



Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, October 20, 2022, 9am

Location: CSI room 262 and Virtual via Teams

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, Mr. Michael Kelly, CSI Representative (ECU Foundation representative)

CSI Board Ex-Officio Members: Dr. Reide Corbett, Dr. Ken Halanych, Dr. Sharon Paynter, Mr. Wally Overman, Dr. Kuldeep Rawat

CSI Board Members Not in Attendance: Ms. Norma Houston, Dr. Margery Overton, Dr. Harvey Seim

CSI Faculty & Staff: Dr. Stuart Hamilton, Dr. Sid Narayan, Ms. Nancy Rundhammer, Mr. Keith Wheeler, Ms. Katy Wilson

Convene: Mr. Rolf Blizzard, Chair, welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the room. Mr. Blizzard requested approval of the minutes from the May 12, 2022 meeting. Motion to approve minutes was made and seconded, all were in favor. Minutes were approved. Mr. Blizzard announced that the meeting would not follow the order of the agenda due to some members needing to leave before the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr. Mike Kelly presented ECU Foundations information and the need to raise money. Money is being raised but need to improve contributions. Need to make an impact in Spring 2023. CSI Board will be asked to work with ECU Foundations. Katy Feder visiting in November to connect with donors in the Outer Banks. Need to encourage Pirate Club doners to contribute to academics.

Mr. Kirk Havens asked what the relationship with the Alumni network is.

Dr. Reide Corbett discusses upcoming events, “Pirate Meet and Greet” in the Outer Banks & Florida to benefit giving to CSI. Dr. Corbett encourages think of a broader definition of ICP PhD and CSI Alumni as CSI crosses multiple academic disciplines. Further discussions include reaching out to others on the medical campus as well.

Mr. Blizzard announces that Ms. Norma Houston unable to attend due to conflict with today’s Board of Governor’s Meeting.

Dr. Kuldeep Rawat - presents Elizabeth City State University Aviation program. The program focuses on training and applied research. Program encompasses several topic areas including aviation, management, drone programs, emergency disaster response and national transportation

programs. Have received both State and Federal funding. Working with collaborators in North Carolina and in the region to help improve technology.

Question – Has ECSU worked with National Park service? Currently mapping marshes on Pine Island for a restoration project with Audubon Society, UNC-CH and ECSU.

Dr. Margery Overton- NCSU- not present, no update

Dr. Harvey Seim- not present, no update

Dr. Ken Halanych (UNC-W)- Discusses UNCW's focus on increasing Drone LIDAR technology with an NSF Grant. UNCW along with ECU, UNC-CH, ECSU, Duke other regional institutions has submitted a million-dollar planning proposal for an NSF Engines award. If awarded, the team of institutions will work together for a larger NSF Engines grant of 160 million dollars over 10 years, the planning award will focus on on workforce development, with the topic areas of: Ecosystem technology (infrastructure), aquaculture, renewable energy. Global summit May 2023, subject areas: Wind energy, flooding & inundation, toxicants and pollutants. Coastal Carolina Conference is in November.

Discussion included, comments on flooding and inundation and \$800 million in State Funding supporting the studies. PFafs and Hog Farms are considered in the toxicants and pollutants. Mr. Blizzard asked for details on the impact of Hog Farm after recent weather events.

Dr. Sharon Paynter ECU- Research & Engagement. Discusses the ECU restructuring. The University has moved to strong Provost model, all activities report to one person, Robin Coger. All Deans can now work together as 'One ECU', a Pirate Nation. How to integrate the various parts of campus life. Activities of Intercoastal Program over the past five years, Sponsored awards have grown nearly 2 million dollars at end of FY'23 first quarter. Also increasing interdisciplinary research. Appreciation for Reide Corbett's leadership over the past five years.

Dr. Reide Corbett announces that he is initiating a Board of Director meeting agenda item, which will introduce a member of the CSI faculty in BoD meetings. This meeting's faculty member is Sid Narayan who arrived at CSI in January 2020. He is a Civil Engineer and specializes in coastal engineering, he recently was awarded a 5 year, 1.5million NSF Award which will focus on coastal ecosystems and interaction with human and nature.

