

**AGENDA**  
**University Affairs Committee**  
**February 6, 2025**

- |      |   |             |
|------|---|-------------|
| I.   | Approval of Minutes – November 21, 2024 | Action      |
| II.  | ECU Water Resources Center              | Action      |
| III. | Peer Institutions Study                 | Information |



Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
University Affairs Committee  
February 6, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM**

- I. Approval of Minutes November 21, 2024 ..... Dave Fussell  
Committee Chair

**Situation:** Approval of the minutes from the University Affairs Committee November 21, 2024, is required.

**Background:**

**Assessment:**

**Action:** This item requires a vote by the committee.

**Minutes from the University Affairs Committee  
November 21, 2024 – Main Campus Student Center and Online Meeting**

The University Affairs Committee of the ECU Board of Trustees met in person on Thursday, November 21, 2024.

Committee members present:

Dave Fussell (chair); Jeffrey Roberts (vice chair); Tom Furr; Anderson Ward; Vince Smith; Vanessa Workman; Jim Segrave

Other Board members present:

Board Chair Jason Poole, Cassie Burt, Van Isley, Carl Rogers, Scott Shook  
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Trustee Dave Fussell, Chair of the Committee, convened the meeting at 12:05PM. Chairman Fussell read the conflict-of-interest provisions as required by the State Government Ethics Act and asked if anyone would like to declare or report an actual or perceived conflict. None were reported.

Chairman Fussell called role and a quorum was established.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Fussell asked for the approval of the minutes of the September 26, 2024, meeting of the University Affairs Committee. Trustee Segrave motioned and received a second. All were in favor.

Action Item

The minutes of the September 26, 2024, joint committee meeting were approved with no changes.

**II. Policy Items**

Chairman Fussell noted the three policies up for discussion today and asked Interim Provost Buddo to discuss with the committee. Dr. Buddo shared that many of the updates are directly related to policy updates at the Board of Governors level, which necessitated review at the University level.

**A. Performance Review of Tenured Faculty**

Dr. Buddo highlighted a few of the updates to this policy for the board, noting in particular the change in dean level involvement and the requirement of unit guidelines, among others. The Policy (BOT authority), the associated regulation (Chancellor authority), and the Faculty Manual guidelines were included in the packet for review.

**Minutes from the University Affairs Committee  
November 21, 2024 – Main Campus Student Center and Online Meeting**

Trustee Ward motioned for the approval of the Performance Review of Tenured Faculty Policy as presented in Board materials, and requested the item be added to the consent agenda for tomorrow's full Board meeting. Motion was seconded. All in favor.

Action Item

The Committee voted to approve the Performance Review of Tenured Faculty Policy as presented in Board materials and add to consent agenda for the November 22, 2024 full Board meeting.

**B. Unit Academic Program Review Policy**

Dr. Buddo noted the Unit Academic Program Review Policy is another one updated based on policy change in the UNC Policy Manual. He shared that ECU already has an institutional culture of assessment that prepared us well to update our regulation, now a policy under BOT authority. Dr. Buddo shared some key tenants of the program review considerations identified in related policy, and shared information related to the number of programs that undergo specialized accreditation versus program review at the campus level.

Trustee Ward motioned for the approval of the Unit Academic Program Review Policy as presented in Board materials, and requested the item be added to the consent agenda for tomorrow's full Board meeting. Motion was seconded. All in favor.

Action Item

The Committee voted to approve the Unit Academic Program Review Policy as presented in Board materials and add to consent agenda for the November 22, 2024 full Board meeting.

**C. Faculty Appellate Provisions Policy**

Dr. Buddo briefly discussed the Faculty Appellate Provisions policy, noting the five processes governed by the policy, also accompanied by a Regulation under the Chancellor's authority and procedures in the Faculty Manual.

Trustee Ward motioned for the approval of the Faculty Appellate Provisions Policy as presented in Board materials, and requested the item be added to the consent agenda for tomorrow's full Board meeting. Motion was seconded. All in favor.

**Minutes from the University Affairs Committee  
November 21, 2024 – Main Campus Student Center and Online Meeting**

Action Item

The Committee voted to approve the Faculty Appellate Provisions Policy as presented in Board materials and to add to the consent agenda for the November 22, 2024 full Board meeting.

