

Board Meeting
NC STATE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION, INC.
Hybrid-Via Zoom & James B Hunt Library
September 30, 2021
12:30 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present:

Gary Allred, Blas Arroyo, Lou Boos, Jim Bowen, Lara Brown de Fuenmayor, Sam Cook, Brian Dangler, Myron Floyd, Tom Hines, Hunter Jenkins, Lewis Ledford, Dick Ludington, Barbara McCutchan, Charles Meeker, Mary Peloquin-Dodd, Larry Perkins, Harry Sideris, Genie Ussery, Jewel Walcott

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Robin Banker, Bob Bardon, Sarah Corica, Kayla Esan, Shane Jarvis, Steven Kelly, Emily Lowman, Cathy Moon, Stacy Nelson, Melissa Pasquinelli, Rob Scheller, Erin Seekamp, Jennifer Viets

Chairman Ledford called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He read the conflict of interest statement and asked if there were any. No conflicts were noted.

The minutes of the April 23, 2021 Board meeting were approved after a motion. The motion carried.

Dean Floyd was introduced to present the Dean's Update. Before his update, Dean Floyd acknowledged that this meeting would be Mr. Ledford's last one as chair. He thanked him for his service to both the College and as a leader in the state and national park system.

Dean Floyd provided an update on the university response to Covid. We were able to celebrate the Class of 2020 with an in-person graduation in August in Reynolds Coliseum, followed by an outdoor College celebration at Talley Student Union. We are back on campus for the Fall semester with campus housing full and 80% of classes in person. We have a robust vaccination tracking program and testing effort. The outcome is a downward trend in numbers with less than 20 positive tests per day.

With regard to the State budget, auxiliary units have returned to relatively normal revenues due to strong enrollment and tuition receipts. The proposed State budget has some salary increases, enrollment growth funding, significant increase in repair and renovations (\$40M) and \$20M for expanding engineering to increase the ability to partner with tech firms in the area such as Apple and Google. This could positively impact our PSE/FB programs.

Undergraduate enrollment in CNR is strong. The First Year program has 291 students enrolled with 50% being female and 18% are non-white. Total enrollment in the College for the fall is 1648 with 43% female and 19% non-white. Graduate enrollment is up to 459 total and 109 are new. 49% are female and 20% are non-white. We have a very strong online program with 206 enrolled, with 46 being new.

Community colleges in general are eager to partner with us. Employers appreciate this as they want employees to come from rural areas where their facilities are located. The new Senior Vice Provost of Enrollment met with the Dean and he is interested in helping develop a plan for CNR enrollment growth in the future.

Space is an issue in CNR. The University Architect asked recently about enrollment trends. We learned during Covid about ways to use space differently. The type of program that expands will drive the type of space that will be needed going forward.

Barbara McCutchan asked about our online learning programs. Dean Floyd explained that Geospatial Analytics and Parks Recreation and Tourism Management have had online graduate courses for 10 years but an online undergraduate program is not a space where we want to be. Dr. McCutchan added that she has worked with other institutions that are looking at this as a viable option. Melissa Pasquinelli stated that there are barriers in place that cause us to limit distance education. Our non-resident fees are much higher than our peers but if the courses are online, we have to look at how this could be addressed. Engineering is driving this discussion at the present time.

Dean Floyd presented research highlights:

- 284 proposals (\$71 million) were submitted and CNR was awarded 138 or \$15.3 million which was an increase of 35% over last year.
- Total research expenditures for Fiscal Year 21 were \$9.9 million.
- We have a new initiative in CNR, which is the Sustainable and Alternative Fibers Initiative (SAFI) Consortium with over \$1M in research funds received in the first eight months of the program.
- Dr. Louie Rivers has received a five-year \$5 million award from NOAA to develop climate resilient solutions in frontline communities in NC.
- Dr. Lokendra Pal received a \$3.5 million grant from the Department of Energy for a project using artificial intelligence to convert waste to energy.
- Dr. Justin Baker and Dr. Jordan Kern are part of a \$25 million NSF Science and Technology Center project on phosphorus that is led by CALS & COE with eight partner institutions.

Dr. Erin Sills became the head of the Forestry and Environmental Resources Department in July and Dr. Rasul Mowatt will become the Department Head in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management (PRTM) effective December 1, 2021. Dr. Steve Kelley is currently the interim Department head in Forest Biomaterials, Dr. Erin Seekamp is the Interim Department Head in PRTM and Dr. Rob Scheller is the Interim Associate Dean for Research. Searches are being conducted for permanent heads for the areas where there are interim appointments. These are on schedule and we hope to have announcements in October.

