



Board of Directors Meeting

Draft Minutes

Friday, November 12, 2021, 1:00 PM

Location: CSI Room 252, Virtual via ZOOM

Participants:

CSI Board Members: Mr. Rolf Blizzard (Chair), Mr. Malcom Fearing, Mr. Paul O'Neal, Mr. Steven Keen, Mr. James Rispoli, Dr. Walter Holton, Dr. Jack Bagwell, Dr. Kirk Havens, Mr. Mark Garner

CSI Board Ex-Officio Members: Dr. Reide Corbett, Dr. Michael Van Scott, Mr. Wally Overman, Dr. Ron Mitchelson, Ms. Norma Houston, Dr. Ken Halanych, Dr. Harvey Seim, Captain Keith Wheeler

Absent: Mr. Mike Kelly, Dr. Grant Hayes, Dr. Margery Overton, Dr. Kuldeep Rawat

CSI Staff: Ms. Nancy Rundhammer, Dr. Siddhartha Mitra, Ms. Katy Wilson

Guests: Mr. Christopher Dyba, ECU Vice Chancellor, President of the ECU Foundation. Ms. Caroline Bradshaw, Advancement Officer with ECU. Jessica Nottingham, Assistant Director of Planned Giving at ECU. Kendra Alexander, Vice Chancellor for Development.

Convene:

Mr. Rolf Blizzard, Chair, welcomed the attendees. Introductions were made around the room. Mr. Blizzard made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion is seconded by Ms. Norma Houston. All in favor. Agenda approved. Mr. Blizzard made a motion to approve minutes from the last Board of Directors (BOD) meeting held on May 13, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve minutes was made by Dr. Kirk Havens and seconded by Dr. Jack Bagwell. All were in favor, minutes approved.

Mr. Blizzard invited **Ms. Norma Houston (UNC)** to begin with updates from CSI Partners.

Vidant Health and ECU: Board of trustees at ECU approved today a joint operating agreement between ECU and Vidant Health moving towards ECU health this joint operating agreement is modeled after the relationship between UNC health and Chapel Hill School of Medicine. The joint operating plan includes Brody School of Medicine and Vidant. It does not represent a merger. Trustees approved of it today and it is expected to have a strong support and approve of it at the Board of Governors meeting.

Covid: After initial opening, surge, case counts, and positivity rates remained below state and local averages throughout the semester. Last week's systemwide positivity

rate for the week was .45% with the state average being at 5%. Over 113,000 doses administered on campus clinics with a systemwide rate approximately 70% among faculty, staff and students with some campuses reporting rates above 90%. Campuses that are subject to federal contractor vaccine mandates are moving forward with implementation by Jan 4 deadline.

Student enrollment: Ms. Norma Houston stated the Fall 2021 total University of North Carolina System (UNC) headcount enrollment was 244,508 students which was an increase of 2,062 students from the previous fall and the largest total enrollment in the history of the UNC system. UNC'S enrollment during COVID are positive compared to other institutes across the country which have seen declines External projections indicate a significant dip in North Carolinas High School graduates in 2022 and significant national declines over the next decade. In North Carolina it is projected the high school graduating class will dip almost 6% below that of 2021. The number is projected to rebound slightly until 2026 and decline through 2030 where we project to be at 2018 levels. UNC is increasing focus on serving more underrepresented and non-traditional students, including adult learners and military affiliated students. Underrepresented minority enrollment has increased and one out of every three students in the UNC system is now classified as an underrepresented minority student.

System Priorities: Ms. Norma Houston stated President Hans goals are to increase 4-year graduation rate for 1st time students, increase undergraduate degree efficiency, decrease cost per degree.

Ms. Norma Houston stated UNC is celebrating their 50th anniversary of the current consolidated University, the legislation that created current structure was passed by the general assembly in 1971 and went in effect in 1972.

Dr. Harvey Seim (UNC-CH) stated Institute of environmental field site which has been going on for over a decade, In the fall this semester. Program has been very popular. Two shared employees between CSI and UNC-CH, Lindsay Dubbs and Linda D'Anna facilitate the program. There are several projects that both institutions have been working on together, most prominent being the North Carolina Renewable Ocean Energy Program. Dr. Seim stated there is an on-going reorganization of ECU programs related to the environment. Marine Sciences and Geology departments and the institutes of Marine Science of the Coast have been merged into a new department call the Earth and Marine and Environmental Department.