Before moving on to the next item, Chair Poole took a moment to express sincere thanks and appreciation for Chair Ticknor, Interim General Counsel Kiser, and Interim Provost Buddo, who worked in the spirit of shared governance to complete the review of these policy items in order to meet deadlines mandated by BOG policy.

**III. Conferral of Degrees**

Interim Provost Buddo requested the Committee consider the candidates for degrees to be conferred at the upcoming December commencement ceremony. He shared that we are awarding 1,931 degrees for Fall 2024, including our first Project Kitty Hawk graduate at ECU, and as it happens, technically for the system (just a couple hours before a few from fellow System school, North Carolina Central). December commencement also includes summer graduates, which totaled an additional 1,131 students.

Trustee Ward moved that the candidates for degrees, as approved by the Chancellor and the Faculty Senate, be authorized for conferral at the annual Winter Commencement on Friday, December 13, 2024 and recommended this item for full board consideration. Motion was seconded. All in favor.

Action Item

The Committee voted to approve the candidates for degrees at December commencement and recommend for full Board consideration.

**IV. Closed Session**

Trustee Ward made a motion that the committee go into closed session to consider personnel related matters. Motion was seconded. All in favor.

At 12:16 the Committee went into closed session.

The committee returned from closed session at 12:19PM.

**Minutes from the University Affairs Committee  
November 21, 2024 – Main Campus Student Center and Online Meeting**

There was a request for Interim Provost Buddo to share a little about his background and experience with the Trustees. Dr. Buddo took a few minutes to describe his higher education journey, including 19 total years at ECU spread across his time as the School of Music Director, Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, and return to faculty before the call to serve as Interim Provost.

With no further business before the committee, they were adjourned at 12:21PM.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Madeleine Bade Griffith, Office of the Provost

**AGENDA ITEM**

II. ECU Water Resource Center Proposal.....Dr. Chris Buddo  
Interim Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

**Situation:** ECU is seeking Board of Trustees approval of the request to plan a UNC System Center – the ECU Water Resources Center (WRC).

**Background:** The ECU Water Resources Center is housed within the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. Its mission is to “create support structures, facilities, and resources to enable ECU faculty and students to perform world-class water research and education.” Since establishment in 2018 as a college-based center, this group has grown to more than 50 faculty and staff affiliates and secured more than \$20 million in extramural funding – nearly 36% of grant funding achieved by the College during this time period.

The objectives of the WRC are to:

- Enhance understanding of water issues through interdisciplinary research and education.
- Develop and apply transformational ideas, approaches, or technologies that will lead to sustainable water management in eastern North Carolina and around the world.
- Train the next generation of water scientists through innovative and experiential programs.
- Engage the public on regional water quality, quantity, and resilience issues; and
- Serve as a link between water researchers, water professionals, and the public.

While there are no directly comparable centers or institutes at ECU, there are two related UNC-designated entities. The Center for Sustainable Energy & Environmental Engineering (CSE3) is a UNC Center that focuses primarily on environmental and energy issues and does not provide the breadth of activities, funding support, or University and community participation historically maintained by the WRC. The Coastal Students Institute (CSI) is a multi-institutional institute that focuses on a broad range of coastal issues with operations primarily focused at ECU’s campus in Wanchese. The WRC regularly partners with CSI on both funded research and programmatic activities to bridge the gaps between the ECU campuses as well as coastal and water research.

**Assessment:** Consideration as a UNC-designated center is important to support the growth and continued strategic value of WRC. The WRC has already demonstrated exceptional value to ECU through the external funds, programs, and support that have been provided to faculty, students, and staff over the past 6 years. The WRC is also a leader in community engaged research in North Carolina and works diligently to build and maintain relationships with community, government, and industry partners throughout the region and country. Building on these past successes, the WRC will continue to provide strategic leadership positioning ECU to pursue activities of larger scope, significance, and budget. This proposal has the support of the Faculty Senate Educational Policies and Planning Committee, the University Centers and Institutes Committee, Dean Allison Danell, and interim Chief Research Office Sharon Paynter.

