Michael Kelly (Chair), Mr. G. Irvin Aldridge, Mr. Rolf Blizzard, Mr. Charles Evans, Mr. Malcolm Fearing, Ms. Cheryl Oliver, and Dr. John Wells

**Ex-officio:** Dr. Harry Bass, Ms. Willo Kelly, Dr. Margery Overton, and Mr. Warren Judge

**Via Phone:** Ms. Joan Weld, Dr. Chris Brown, and Dr. Harvey Seim

**UNC CSI Staff:** Dr. Nancy White, Ms. Marie Magee, Ms. Kimberly Armstrong, Mr. John McCord, Dr. Michael Piehler, Dr. Nathan Richards, Mr. Michael Muglia, Mr. Robert McClendon, Dr. J. P. Walsh, and Dr. Reide Corbett

**Guest:** Dr. David Griffith (for Dr. Ron Mitchelson)

### **CONVENE AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Michael Kelly, Chair, called the meeting of the UNC CSI Board of Directors to order at 1:00 PM and welcomed all in attendance. Ms. Armstrong conducted the roll call.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Bobby Wood, representing Dominion North Carolina Power, presented a \$10,000 check to Mr. John McCord. The grant money will be used for K-12 students in a program entitled: *The Future of Energy: Inspiring the Next Generation of Scientists and Engineers*. Approximately 500 students throughout Dominion's service area will have the opportunity to learn about the renewable ocean energy program at CSI and wind and solar energy at Jennette's Pier.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Kelly stated that Dr. Charles Bruton was absent due to his wife's illness. Mr. Michael Thompson had a death in the family. Mr. Richard Johnson passed away two weeks ago. Mr. David Twiddy, a former Board member, passed way earlier in the week. Mr. Kelly requested a moment of silence.

## **AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Dr. Nancy White requested that the minutes from the April 28, 2013 meeting be amended to change her status from “ex-officio” to “staff.”

The minutes (with the amendment) and agenda were approved.

## **REPORTS AND CONTINUING BUSINESS**

### *Announcements:*

Dr. White stated that CSI has won two statewide awards for the design of the campus. The building is a finalist for the U.S. Green Building Council award. Whiting-Turner (the contractor) will be present at the awards ceremony.

Dr. White welcomed new Board member Mr. Warren Judge. He has been formerly appointed as an ex-officio representative from the Dare County Board of Commissioners.

Dr. White announced that a Maritime Open House will be held on Saturday, September 21, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. An Art Symposium will be held at the CSI campus on October 25 in collaboration with several other agencies. The Symposium will discuss how science informs art and how art informs science – using visual arts to communicate science. All Board members are invited to attend. Thomas Sayre, a well-known sculptor, is the keynote speaker. Pocosin Arts, College of the Albemarle, and ECU will display interpretations of Mr. Sayre’s work. The art exhibits will remain in place through the following Saturday (October 26) as CSI hosts an Open House.

### *Director’s Report:*

Dr. White stated the staff has been busy and opportunities abound but some are difficult to manage because of the 3.68% budget cut (\$99,906) this year. CSI sustained the largest budget cut of any marine science activity in the system.

Mr. Irvin Aldridge questioned whether the cut came from General Administration or the Legislature.

Dr. White stated the Board of Governors (BOG) made valued decisions about the level of cuts. NC State, UNC Chapel Hill, and ECU sustained the largest cuts. The cut for CSI was included in the ECU cut as ECU is CSI’s administrative unit. The directives went from the BOG to the campus to CSI.

Dr. Chris Brown stated the cuts were on average from 3 ½ to 4 ½% across the board. The campuses were provided the percentage of cut they had to generate and management was allowed flexibility.

Dr. White stated CSI has had tremendous support from ECU. The facility's phone system costs about \$35,000 per year. Currently, ECU is covering that cost on the ECU side of the budget. CSI's new AV/IT technician is completely funded by ECU. The Ocean Energy money was cut and resulted in no funding for some graduate students and delays in having Dr. Edge's lab retrofitted and in having the wave tank relocated. It is the biggest cut sustained by CSI and unfortunately came at a time when there is more financial responsibility and a tremendous amount of expectation.

*Academic Programs Report:*

Dr. Nathan Richards commented on the upcoming Maritime Open House scheduled for Saturday, September 21. He is currently conducting the four-week Maritime Studies Field School for students enrolled in ECU's Maritime Studies Master Degree program. He discussed ongoing funded research and graduate student projects.

Mr. John McCord stated that over the last year 6500 students have been served. Twenty-seven hundred K-12 students have cycled through school programs. The first summer camp was held (in partnership with Jennette's Pier) for ages 11 and up with twelve participants. Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP) provided a grant for the Basic Observation Buoy (BOB) program and was shared with 12,000 students in eight schools. CSI received \$10,000 from Town Bank of Currituck for a sustainable coastal community program. In regards to public programming, October will mark the fourth month of the *Science on the Sound Lecture Series*. The lectures are available for viewing live on the web and are archived on YouTube. CSI staff partnered with NOAA on the Battle of the Atlantic in Ocracoke. Portions of the upcoming Art and Science Symposium will be broadcast.