Dr. Ken Halanych (UNC-W) stated UNCW just had their "All Blue Week" which is put on by their Center for Innovation and entrepreneurship where the institute looks at the blue economy and blue technology where there is a mix between research and business.

Mike Van Scott- ECU Chancellor's appointed representative (ECU academic affairs)- Over the last six weeks research innovation campus in early October had a groundbreaking for the renovation for three historic buildings on the property which will be called Intersect East. The property will be commercial space where partners with the university can have laboratory space, training space and offices. About 10,000 sq ft will be occupied by College of Engineering and Technology for a digital transformation workforce development site. Yesterday ECU had a ribbon cutting for Life Sciences and Biotechnology building. ECU currently is in search of a

new Provost which they have had several great candidates visiting campus, and update should be coming in the next few weeks.

Mr. Rolf Blizzard invited Reide to proceed with his Directors report.

Directors Report:

Dr. Corbett presented a slideshow and started by welcoming three new staff members to the CSI Campus. Firstly Ms. Nancy Rundhammer, Assistant Director of Administration. Nancy will be working with CSI's investigators and helping manage their growth and research. Ms. Katy Wilson, the new administrative support associate, assisting with CSI administrative tasks and Ms. Alex Nolte the new program assistant who will be working on building CSI'S undergrad program.

Mr. Fearing asked how many students were in the ICP program last year?

Dr. Corbett stated there were 16 students in the ICP program, as of right now 45 inquiries for this spring, 12 registered and the goal for spring is 20/25 students.

AMEC: Dr. Corbett continued with his presentation stating that ECU/CSI is a partner in a new consortium the Atlantic Marine Energy Center (AMEC). This is 10-million-dollar, 4- year award from the Department of Energy which is under the umbrella of the Renewable Ocean Energy Program (ROEP). The consortium is led by University of New Hampshire, with Stony Brook and Lehigh University and Coastal Studies Institute. In the most recent budget that has just passed there has been an additional 40 million dollars put into for the energy centers across the nation, which there are currently four of. The start date is August 1, 2022 but plan on really moving forward the next 8/12 months. Our role will include installation of a green energy hub at our Jennette's Pier testing platform and development of an accredited testing program for blue economy marine energy devices.

Dr. Corbett stated CSI is working with a company that is building offshore energy sector and trying to figure out how we can partner with them. There is a lot of opportunity to partner with them especially since they are laying cables for offshore wind.

Waves to Water: Dr. Corbett discussed the [Waves to Water project](#), a five-stage contest supported by the Department of Energy (DOE), with the final DRINK Stage culminating in a five-day event to be held at Jennette's Pier, Nags Head NC this coming April, 2022. The top winner wins 1 million dollars. CSI is building additional sponsorships with the goal to transport local K-12 students to Jennette's pier to engage with the competitors and DOE representatives.

Dr. Kirk havens stated that there are some rural, underrepresented community schools that need assistance with transportation costs to attend the event.

Dr. Corbett stated that CSI has raised \$5,000 to support Educational outreach to support bus transportation schools for in Eastern North Carolina Schools.

Additional funds are still being sought.

Dr. Steven Keen stated the NC Rural Center has huge number of resources which could support the cause.

Dr. Corbett stated he would request the contact information.

Dr. Corbett introduced Dr. Siddhartha (Sid) Mitra, the director of the Integrated Coastal Sciences PHD program. The PHD program is expanding at Coastal Studies Institute.

Dr. Mitra stated we are ECU's flagship interdisciplinary PhD program (Coastal Resources Management PhD) which began in 1999. Standing stock of about 20/25 full time students annually. Around 40 core faculty members from Anthropology, Biology, Engineering, Geology, Geography, Maritime Studies, Recreation Sciences and Sociology. In 2018 Integrated Coastal Sciences, PhD transitioned to Department of Coastal Studies, Integrated Coastal Programs.

Dr. Mitra stated that the faculty external awards are support 50% of student stipends and remaining funds come from Graduate School or Integrated Coastal Programs. Enrollment trends have steadily been increasing and are expected to continue to increase.

5 Year Review

The onsite review will take place February 14-16,2022. Surveys will go out to stakeholders via email in late November, early December. The review committee will consist of two external and one internal reviewer. Dr. Corbett stated that this review is a self-assessment to assess ourselves based on education, research, service and what we are providing. The report from the review committee should be given to CSI about six weeks after the onsite review. Once that report is received a strategic plan of progress can begin.

