

North Carolina Policy Collaboratory Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes January 30, 2020 UNC Service Center of Excellence Carrboro, NC

Advisory Board members in attendance were: Al Segars (chair), Jaye Cable, Greg Characklis, Don Hobart, Mark Little, Rick Luettich and Mike Piehler. Anita Brown-Graham joined by teleconference.

Other UNC and Collaboratory staff in attendance were: Laurie Farrar, Allison Reid, Steve Wall, Jeff Warren, and Melanie Wright. Collaboratory interns Elizabeth Kendrick and Caroline Patterson were also in attendance.

Al Segars began the meeting at 12:10. Segars noted the UNC Conflict of Interest policy reminder. He stated that there had been no conflict of interest issues raised, but for board members to be aware of the policy.

Segars asked for approval of the October 2019 meeting minutes. He noted that a full record of all Collaboratory meeting minutes can be found on the Collaboratory website.

Director's Report

Acting Director Jeff Warren asked for a slight modification to the agenda to allow Laurie Farrar to proceed first with the Finance update. Farrar delivered the financial report, including the current account balances of the Collaboratory.

Warren provided an overview of recent Collaboratory activities. Warren stated that he has been in discussions with UNC leadership for the university to pay for the Collaboratory's operating expenses, which would allow all of the legislative funding to be spent on research.

Warren outlined a number of new projects supported by the Collaboratory, including two studies from the General Assembly: 1) cancer research advisory panel; and 2) an inventory of firefighting foam.

Warren discussed the ongoing discussions with Office of State Management and Budget related to connecting university research to state agencies. He noted the Collaboratory was managing a couple of new projects as a result of this project.

Warren highlighted some new partnership projects, including ones with Elizabeth City State University and the Institute for Convergence Science here at Carolina.

Board Discussion

Segars began the discussion by stating that the intent of providing this time for discussion was to allow all Board members an opportunity to offer feedback on the work of the Collaboratory. The discussion began with consideration of the membership and size of the current Board. Don Hobart suggested board changes should be tied to engaging other units on campus with the work of the Collaboratory. Potential board members were suggested. Greg Characklis recommended adding a faculty member with a social sciences background.

Rick Luettich suggested the role of the Board has changed over time and that understanding the current role would be useful to approaching new members. Segars responded that in his view the role of the Board should be focused on these items:

- Ensure the academic process is adhered to and that the science conducted is not tainted by outside influence;
- Serve as a connector to identify and lead projects and help build partnerships; and
- Provide credibility to the process as representatives of the faculty.

Jaye Cable inquired about the length of terms for members. Segars stated that there are no term limits and members serve at will. Mark Little suggested adding a board member from outside UNC-Chapel Hill and that meetings be made more visible.

Board members engaged in a discussion about the value of serving as connectors to projects and helping the Collaboratory build partnerships throughout the university.

Segars asked for guidance on the issue of providing recommendations from Collaboratory projects. Mike Piehler gave an example of the Jordan Lake study and suggested that the current process is working. Little suggested more board involvement with the review of projects.

Segars thanked the members for a robust discussion and identifying issues to be addressed. He stated that he would work with staff and that it was time to reexamine the descriptions of board members duties.

Segars adjourned the meeting at 1:55.