

## Coastal Studies Institute Board of Directors

Fall Meeting: November 17, 2023, 10:00 – 12:00

**Location:** CSI Rm.262 or Virtual via ZOOM

**Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/2524755428?pwd=cjdWbGJqQVR0RVJ3U09Ba1Fvbk8rZz09>

**Meeting ID: 252 475 5428      Password: 8675309**

**Use WiFi network: ecu-guest**

Username: [csiguest@ecu.edu](mailto:csiguest@ecu.edu)      Password: 9DLrqKg3

### MINUTES

*Members in Attendance:* Orion Rolf Blizzard, Malcolm Fearing, Mark Garner, Kirk Havens, Steve Keen, Robin Cogger, Reide Corbett, Norma Houston, Mike Kelly, Sharon Paynter, Rob Ross, Harvey Seim

*Members Absent:* Jack Bagwell, S. Paul O’neal, George Bonner, Ken Halanych, Margery Overton, Kuldeep Rawat

1. Call to Order at 10:04 AM
2. Roll Call
3. Consideration of Agenda
  - a. Mark Garner made a motion to approve the agenda. Sharon Paynter seconded the motion. All approved
4. Consideration of Minutes
  - a. All approved
5. Updates from CSI Partners
  - a. UNC-SO – *Norma Houston*
    - i. Recently conducted BOD meeting and trustee workshop. Theme: Keep the main thing the main thing – remain focused on the core mission and be an advocate for your institution and its role in the system as a whole.
    - ii. Faculty and personnel: Worked with the UNC Faculty Assembly to create a proposed policy change to strengthen the post-10-year review for tenured faculty, and reevaluation of effective teaching of faculty. The proposal will be presented to the Board of Trustees in January.
    - iii. Two years ago, the general assembly commissioned and funded a return-on-investment study that just recently wrapped up. The study looked at the ROI for students pursuing degrees as well as the university offering them. The study found that UNC degrees, on average, have a higher ROI for graduates = lifelong higher earnings. A helpful tool was created from the results that allows anyone to compare the ROI of different programs across the UNC system. The tool will be made available to the public in the next few days on the system office website and then other campuses will have the opportunity to link to it on their website as well.
  - b. ECSU – *Dean Kuldeep Rawat* (Unable to attend)

- c. NCSU – *Dr. Margery Overton* (Unable to attend)
  - d. UNC-CH – *Dr. Harvey Seim*
    - i. UNC-CH is actively searching for a hydro informatists who will start at UNCCH in the coming months.
    - ii. The Institute of Marine Science moved to the College of Arts and Sciences and is now called the Earth, Marine, and Environmental Sciences Department.
    - iii. In October, CSI hosted the Board of Visitors from UNC-CH’s Institute of the Environment. They were able to see what CSI can do for their students and community, they were impressed with the opportunities that CSI can provide for their students.
  - e. UNC-W – *Dr. Ken Halanych* (Unable to attend)
  - f. ECU – *Provost Robin Cogger*
    - i. ECU is grateful and excited for a new endowment funding source from the DOE that ECU received as a member of North Carolina Innovation (NCI). NCI was created to capitalize on intellectual property from within the state and to grow entrepreneur and industrial opportunities. ECU is also a part of two National Science Foundation engine branches which are focused on innovation. This new funding aligns with the new strategic plan, Future Focus. Innovation Driven., and will benefit many areas of ECU including research.
    - ii. Questions –
      - 1. What is the current enrollment at ECU? – Just under 27,000. All incoming freshmen and transfer students are all meeting standards. Overall enrollment is slightly up, there is a drop off in upper-class and grad students where net enrollment is slightly down.
6. Dr. James Morley – Introduction and ongoing research initiatives: – Reide intro
- a. Do Oyster Farms Make Good Habitat?
    - i. Lab consists of Dr. Morley, 1 Ph.D. student, 4 Masters students, 1 undergrad tech, and 1 undergrad honors student. More than 40 days were spent in the field in 2023.
    - ii. Since 2018 there has been a substantial growth in the number of dedicated oyster farms in North Carolina. Dr. Morley’s team, over several years, has been using sonar and fish tagging to monitor artificial oyster farms to better understand how fish respond to different types of oyster farms. Found that fish populations and diversity of predators are generally higher at farms (both floating and bottom farms) as opposed to non-farm areas.
  - b. **Questions:** *What is the species composition?* Not measured yet, however, southern flounder was found near bottom farms. *It would be nice to see a graph of who all the stakeholders/research organizations/entities are and their impact on funding and products being produced.* Sharon Paynter’s office is working on just that, a public document should be ready in about 6 months. *Is the research available to commercial fishermen and regularity boards?* Unknown if this research has made it to any regulatory boards, however, Commercial Fishing Foundations and the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) do conduct their own research as well.
7. ECU Strategic Plan: *Future Focus. Innovation Driven.* ☐ CSI’s Unit Alignment Plan – *Dr. Reide Corbett*