Financial Report

Dr. Corbett stated the State of North Carolina's budget has not yet passed, as it stands right now there is a flat budget. There is not a budget cut expected for this year. Foundation funds, which are all CSI accounts which includes scholarship and priority funds, there are also funds outside of CSI within the college for the integrated coastal program. CSI more than doubled advancement dollars from the previous year.

Because of our growth over the last several years in research our overhead dollars have increase which can help us maintain our vessels or help us build a boat shed that will protect our investments. Overhead dollars have increased by about 80 percent over the last 12 months.

Last year continuing education was an area of concern decreasing in that fund. Last year in fiscal year 2021 \$0 was brought in, but summer camps were unable to be held safely. Four summer camps were held this past summer. CSI's K-12 program is beginning to improve, and the funds are starting to come back in.

Mr. Blizzard asked how many attended summer camps this year compared to previous years, have the numbers increased or decreased compared to previous years?

Dr. Corbett stated in summer 2019 there were 16 summer camps that were held, with 10-15 attendees. Summer (2020) no camps were held due to Covid. Summer (2021) four camps were held. John McCord, the Assistant Director of Engagement & Outreach, is analyzing, future summer camp offerings, how many can be accommodated and how to incorporate junior and senior high school students. Middle and High School camps would be designed as an educational, week-long camp at CSI, working with our faculty. The result would allow students to include the CSI Experience for college applications.

Budget

Dr. Corbett presented his fiscal year 2022 budget priorities which includes 2 new faculty hires (Social Scientist and Interim Department Chair). Networking opportunities to help get people back in our building, getting faculty to network together. CSI has had several vehicle and vessel challenges recently which has proposed more issues specially this year compared to previous years making it a priority for the fiscal year 2022 budget. Outdoor upgrades which include improving our outdoor classroom space which would include more concrete laid down to utilize space for more outdoor classrooms. A boat storage which would provide protection of our investment of our vessels.

Dr. Corbett stated that in fiscal year 2022 there is an expected three percent budget cut due to enrollment decline, the exact numbers are unknown but should be known after the semester is over. The three percent budget cut that is being modeled is a permanent cut for fiscal year 2023. It is likely not going to be across the board, but every college is modeling three percent. A total budget cut of about \$4.48 million which would make our cut approx. \$134,000.

Dr. Corbett introduced Mr. Chris Dyba- Vice Chancellor of Advancement with ECU and Ms. Caroline Bradshaw, Advancement Office.

Mr. Dyba stated that the ECU's Board of Trustees have endorsed that ECU Advancement team is in a big public campaign for ECU to raise \$500,000,000. The overall mission of University Advancement is to help find additional resources for our campus partners to fulfill the mission of ECU.

Mr. Dyab introduced Ms. Caroline Bradshaw to speak on CSI totals and campaign plan.

Ms. Bradshaw stated for the fiscal year 2021 CSI raised \$71,421 during the Silent campaign and \$132,831.03 was raised in total. Currently CSI is at \$200,000 and the goal is \$500,000.

Ms. Bradshaw stated another year of Pirate Nation Gives is approaching on March 23,2022. Last year 100% of CSI board members donated, a big thank you! 100% is another goal for upcoming years along with additional donors and champion donors to help meet the campaign goal.

Mr. Dyab stated the CSI funding priorities include student housing, student support for undergraduate semester experience, distinguished professorship in Maritime History, Outdoor Classroom and Boardwalk, Art and Science fellowship, Campus renewables and Coastal Fellows Program.

Mr. Steve Keen asked if a bullet point could be added to access resources from the state in reference to environmental and natural resources and how important we are as a stake holder in NC Coastal Habitat Protection Program, if we could be a part of DEQ, whether it be Marina Fisheries, Coastal Management or DWR.

Dr. Corbett stated that would be outside of advancement and be more towards an advisory group and would likely come through as state allocations and would come through as an award with state dollars. It is a separate from advancement dollars although should be a priority moving forward from a research/advisory standpoint. Mr. Blizzard stated as CSI begins to think of a long-term plan put into place some thought needs to be put into a long-term offering. Will CSI be expanding the scope of studies that are provided on this campus or will it just remain the same, are there opportunity to add things such as hospitality management through ECU? If you do that you can reach out to different needs of the community and you will likely see

the funds come in, you need from the community that would respond to those type of course offerings.

Dr. Corbett stated that is exactly what we need to discuss and think about expanding on internships and reaching businesses on the Outer Banks that are not science based on the coast but might be leadership and tourism management.

Mr. Blizzard stated that in Wanchese there are boat builders which work with different types of materials and upholstery, different types of fiberglass and different types of diesel mechanics which are people if you could find a way to benefit them on campus could potentially turn around and be some of CSI's biggest supporters which would really broaden the base.

