

**NC State Natural Resources Foundation, Inc.**  
**Board Meeting Open Session Minutes**  
**Via Zoom**  
**April 16, 2020**

**Members Present:** Lewis Ledford, Dick Luddington, Lara Brown de Fuenmayor, Barbara McCutchan, Tom Hines, Charles Meeker, Gary Allred, Jim Buzzard, Lou Boos, Jim Bowen, Blas Arroyo, Genie Ussery, Sam Cook, Harry Sideris, Jackson Naftal, Elizabeth Biser, Hunter Jenkins, Myron Floyd

**Members Absent:** Ron Terry, Mary Peloquin-Dodd

**Others Present:** Charles Maimone, Erin Delehanty, Megan Hudson, Shane Jarvis, Jennifer Piercy, Michael Kanters, Stacy Nelson, Rich Venditti, Sarah Corica, Bob Bardon, Jennifer Viets, Robin Banker, Jordan Wilkins, Cathy Moon, Melissa Pasquinelli, Emily Capps, Libby George

Lara Brown de Fuenmayor called roll. There were 33 participants. Chair Ledford called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm.

Chair Ledford welcomed Dr. Myron Floyd to the board as the new Dean and expressed that the board is pleased to have him in this role. Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Charles Maimone, who started at NC State in the fall, was recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

Chair Ledford read the Conflict of Interest statement. No conflicts were noted.

A motion was made by Harry Sideris and seconded by Genie Ussery to approve the minutes of the January 16-17, 2020 meeting. The motion carried.

Chair Ledford gave a presentation explaining why State Parks across the country needed to close during the national social distancing effort caused by COVID-19. As many entertainment venues closed people sought outdoor places to walk, hike, bike, etc. This resulted in extremely crowded conditions at many State Parks and a crisis of managing people. Many parks have narrow walkways where social distancing is not possible. Attempts were made to keep the parks open as long as possible, but finally they had to close. There are still issues with managing the walk-in traffic and impact on properties adjacent to parks as people park cars outside closed gates. The National Park Service closed monuments early and increased closures of larger parks for the same reasons. We are all looking forward to being able to visit the parks again and enjoy nature.

Hunter Jenkins presented a report from the Nominating Committee. The board will be losing two members. Chris Davidson resigned due to work obligations. Ron Terry has served two consecutive terms and will be cycling out. The terms of Blas Arroyo, Dick Luddington and Hunter Jenkins are also expiring but all have agreed to another term. The plan for seeking the two new members is to focus on diversity in the candidates in not just the traditional sense, but also in diversity of thought and experience. Nominating forms will be sent to all the board

members. Over the summer the Nominating Committee will meet. The slate of candidates will be reviewed, and recommendations presented and voted on during a summer session, per established guidelines.

Dean Myron Floyd presented an update on the College of Natural Resources. His presentation included:

- **Corona Virus Response**-The Chancellor is updating the University regularly and making calls to donors. The University is open and fully functional although most people are working remotely.
  - March 11<sup>th</sup> - The College was asked to put together an Academic Continuity plan
  - March 17<sup>th</sup> - Spring Break was extended and students were told to return to their permanent residences.
  - March 23<sup>rd</sup> - All classes went online. The Faculty responded greatly to make this happen.
  - March 30<sup>th</sup> - Talley Student Center and the Libraries closed.

Adjustments have been required in Exams, Grading and Drop/Add. Faculty have been asked to be sensitive to the students' challenges. The drop date has been extended to June 8<sup>th</sup>. There are still about 700 students on campus. Prorated refunds for unused meals and housing are being processed. Summer camps have been cancelled and summer classes will be online. Spring Commencement has been postponed and the College is looking at alternative celebration events.

Challenges include:

- Uneven student access to technology, internet coverage, available equipment and privacy concerns
- Zoom bombing
- Experiential Learning, Summer Camps, Internships, Co-Ops
- Loss of Community

The Student Emergency Fund is now close to \$1 million. CNR students represent about 6% of the applications for assistance with 89 CNR students receiving grants. The average grant is \$500.

The Cares Act that was recently passed will send \$174 million to the UNC System. Fifty percent will be Student Aid and 50% will offset the institutional costs related to COVID-19. NC State should receive between \$17-18 million.