Dr. Siddharth Narayan, ECU Assistant Professor –Dr. Narayan's presents his work in a slide show, discussing his use of remote sensing to understand where wetlands are and how interactions influence coastal areas. Also working with NASA on integrating engineering and remote sensing for more accurate coastal data. Focus on interdisciplinary work linking engineering, coastal and social sciences and how these impact changing coastal communities.

Group discussion on flooding, environmental issues, river impacts, waterways not being clear, jetty studies, localized issues throughout the State, drainage issues and mitigation programs over the years. Hurricane damage in coastal areas and hurricane damage in central North Carolina. Call to take a deeper look at these issues.

Dr. Halanych discusses the many complex issues of dredging in the Cape Fear, especially regarding chemical concerns. A recent campaign, "Free the Debris", a 2020 Coastal Federation program which promotes *A Coast Free of Marine Debris*. Marine debris results from storm-damaged docks, houses, and yards; lost fishing gear; poorly managed construction, abandoned boats; plastics contained in wastewater and stormwater discharges; and careless littering.

Mr. Blizzard mentions A previous group of scientists created a white paper on the Oregon Inlet. CSI needs to be a Stakeholder in future discussions with policy decisions using CSI's research. Use the science and distribute the information to the policy makers.

Dr. Corbett presented a Housing update- The CSI BoD housing committee met with Chancellor Rodgers. A ECU Committee led by Provost Coger, Vice Chancellor of Finance Coleman, Vice Chancellor of Operations Bagnell, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Harding, Asst. Vice Chancellor Groning and Dean and Director Corbett. Met in mid-August. ECU is currently looking at a strategic housing plan. A Consulting firm, which specializes in University housing, has been hired to look at strategic housing needs at CSI. CSI's housing use information was sent to the consultants prior to their visit to the CSI campus next week. They will discuss options on how to move forward. Questions to address include: What is the future demand for beds? Is a Public-Private-Partnership needed? What is the best configuration for the student needs on campus? Information on housing in other regional housing in Marine centers. Currently, short term housing status: RFP went out in July, one response was received from Saga, Manteo Community Housing. The lease will start Jan 1, 2023, for a year, (calendar basis) with an option to renew for one year.

Discussion includes various suggestions for Outer Banks housing options including COA challenges for their students. (August – May)

Directors Report:

Academics

Programs for students continue to grow. CSI has had 47 (20 during Summer) undergraduates for this year. 12 Students participated in the Outer Banks Field site program. Looking for ways to partner with other ECU undergraduate programs. ICP and CSI attend every admissions program to promote the program. There is evidence that CSI's summer camps feed into interested students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees.

ECU Semester experience at the Coast continues to grow in interest and attendance.

ECU now offering Environmental Studies degree. Working to have 90% of courses held at CSI to be included in the ES degree.

CSI hosts undergraduate students for 10 weeks in summer with the NSF REU program. This is funded for three years of with the possibility to extend beyond the initial funding.

Six undergraduate students from ECU's Engineering department were at CSI during the summer working with Teresa Ryan and her research.

Public Outreach and K-12:

2021/2022 numbers include: 1749 students served this Fall , which is still lower than prior to covid, anticipating attendees numbers to grow in the spring. Three new school programs developed, focusing on High School students. CSI continues to expand it's partnership with Dare County Schools. Eight camps were held in Summer '22, serving 104 students. Registration for summer 2023 opens on March 1.

Science on the Sound returned September 2022. 56 attendees were in person and another 55 viewed online.

CSI's Open house, held on June 4th , 2022, hosted over 400 community members, of/ those approximately 60 % were local and 40% were Outer Banks visitors.

In the year ahead, 2023, there are a few important events, January 2023 is the 10 year anniversary of the building and June, the 20-year anniversary of CSI. Collecting ideas for how to celebrate. Perhaps an open house. There is also the possibility to link with Foundations to raise funds. Also looking to work with partner institutions to increase attendance to Open Houses and other CSI public events.