- a. CSI's alignment plan was developed around ECU's mission (M), and vision (V) statements
  - b. M1: Student Success
    - i. Increase the number of undergraduate students that are able to attend CSI's Semester at the Coast Course. Housing is the biggest hurdle currently.
  - c. M2: Public Service
    - i. Always been a leading priority for CSI, will continue to be so
  - d. M3: Regional Transformation
    - i. Increase undergraduate participation – last year most students who attended in the spring stayed in the area through the summer and did more internships in the community as well as at CSI
    - ii. The broad range of classes offered at CSI drives an enrollment of students from more diverse backgrounds and majors. CSI is working with other local entities to develop more opportunities for students on the Outer Banks. Example: An intern last spring wanted to stay in the area and intern with the local hospital over the summer because it aligned with her major. CSI worked with the hospital to try and facilitate this.
  - e. V1: Social & Economic Mobility
    - i. Create more course-based research opportunities for underserved students in an effort to increase student retention.
  - f. V2: Rural Health & Well Being
    - i. ICP will target externally funded environmental research projects supporting local entities to increase their capacity and improve environmental and human health.
  - g. Feedback. Quantifiable goals should be stated in a way that emphasizes progress rather than hitting specific targets. Annual assessments will be conducted to gauge the effectiveness of the goal reaching strategies. Documentation that outlines specific goals and strategies to reach those goals will be sent to Board members so they can give more feedback at a later time.
8. Executive Director's Report – *Dr. Reide Corbett*
- a. Housing Updates *moved to other new businesses*
  - b. Academic Programing
    - i. Over the summer CSI hosts the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. REU concludes after 10 weeks with a presentation of their research. CSI continues communication with these students and provides funds if they want to present their research at other events. REU has been a tool that leads to more opportunities and scholarships for students
    - ii. 2023 UNC-CH OBX Field Site team of 12 students is currently at CSI for the semester. Capstone public presentation will take place December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.
    - iii. Huge jump in undergraduate full semester attendance since 2018. Shuttle service has begun so that Ph. D students, who mostly live in Greenville, can come to CSI at least once a week. Shuttle service will hopefully be expanded soon.
    - iv. **New Programming.** 8 weeks of summer camps this year. Recent community events and learning opportunities for children and adults include: Evening in the Estuary; Exploring Oyster Ecology; and Tide to Table (35 people attended).

c. Research Efforts

- i. **Pioneer Array** will be deployed mid-late 2024 off the coast of northern OBX. CSI was able to facilitate a meeting with the Pioneer Array team and local fishers to discuss the placement of the array. Having the Pioneer Array nearby has led to opportunities for further research for faculty. A conference will be held here in Spring 2024 to explore/develop opportunities for K12 and community college teachers to access and use the Pioneer Array in their classrooms.
- ii. **NSF Regional Innovation Engine**. Federally funded. CSI and ECU are currently part of two engines. CSI is in the first of three tiers, beginning to bring the right group of collaborators together. Areas of focus are aquaculture, resilient coastal infrastructure, and renewable energy. Encompasses all of eastern NC, with numerous universities and research partners. Development of rural areas in collaboration with higher education institutions. Additional information will be provided to enable BOD members to engage community members with the project.

d. NCROEP – *Dr. Reide Corbett (Director George Bonner is unable to attend)*

- i. Mike Muglia received an award from Cleantech Innovation Awards for Cleantech Research Innovation. The community outreach and education team were also nominated for their work in energy education (didn't win).
- ii. John McCord attended the American Possibilities showcase at the Showroom in Washington DC, and displayed wave energy tank that showcased our and our partners research and the possibilities of further research.
- iii. DOE just approved second budget period of AMEC American Marine Energy Center. Our role is mostly in water testing.

9. Financial Report – *Dr. Reide Corbett*

a. *FY'23 Budget Overview (Skipped due to time constraints)*

b. *FY'23 personnel changes (Skipped due to time constraints)*

c. *Research Trends (Skipped due to time constraints)*

d. ECU Foundation – CSI updates

- i. Membership has shrunk, by design, and pressure put on members to do give more time and engagement. In March Pirate Nation Gives, members are required to give a minimum amount. Donor advised funds go directly to the institution or department that the donor specifies. University is pushing endowed scholarships, minimum donation is \$25,000. CSI BOD members could give a donor advised fund to support CSI's need for housing and to support CSI directly. Foundation board should meet at CSI at least once to highlight what CSI contributes to ECU and UNC Systems as a whole. Board of Trustees as well.

10. Other New Business

- a. **Housing**: Final 1 year lease will be signed with Manteo Community Housing, 4% price increase from last year, \$158,000. Late spring or early summer a new bid will go out for short term housing for the next three years.
  - i. J. Blizzard: Continued to speak with chancellor about the need for housing. The money exists but it is scattered in different pools. The NC state legislators passed A bill that enables universities to build housing in partnership with private developers - Millennial campus. We need to leverage our, and Dare County's, resources to create campus and community housing opportunities. The Board

President asked that Dr. Cogar please relay to the Chancellor that we are in discussions with Dare County to address the housing situation. Results from the previous housing subcommittee (that determined that any new construction project would need to be state-funded) will be shared with all Board members.

- b. **Board membership** needs to get back on cycle with the bylaws. There are two vacancies as well as members who have served longer than the bylaws allow for. An ad hoc committee will be appointed, by the Board President, in the next week, to develop a list, by the Spring 2024 Board meeting, of twice as many names as there are vacancies on the board for the Chancellor to consider and appoint members from. The goal is for the new members to be appointed by next summer.

11. Adjourn 12:26 PM