There has been an impact on Faculty and Staff as they work remotely. Research has only continued if deemed essential. Paid Administrative Leave has been extended to April 30<sup>th</sup>.

CNR has contributed to several articles in the news such as "How to Social Distance in the Great Outdoors" and a report on Antimicrobial Tissue Paper.

CNR contributed excess Personal Protective Equipment to local hospitals. We are considering a timeline of how we return to campus and how do we plan for class size going forward.

- **Strategic Plan**-What we want to be as a College. How to position ourselves in the next 10 years for what we want to be mid-century.

Dean's Priorities:

- Build partnerships by building relationships through calls to donors and alumni. This will include weekly check-ins with what's going on.
- Enhance our culture through Diversity and Inclusion. Work on ways to recruit and retain diverse students through the curriculum and physical environment.

- **College Updates:**

- An update on Academic Affairs was provided via a video of student accomplishments.
- The Research Office held a Research Symposium in the very early spring. Research awards for calendar year 2019 was \$13.5 million. January through March 2020 there have been \$2.1 million in grants approved.

- **College Honors and Awards**

- Rachel Kasten and Kimber Lunsford received Awards for Excellence.
- Robert Scheller, and Erin Seekamp were named 2019-20 University Faculty Scholars.
- Ryan Emanuel, Marcelo Ardon and Jonathan Casper have received Teaching Awards
- Extension Awards have been given to Jennifer Fawcett and Jeff Owen. Robert Bardon has received a Distinguished Career Leadership Award.
- Dr. Hasan Jameel will complete his term as The Jordan Family Distinguished Professor this year and Dr. Tom Gower has been named his successor.

Dean Floyd wished to present his own award, that of Excellence in Teamwork Award for the extraordinary efforts made by the College to come together and continue the mission in this unusual and trying time. Dean Floyd thanked the board for their support.

Chair Ledford asked Jim Bowen to give a brief overview of the budget. Mr. Bowen reported that Mary Peloquin-Dodd had provided an overview of the Investment Fund. The investment strategy is conservative and while we are down, we are doing better than others. We have sufficient funds on hand for the next two years. Libby George had presented an overview of investments and the pie chart was in the materials provided to the board. The Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Natural Resources Foundation Budget was reviewed. The Hofmann funds, both income and expenses are not in the Foundation Budget because the Timber Deed is held in the University Endowment Fund. The board discussed how they would have visibility into the budgeting of Timber Deed funds which is important to the overall funding of the College. It was decided that in the future, the Dean's Update will include the Timber Deed budget. If it is not available at the time of the Spring meeting, the information will be given to the board when it becomes available.

A motion was made by Jim Bowen to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Natural Resources Foundation Budget and seconded by Hunter Jenkins. The motion carried.

Jim Buzzard presented the Advancement Report. Jennifer Viets explained Peer Screening and the Case for Philanthropic Support. The Day of giving has been delayed but no new date is set yet.

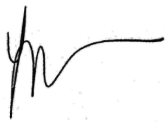
Lara Brown de Fuenmayor gave the Campaign Update; as of October 6<sup>th</sup>, the \$1.6 billion goal had been reached. As of March 31<sup>st</sup> \$1.72 billion had been raised. CNR was at \$31.6 million toward a \$35 million goal as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. The focus now is on stewardship because of the changes brought about by the Coronavirus. At the current time the CNR Enhancement fund is at \$60,000 of the \$90,000 goal. The focus now is the Student Emergency Fund. Round two of this fundraising may be related to Persistence. This is to make sure students have what they need to graduate or complete a degree program.

Hunter Jenkins presented the Forest Management report. The committee was updated on various projects in their meeting. Currently they are looking to increase income opportunities at Hofmann but there is no tenant yet. The pocosin rewetting is being considered to generate carbon credits but the water issues need study. The solar farms have not generated revenue yet other than the option payments. There are still stages to go through to finalize the project. We are in the third year of a 6 year agreement. Summer camp was cancelled but the wi-fi is in place. Lodge renovations have been deferred. For forest inventory, management is moving to a more modern GIS system.

The next meeting will be September 17-18, 2020 in Asheville.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



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Lara Brown de Fuenmayor, President