The College has received approval to start the search for the Goodnight Distinguished Professor and Director of the Coastal Resilience and Sustainability Initiative. The search will launch this fall and will be chaired by Dr. Mary Watzin. This will be an opportunity to grow this particular program.

Dr. Katryn Stevenson and Dr. Jack Wang received the CNR Inaugural Goodnight Early Career Innovators award. Dr. Nils Peterson was named the NC Wildlife Federation Natural Resources Scientist of the Year. Mr. Sam Cook was named the 2021 distinguished Alumnus of the year in CNR and was inducted into the World Forestry Center Leadership Hall of Fame.

Advancement has reported that CNR raised \$38.8 million as of August 31, (110% of the \$35M goal). Two successful Days of Giving happened in the 2020-21 fiscal year: \$660 thousand was raised in September 2020 from 317 unique donors and \$1.5 million in March 2021 from 525 unique donors. A large amount of Day of Giving proceeds went to the Student Emergency Fund.

Dean Floyd reported on the Hofmann Forest Timber Deed Current value. The deed was purchased July 1, 2016 for \$78,046,107. Closing costs were \$1,017,665 and \$7,065,426 was withheld for Fiscal Year 2017-18 spending budgets, leaving \$69,963,016 to be invested. The value at December 31, 2020 was \$93,218,104 and the value as of June 30, 2021 was \$107,239,725. The overall value of the Hofmann Forest includes the value of the forestland, the timber not under the deed, the agricultural land as well as buildings which is \$74 million making the market value of the deed plus the directly owned assets a total of \$181,312,124.

CNR Budget Expenditures for FY20-21 were \$43,344,975 with the biggest source of funds being State appropriations (\$17 million) followed by Contracts and Grants (\$9 million).

Dean Floyd presented the 2021-2022 Leadership Priorities which are to complete leadership searches, rebuild the community disrupted by Covid, prioritize space and facilities renovations and implement the strategic plan.

Dick Ludington provided the advancement committee report. The committee discussed annual giving, which is strong. He shared the interest in building on current events for fundraising and communications. He encouraged board members to have an elevator speech prepared to share with individuals they meet who might have an interest in priority areas of the College. For example, he mentions Jeff Bezos' recent commitment to address climate change through philanthropy.

Ms. Fuenmayor presented the results of the Campaign. The University surpassed its goal of \$1.6 billion and its aspirational goal of \$2 billion, reaching \$2.041 billion as of August 31, 2021. As of September 27, 2021 CNR had raised \$39,431,586 or 112% of its goal. The most important aspect of these gifts is the impact they will make on students.

Ms. Fuenmayor thanked the board for their support of our fundraising efforts and stressed that, while the numbers are extraordinary, it is the impact they will have on the student experience, our faculty research and extension that matters. Ms. Fuenmayor also discussed the upcoming events associated with Red and White Week and the next Day of Giving (March 23, 2022).

Dean Floyd presented the CNR strategic plan 2021-2026. Our strategic plan gives us opportunities to partner with corporations. An anonymous questionnaire and virtual listening sessions with faculty and staff. Over 200 individuals participated in the process. Dean Floyd provided a summary of the strategic plan, The planet is our Classroom, vision, values and priorities.

Dean Floyd shared the outcomes of a Cultural Insights report. Tidal Equality put this together based on the conversations with faculty and staff, with no involvement from the College's executive team. It highlights our assets and provides us areas for focused improvement. In addition, a Cultural Charter was developed which highlights responsibilities of both College Leadership and the College Community in supporting our values and vision.

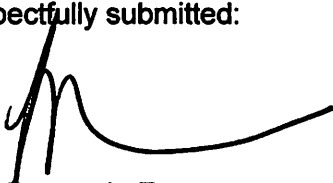
This plan gives us a vision and plan to align us for a successful future. The Board was asked to be engaged and identify partners who are likely to get behind the plan. The question posed was - in the Board's networks and communities, where does this plan resonate most to produce new opportunities? The plan has a strong vision and clear set of goals.

Jim Bowen shared his views, based on his experience, that strategic plans are generally too broad, too generic and not valuable. Corporations are interested in what CNR will do to help the corporation achieve its goals. This plan does not specifically discuss how the college will recruit the best 1600 students to educate and develop into a solid workforce to assist corporations can grow their business. Educating the future workforce is the College's mission and should be the focus of what we do, per Mr. Bowen's viewpoint.

Ms. Fuenmayor reviewed the schedule for the evening and the board meeting will resume at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lara Brown de Fuenmayor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lara Brown de Fuenmayor