**Action:** This item requires a vote by the committee, with a vote by the full Board of Trustees through the consent agenda.

## Request to Plan a UNC System Center: ECU Water Resources Center

### 1. Name of Proposed Center: ECU Water Resources Center (WRC)

**2. Relevance to ECU Mission:** The mission of the WRC is to “*Create support structures, facilities, and resources to enable ECU faculty and students to perform world-class water research and education.*” This mission directly aligns with the University’s priorities of student success, public service, and regional transformation expressed in ECU’s Future Focused, Innovation Driven (2023-2028) strategic plan. Since establishment of the WRC in its current form as a College-level center in 2018, the WRC has developed a thriving community of over 50 faculty and staff affiliates, implemented a wide variety of capacity and relationship building activities within and outside of ECU, and developed a strong set of programs and outreach activities supporting students and the broader community in eastern NC. In support of these activities, the WRC has helped to secure and support **over \$20M in external research funding**; awards associated with the WRC between fiscal years 2020-2024 represent **36% of all external grant dollars obtained by the College of Arts and Sciences** and **5% of total awards at ECU**. Much of that funding has supported programmatic grants that bridge the gap across undergraduate and graduate levels of education and built relationships with community partners. The WRC has also enabled multiple opportunities to develop both student and faculty leadership, expanding our institutional capacity to grow as we move toward R1 research status.

### 3. Specific Objectives and Goals:

- Enhance understanding of water issues through interdisciplinary research and education.
- Develop and apply transformational ideas, approaches, or technologies that will lead to sustainable water management in eastern North Carolina and around the world.
- Train the next generation of water scientists through innovative and experiential programs.
- Engage the general public on regional water quality, quantity, and resilience issues.
- Serve as a link between water researchers, water professionals, and the general public.

### 4. Differentiation from and Relationship to Similar Centers:

There are no other centers or institutes that are directly comparable to the WRC at ECU. The Center for Sustainable Energy & Environmental Engineering (CSE3) is a UNC Center that focuses primarily on environmental and energy issues and does not provide the breadth of activities, funding support, or University and community participation historically maintained by the WRC. The Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) is a multi-institutional institute that focuses on a broad range of coastal issues with operations primarily focused at ECU’s campus in Wanchese. The WRC regularly partners with CSI on both funded research and programmatic activities to bridge the gaps between the ECU campuses as well as coastal and water research.

External to ECU, there are no similar centers or institutes to WRC. The NC Water Resources Research Institute is a federally funded UNC System program that supports research funding across all System campuses. The WRC regularly interacts with WRRI and amplifies the opportunities provided by this state-wide Institute in eastern North Carolina. The Water Institute at UNC Chapel Hill focuses on global sanitation and public health, with a focus on work in developing nations and little to no impact in eastern North Carolina.



## 5. Impact on ECU's Academic, Research, and Outreach Programs:

The WRC has established a broad range of research and programmatic activities that support ECU's strategic priorities of student success, public service, and regional transformation<sup>1</sup>. These activities include:

- **Developing strategic priorities** to enhance water research capacity at ECU
- **Engaging with stakeholders** to understand water resources research needs that support regional transformation and community resilience
- **Disseminating research findings** to support science-based water resources management and education
- **Leading and supporting projects and programs** from development to implementation
- **Increasing water literacy** in eastern NC through public service
- **Performing basic and applied research** that addresses regional, state, and global challenges with a place-based focus on improving understanding of eastern NC
- **Developing and maintaining academic, community, and industry partnerships** that can enhance capabilities to address water challenges, including community-engaged research.

Specific examples of impactful activities that the WRC has supported over the past 5 years include:

- **Research:** \$20M in external research funding (~36% of THCAS award dollars over last 5yrs)
- **Student Success:** Establishing ECU's first NSF Graduate Research Traineeship (NRT) program and an associated Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Applied Data Analytics (IADA)
- **Regional Transformation:** Providing research and workforce development activities for over 300 students at ECU and beyond through programs that include WaterCorps, C2C REU, Community Science Camp, and the IMAGINE-NC STEM Camp.
- **Service:** Developing an engaged group of faculty, staff, student, and community participants through public events (e.g., Research Reboot, Stakeholder Summit, Tar River Community Science Festival), research infrastructure (e.g., WRC Lab, Environmental Sensing & Data Network, NC Community Information Portal), and development (e.g., Faculty Research Mentoring Network, Faculty Seed Grants, Water Scholars Grant Programs, WaterCorps Training Platform).