Dr. Corbett discussed the formation of the Outer Banks Leadership Forum, which provides the opportunity to work together to connect resources. First form was the topic area of Waste Water Management in conjunction with Nags Head. The Spring meeting will focus on Ocean Shoreline Management to discuss different ways to manage shorelines. The intent is to bring engineers and community leaders together to discuss. Attendance for the first topic area were all Outer Bank towns, Dare county and Currituck. The Forum promotes working together, discussing the challenges and to gather the resources to help.

Ocean Energy (NCROEP) – Mr. Bonner and Dr. Corbett are working to stay connected with other UNC System Universities to grow partnerships. The Ocean Energy program continues to grow especially with the DOE partnership, including expanding CSI deployments and DOE wave energy converters. The future will focus on upgrading CSI testing in support of Ocean Energy priorities.

Financial Reports: The FY'23 2% budget cut resulted in a reduction of CSI State funding (including Ocean Energy) of a total \$89,000. The reduction was obtained by eliminating a position that was partially state funded. That position has transitioned into a fully grant funded position. ECU saw an additional 2% reduction in undergraduate enrollments. Graduate programs continue to be stable.

Question: Do CSI courses have an additional program cost? No, working to keep costs as if on main campus, including housing costs. For Semester at the Coast students who live off campus, a Coastal Scholarship of \$1000 is available to defray housing costs.

10th & 20th year Celebration costs will come out of the priority fund.

Dr. Corbett discussed CSI's challenges with Facilities, due to departure of two of the three Facilities staff, those being the Horticultural Specialist and Environmental Tech. CSI Campus employs a total of three Facilities people. Facilities cost are controlled from Main Campus and are separate from CSI's costs. Some Facility functions are contracted out, however the campus needs full time support in Facilities to maintain the building and grounds.

Advancement:

Dr. Corbett is continuing to pursue advancement opportunities. Actively pursuing advancement funds with a number of Donor visits planned for November. Working closely with ECU advancement and Networking across the US to better connect nationally with alumni and others interested. Currently working on a significant contribution for CSI. Moving forward on advancement side will need Board Members help, especially with connecting with those on the Outer Banks and in the broader region who would be interested in CSI's mission.

CSI Campus updates:

Vacated positions: Kurt Ryan- Horticultural specialist. Carla Oestein- Environmental Building Technician

Positions filled: Dept of Coastal Studies Dept Chair- Dr. Stu Hamilton, August 2022.

CSI Research Operations Technician. John Felter September 2022.

CSI Overhead Funds:

CSI obtains 10% of grant indirect monies– indirect funds are those attached to research dollars: overhead funds continue to grow as our research award grow.

Keep in mind that the additional research and workload are carried on same number of CSI of researchers which adds challenges as CSI grows.

Initially targeted the indirect Funds to build the boat storage shed. However, the Lowest Bid came in at 800K. Three companies submitted bids which need to be vetted by the State. The Boat shed project has been tabled for the time being. In the future, need to move forward on this but not at this price point.

Discussion on ideas and options

(2:09)

Considering other overhead expenditures.

Continuing education expenditures are to support summer camps.

8 faculty drive grant funds. 80% of those come from Federal Dollars.

Currently 6.8 million in active grant funds.

Allocated to ICP/CSI: \$4 million new dollars

Majority of CSI faculty are doing research as the CSI Mission focuses on Research.

As of the first quarter of FY'23, 2 million dollars in new grant funds have been awarded and additional funds anticipated by calendar year end.

To clarify, New grant dollars do not include Ocean Energy monies.

The State allocates 1.59Milion in support of NCROEP, after budget cuts.

Ocean Energy funds are not considered in the new award totals.

Of the Ocean Energy Funds, 1.1 million sent to other universities to explore Renewable Energy awards.

Upcoming Events:

CSI is hosting Bioblitz – idea of counting biodiversity on campus. The public is invited to participate in the event.

CSI continues to develop ways to engage public.

Mr. Blizzard provides an update with the Chancellor visit, which was a positive meeting and came away with the impression that the Chancellor is aware of CSI importance and supports the plan.

Adjourn at 11:25am