Dr. Mike Piehler's group has been busy with nine ongoing funded projects and eleven published papers. Research includes examining the use of clams to restore sea grass beds.

Dr. Reide Corbett stated they have been busy conducting research regionally, nationally, and internationally. Focus has primarily been on shoreline changes; looking at the influence of storms over different periods of times from short term to decades. Regionally, he has been involved with the Governors South Atlantic Alliance (a partnership between the southeast states - North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida).

Dr. J. P. Walsh, chair of the Academic Planning Committee, stated that Dr. Lindsay Dubbs conducted a two-week class in May for the Institute for the Environment - *Energy and Environment: A Coastal Perspective*. Nine undergraduate students from different schools on the East Coast were enrolled in the four-week course, *Summer at the Coast*. Currently, Dr. Dubbs and Dr. Andy Keeler are coordinating the Institute for the Environment, Outer Banks

(OBX) Field Site semester-long program. The Academic Planning Committee is discussing new classes for the future.

Dr. White stated the OBX Field Site capstone is focusing on habitat conservation and diversity. The students are analyzing the impact of beach driving on habitat conservation. This is a topic that is of particular interest to the local community. The time and date of the capstone presentation will be announced.

Mr. Rolf Blizzard asked how many students CSI is addressing overall.

Dr. Walsh replied 50 – 60.

Mr. Blizzard asked for an estimate of how many K-12 students are visiting the building.

Mr. McCord stated there have been 800 or more students to come through the building.

Mr. McCord stated that CSI hopes to form a partnership with the Nature Resource Center. The Center has contacts in all North Carolina counties. There have been talks of jointly developed programs. It will be a great way to serve more students.

Dr. White stated the partnership with North Carolina Museum of Natural Science (NCMNS) is in the discovery process and has unlimited potential.

Mr. Robert McClendon stated CSI can begin tracking students and categorizing them as K-12, undergraduates, graduates, etc.

Dr. John Wells stated when the budget allows, a larger, more striking sign should be installed at the driveway entrance to the building. The sign is low and hard to see. He suggested something bold.

Dr. White stated improvements have been discussed.

Dr. Margery Overton stated the importance of keeping tabs on the number of people cycling in and out of the building. This information can be used to explain how the activity relates to the business plan.

Mr. Mike Muglia provided an update on the Ocean Energy program. Dr. Edge and Mr. Kevin Gamiel have completed a 10 year hindcast. He discussed gulf shore models, GPU graphic cards, technical strides in modeling, collaborative work, the SCOUR monitor, and explained how the wave tank works.

Mr. Malcolm Fearing commented on the usefulness of the information provided by CSI to discussions regarding Oregon Inlet.

### *Events and Facilities*

Mr. McClendon introduced new AV/IT Technician, Johnathan Jones. He stated CSI is waiting for ECU to schedule interviews for the Facilities Manager position for which 36 applications were received. Once that position is filled there will be two housekeeper positions announced followed by a groundskeeper position. Currently, housekeeping services are provided by ECU twice a week. Grounds have been maintained by contractors as needed. The bridges to the stair towers will be enclosed in glass – it is a safety issue due to the high winds. Plans are to expand the loading dock door to allow for the wave tank. Several groups have conducted meetings at the CSI facility.

Mr. Fearing asked about the status of student housing.

Mr. McClendon stated that housing is included in CSI's \$14 million capital request expansion budget for next year, along with an auditorium and kayak launch. All of the plans have been approved. If the budget is approved next July, the bid process could begin.

Dr. David Griffith asked if getting students here is an issue because of lack of dormitories.

Mr. McClendon stated it is an issue in the summer since this is a tourist area and it can be hard to find housing.

Dr. White stated *Our State* magazine adventure camp will be held at CSI May 15, 16, and 17, 2014.

### *Operations Committee*

Dr. White stated the ECU MOU is complete. The Whalehead MOU is in draft form. The NOAA MOU has gone through several iterations and is a work in progress. Work has been undertaken to strategically reposition the CSI Foundation so that it better supports CSI's mission. A consultant (Bob Saunders) has been contacted and will review CSI and Foundation documents and provide options. As stated earlier, CSI is in the planning stages for a partnership with the NCMNS. A group from CSI will visit the museum and a team from the NCMNS will visit CSI.

Dr. Wells stated he was glad to see the F & A issue resolved with ECU. He asked if that arrangement exists as well with the other partner universities.

Dr. White stated that is something that will be done.

