

North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes October 15, 2019 UNC Service Center of Excellence Carrboro, NC

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Al Segars (chair), Jaye Cable, Don Hobart, Jeff Hughes, Mark Little, Rick Luettich and Mike Piehler.

Guest presenters in attendance were: Frank Liebfarth (UNC Department of Chemistry) and Carolyn Fryberger and Andrew Meeker (NC Growth of the UNC Kenan Institute).

Other UNC and Collaboratory staff in attendance were: Laurie Farrar, Nate Knuffman, Steve Wall, Jeff Warren, and Melanie Wright.

Al Segars began the meeting at 10:00. Segars welcomed everyone and asked for introductions of all in attendance. Segars asked for approval of the March 2019 meeting minutes.

Segars reminded the Board of the Conflict of Interest policy. He stated that members of the Board, with the exception of the Chair, are encouraged to participate in Collaboratory projects in accordance with the university conflict policy.

Chair's Remarks

Segars offered a word of thanks for the service of Reggie Holley on the Collaboratory Advisory Board for the past three years. Segars informed the Board that he had reached out to Holley on behalf of the full Board to express their appreciation.

Noting that Holley's term as Chair of the UNC Institute for the Environment (IE) had ended, Segars stated the importance of having IE engaged with the Collaboratory. As such, Mike Piehler, the Director of IE, was welcomed as a new Board member.

Segars acknowledged the leadership and service that former Executive Director, Brad Ives, provided the Collaboratory since its inception in 2016. Segars noted that Ives' strategic vision was critical to the Collaboratory and that he was a tireless advocate for sustainability issues across campus. Jeff Warren echoed those comments and stated that Ives was instrumental in getting the Collaboratory off the ground.

Segars observed that the Collaboratory was a maturing organization and that decisions on staffing and leadership were a work in progress in consultation with the office of Vice-Chancellor for Finance and Operations. In the meantime, he along with current staff would be taking on additional duties.

Project Reports

Frank Liebfarth, a professor with the UNC Department of Chemistry, presented on his research related to the use of resins for PFAS removal. Commercial strategies have demonstrated little success for PFAS remediation. His hypothesis is that a resin technology may be effective in removing PFAS from water. Initial results of the resin were promising and then verified using water from the Cape Fear River.

Board members offered several comments and questions following the presentation. Cable asked about the composition of the resin. Hughes suggested that treatment technologies being implemented were

foreclosing other options that may come along, such as this approach. Luetlich asked about the timeframe and the process for scaling up the research.

Liebfarth responded that the primary challenge is the need for more space and resources and he is considering spinning off a private company. Warren suggested that this project is a good example of the Convergence Science Initiative underway at the university. Segars said the project is an example of trying to crack the code and take the science from the lab to the world.

Carolyn Fryberger of the Kenan Institute provided an update on a Collaboratory funded project. Fryberger stated that her research on hog farms was coming at it from an economic development perspective. Part of that work includes evaluating community impacts and property value research, which involves discussion with a wide group of stakeholders. Fryberger presented a number of maps illustrating hog farm distribution in eastern North Carolina.

The Board engaged in discussion about the work, including noting the high quality of the maps as a way to communicate information. Little asked about the end product of the research.

Collaboratory Status Reports

Jeff Warren stated that the Collaboratory had recently presented to the UNC Board of Trustees. Warren presented a video, which provided an overview of the Collaboratory. Warren thanked Hobart for the work of the communications team at UNC Research.

Warren provided an overview of the organization chart and current reporting lines. He noted two recent legislative studies (firefighting foam and flood resilience) have been directed to the Collaboratory by the General Assembly.

Warren provided a brief update on some of the ongoing projects, the amount of research funding the Collaboratory had distributed last fiscal year, and discussed the Collaboratory's efforts to work across all of the campuses in the UNC system.

Laurie Farrar provided the financial report to the Board and Steve Wall gave a short overview of the status of the Jordan and Falls Lake projects.

Board Discussion

Given time constraints open discussion by Board members was limited. Segars requested that the next meeting provide plenty of time for Board discussion

Segars adjourned the meeting at 12:05.