These activities are well aligned with ECU's mission and have positively impacted many faculty, students, and staff in departments and programs across many of ECU's Colleges.

## 6. Criteria for Inclusion of Members/Participants:

The WRC welcomes participation of all ECU faculty, students, and staff. We value the contributions that all people bring to the WRC community and recognize that the experiences, expertise, and capacity of individuals may vary widely. We therefore base membership on the criteria that individuals provide "**active and positive contributions to the WRC community**", which may vary broadly to include (but not be limited to) service on WRC committees, professional mentorship (e.g., student club leadership), organizing and/or participating in events (e.g., public lectures

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<sup>1</sup> See addendum: NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE WATER RESOURCES CENTER

acknowledging the role of the WRC), maintaining infrastructure for general use, and collaborative research activities (including affiliation of research proposals with the WRC). Current faculty/staff membership within the WRC is available at <https://water.ecu.edu/people/>.

The current leadership of the WRC includes a Director (Stephen Moysey, Professor, Geological Sciences) and three Associate Directors (Mike O'Driscoll, Professor, Coastal Studies; Samantha Mosier, Assoc. Professor, Political Science; Alex Manda, Assoc. Professor, Geological Sciences).

### **7. Expected Benefit/Value to ECU and the Broader Community:**

The WRC has already demonstrated exceptional value to ECU through the external funds, programs, and support that have been provided to faculty, students, and staff over the past 6 years. The WRC is also a leader in community engaged research in North Carolina and works diligently to build and maintain relationships with community, government, and industry partners throughout the region and country. Building on these past successes, the WRC will continue to provide strategic leadership positioning ECU to pursue activities of larger scope, significance, and budget. For example, we anticipate that the WRC will pursue several medium and large-scale grants (\$1-5M and \$5M+) over the next 5 years. Examples of near-term efforts include current activities to pursue the social science led NSF CRISES center proposal and efforts to pursue a NSF Regional Resilience Innovation Incubator. Focusing on interdisciplinary, multi-investigator efforts such as these creates innovation opportunities for our faculty, unique learning experiences for our students, and impactful research for communities that will significantly contribute to ECU's national reputation.

These research, education, and community engagement efforts can provide substantial benefits to ECU and the region, through improved understanding and capacity to address complex water resources challenges. Eastern NC has historically been considered to have abundant water resources. However, population growth, climate and land use change, and aging infrastructure, are presenting complex challenges that require research and partnerships to address. An adequate supply of safe water underpins the health, economy, security, and ecology of eastern North Carolina.

### **8. Funding**

In addition to direct costs supporting project activities on grants, past funds for the operation of the WRC have originated from two primary sources. First, General Funds have been committed by the College of Arts and Sciences (THCAS) to provide a stipend for the WRC Director and 1/3 of a stipend for one Associate Director (an overall approximate contribution of \$13k/yr). Second, ECU developed a MoU to support enhanced F&A returns to the WRC for a limited time basis that reflects success in obtaining external grants affiliated with the Center (i.e. non-General Funds). In kind support has not been fully quantified, but includes 50% of an administrative support position to the WRC (~\$28k/yr) as well as office and lab spaces and equipment contributed by various sources and maintained by the Center. Pre and post award support for WRC grants is also supported by the University. The WRC Director also receives a reduced teaching load (2 courses).

The proposed budget for the WRC as a UNC System Center will continue to rely on a mixture of General and non-General Funds. General Funds: Continued funding from THCAS is requested to support administrative and leadership costs as described above (i.e., equivalent of ~\$41k/yr).