Dr. Wells recommended inviting in an auditor for a policy and procedures audit as CSI moves forward with cost recovery centers. This will ensure procedures are up to national standards, check consistency, and establish that the necessary paperwork is in place. It will provide a measure of security.

Mr. McClendon stated that is actually an ECU requirement.

### *Foundation Report*

Ms. Willo Kelly, Chair, stated she would like to thank Mr. Bill Massey for his work as Director of the Foundation for the last three years as he has been serving in a volunteer status during this time. She stated the Foundation will assist with the Art & Science Symposium as well as with the *Our State* event. The Foundation Board will raise the necessary funds to cover the cost of the attorney retained to recommend strategic plans for the Foundation. The Foundation Board plans to meet at 3:00.

Ms. Joan Weld asked Dr. Brown about the possibility of finding funding for a development director within the university complex.

Dr. Brown stated that ECU has a development office. He suggested connecting with them to get on their radar. Another option is to work through General Administration. Hiring a development director specifically for CSI may cause anxiety among the partner universities.

Dr. White stated the Operations Committee has been discussing these options. Mr. Saunders is going to help them develop the best plan.

Dr. Brown recommended meeting Mr. Tim Minor at UNC GA. GA can provide for shared services.

Dr. White stated that in the position he occupies at UNC GA, Mr. Minor has a place on the Foundation Board. She will contact him.

### *Nominating Committee*

Dr. Wells is up for reappointment. There is one vacancy on the Board. In the next two years, four founding board members' terms will expire. Dr. White suggested that the nominating committee plan to meet. She stated the existence and support of the Board has had a positive impact on CSI.

Mr. Charles Evans moved that Dr. Wells be re-elected for another four-year term.

Mr. Fearing seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Mr. Kelly stated they will meet to discuss filling the vacancy left by Mr. Johnson.

Ms. Cheryl Oliver requested that she have a place on the nominating committee.

*Marine Science Review Update:*

Dr. Brown provided an update on the Marine Science Review beginning with the history of the request for a review of all coastal marine science activities within the UNC system. Beginning in October of 2012, self-studies were conducted. UNC engaged with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and formed a review panel. In May, the panel submitted their report and they found a good mix of activities and no redundancy among the agencies. The report had 14 recommendations and was presented to the BOG in June. Over the summer, the principles met for a two-day strategic planning workshop to review the report and think about what direction marine science study should go. The BOG is looking for efficiencies and the coastal marine science activities must provide that and show them dollar amounts. There is a desire for collaboration among the various universities. The goal is to understand what resources are available, share those resources, and make the most of it. The BOG sees significant assets on the coast, away from the university, and views coastal and marine science as one huge field of study. There is a need to break it down for them and show that resources are being used efficiently. There is a need for economic valuation of the coast.

Dr. Griffith stated there was discussion at the workshop regarding experiential learning opportunities for students across the system and setting up a minor in coastal studies that would be system-wide.

Dr. Harvey Seim stated there is a need to improve on the publicity of the research that the marine science communities undertake.

Dr. Brown mentioned the Duke UNC oceanographic consortium which existed primarily to manage the use of the research vessel Cape Hatteras. This is an example of the type of activity in which CSI could play a big role. It could provide collaborative sharing opportunities.

Dr. Walsh stated that some smaller entity is needed to move the ideas forward.

Dr. White stated they discussed the VIMS model in terms of being of service to the state particularly in the areas of education and outreach.

Dr. Wells stated there are economic opportunities for the state. For the general assembly (in Richmond, VA) he provides the total value of all grant awards (state and federal) to show the amount of money invested in programs and the economic benefits for the whole state.

Dr. Seim stated there is a challenge in finding a way to support meaningful interaction without additional resources or finding new ways to generate resources that do not rely on state dollars.

Dr. Brown agreed that makes it all the more challenging.

Dr. Overton asked if the question: *Do we have the right portfolio of items that would support the state's interest?* was asked. Do we have all the things we should have? She asked whether there was a provost in attendance at the workshop since part of the conversation concerned academic programming.

Dr. Brown stated there was not a provost present but it would not be difficult to have one participate.

Dr. Griffith asked when the synthesis of the meeting would be available.

Dr. Brown stated he would like to get the notes out to everyone. The report should be finalized in the next couple of months.

#### *Financial Reports:*

Dr. White stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Blizzard expressed an interest in understanding all the revenue sources so a spreadsheet was prepared. Dr. White led a discussion of the information presented – operating budget, salaries, travel expenses, contractors, grant offload accounts, president's strategic initiative fund, program costs, etc.

Dr. Overton asked if recouping some of the costs for teaching could be negotiated.

Dr. White stated that is something she hopes to determine.

#### *Board Announcements:*

Mr. Kelly stated that he and Dr. White are meeting with President Ross on October 1 to conduct Dr. White's evaluation.

There was discussion of having a special recognition for Mr. Richard Johnson.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.