Dr. Ken Halanych asked Dr. Corbett what his biggest priority from the list of funding priorities would be?

Dr. Corbett stated that without a doubt the biggest priority for funding is housing.

Housing update:

Dr. Corbett stated that the Friends of Elizabeth2 is for sale and is still currently under contract. There are very few options for secure housing through ECU for CSI's undergraduates which has limited us to the Friends of Elizabeth2 house for the near term. Based on near term we have 20/30 undergraduates coming in the spring with no housing available at this time due to the Friends of Elizabeth2 under contract with a private organization. CSI initiated a one-year lease agreement with SAGA, which is the organization under contract with Friends of Elizabeth2, the lease would begin Jan 1 and continue 12 months which would secure 16 rooms for ECU to use during that year. That lease has not been signed yet as SAGA has not taken ownership yet.

Dr. Corbett stated he has an upcoming meeting with ECU Property to discuss a housing plan moving forward so we can secure housing for upcoming students. In a previous meeting it was brought to the committee's attention that Ben Cahoon, an architect and Don Milbrath, a potential investor on a piece of property in Manteo located next to Darrells restaurant, the old Wheeping Raddish location. The property is currently under contract and the plan is to put as many as 600 beds in two different buildings. Don is trying to provide student housing for J1 students. He is trying to design it so one building can be shut down when it is not needed. The Outer Banks has as many as 2000 J1 visa students during the summer season. Mr. Milbrath plans on presenting to the planning board in early December.

Mr. Paul O'neal stated he was contacted today by Mr. Jim Rose who had previously reached out about a year ago about a facility over on the beach that has dorm type housing and is still interested in working with ECU in providing housing options and Mr. Rose would like for someone to reach back out to him to again to discuss the potential of student housing with him.

Dr. Corbett stated We have been in communication with Morrison Grove for students who do not want dorm type housing and would be interested in finding housing on their own not through a lease.

Mr. Malcom Fearing stated that the closing on FOE2 have been postponed until Dec 6th or 7th.

Mr. Fearing stated that regarding the property Jim Rose has for dorms, the location was visited in the past and is set up in a dormitory style currently being used for J1

students in the summer. Mr. Fearing has suggested due to the time crunch for housing to send Mr. Rose a proposal.

Mr. Wally Overman stated the county had an architect look at the Elizabethan 2 property last month and where is it not set up for expanding the rooms which would make it ideal for work housing, it is ideal for dormitories.

Dr. Corbett stated the housing issue currently has two different time scales. The need for housing for this semester and future housing in the long term. We were able to move forward, based on ECU policy, with a lease with SAGA who is under contract with the Friends of Elizabeth2. CSI did put out an RFP in which one response was given which was Friends of Elizabeth2. The current lease will not transfer over. Assuming the sale closes, ECU has given the go-ahead to enter a one-year lease with SAGA.

Ms. Houston stated that moving forward with a contract with the university we must follow state procurement rules. The RFP process minimum is 30 days. It seems that there are many long-term options for housing but not any short-term options other than Friends of Elizabeth2 which we know is already up to code.

Mr. James Rispoli asked if it would be possible to put out a notice to see which individual property owners who mainly rent during the high season that may have rooms available in the off season to have available for students, so they have a starting point for housing.

Dr. Ron Mitchelson stated that there is an off-campus housing office at ECU to help students with private transactions with homeowners.

Dr. Blizzard stated that he has some concerns with the 150K for housing since the budget has never been that high.

Dr. Corbett stated that the expense has not been this high in the past. However, the student numbers are increasing from 16 students from 20-25 students and around 15 students in the summer which we have not had in the past either.

Another board member stated there needs to be a long term, strategic plan for the ECU property that is owned in order to get the mission for the university accomplished. We must have housing in order to do our mission and if we own property, we need to go to the university building and planning dept and utilize the resources on hand to come up with a plan for land use.

Dr. Mitchelson stated that there is a planning process at ECU that lays out land use for the various campuses and it could be very helpful for CSI planning and land use for housing.

Mr. Blizzard asked in terms of long-term housing, is utilizing the land use of this campus off the table as a solution?

Dr. Mitchelson stated that there has been previous conversation about how restricted the land is that it could fill up quickly if classroom space were added.

Mr. Blizzard stated all items on the agenda have been covered and the motion to adjourn has been made and seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10PM

Respectfully submitted,
Katy Wilson