Additional support from General Funds will be negotiated with the ECU Office of Research, Economic Development and Engagement (REDE) on an as needed basis in the future, which may include support for technical personnel. *Non-General Funds*: Table 1 shows anticipated expenditures in FY2026 and FY2027 and revenues to be returned to support WRC operations through the MoU based on existing awards at ECU. Note that F&A funds generated under expenditures on current awards covered by the MoU are anticipated to end by FY2028. Owing to the lapse of funds generated by the previous MOU in 2028, we make conservative estimates of budget needs post 2028. Barring the development of a new MOU and generation of funds from other sources, our estimate of F&A revenues generated in FY2028 and beyond are based on anticipated expenditures of \$1M/yr with a F&A rate of 51% with a 5% return rate to the WRC (*note*: the estimated F&A return rate is based on a standard 10% return to UNC System Centers at ECU and accounting for the fact that projects often have more than one Center receiving returns; direct cost expenditures on WRC awards in 2023-2024 is estimated at over \$1.4M).

These F&A returns support a wide range of activities and programs at the WRC, including full or partial salary support for 3 Associate Directors, 3 staff members (including a PhD-level staff scientist), 2 post-doctoral scholars, an Assistant Research Professor, and undergraduate and graduate student workers. The funding also supports all WRC programs. *In Kind Support*: Maintenance of existing in kind support to the WRC as described above is requested. An additional course release is requested for an Associate Director of the WRC given the anticipated effort required to develop teams for large-scale interdisciplinary research proposals. Requests for space and short-term capital needs are described below.

**Table 1: Projected Center Budget from FY2026 through FY2028**

	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027 onward
<b>Anticipated FY Rollover<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$53,623</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Anticipated Revenues</b>	<b>\$230,746<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$245,573<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Anticipated Expenditures</b>	<b>\$284,369</b>	<b>\$245,573</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Annual Balance</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Expenditure Breakdown:</b>			
<i>Personnel</i>	<i>\$204,150</i>	<i>\$105,518</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>
<i>Facilities &amp; Equip.</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$48,055</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>
<i>Programs</i>	<i>\$13,000</i>	<i>\$17,000</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Operational</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>	<i>\$17,000</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>

<sup>1</sup>The WRC plans to roll over ~\$53k in WRC funds from FY2025 to FY2026, thereby producing a balanced budget.

<sup>2</sup>Revenues through FY2027 reflect existing F&A agreements on grants awarded to ECU.

***Budget Justification:***

Personnel: Personnel commitments in FY2026 and FY2027 include full or partial funding for two current post-doctoral researchers (Van Niekerk, Dessimond), two technical staff positions (Bowser, Olawuni), a program coordinator (Gavigan), three associate directors (O’Driscoll, Mosier, Manda), and faculty support for community programming (McNair). By FY2028 these positions will either be

terminated or moved to grant-funded support and personnel support will be directed towards student employees.

**Facilities:** Base funding covers consumables for basic operation of the WRC lab and field equipment. In FY2027 we anticipate making a significant investment in either replacing a key lab instrument (UV Vis) and/or expansion of the Environmental Sensing and Data Network (a regional environmental sensing and monitoring platform maintained by the WRC).

**Programs:** Program support in FY2026, FY2027 will be directed toward maintaining the student Water Scholars Grant program and support for the Tar River Community Science Festival. In FY2028 and beyond, the WRC does not anticipate having the resources to continue the Festival, thus will focus on Water Scholars Grants.

**Operational Costs:** Travel for WRC staff to perform field work and attend conferences is the primary operating cost. Networking events that increase opportunities for building collaborative relationships (e.g., WRC Stakeholder Meeting, Faculty Mentoring Network, Coffee Time) are additional operational priorities. A small amount of discretionary funding is also included under operational costs to support basic or unanticipated costs of operation (e.g., stationary, equipment maintenance, etc.).

## 9. Capital Needs

**No immediate capital costs are anticipated for the WRC.** The WRC currently maintains shared research resources that provide multi-user access to a range of analytical equipment, a mid-range (40 core) computational platform, a variety of education/outreach equipment (including virtual reality and video production) and a variety of field sites supported by cyberinfrastructure to maintain sensor data. This equipment is managed by the WRC in order to enable a broader range of researchers to access these resources, including faculty, students, staff, and community members. We anticipate that over time, capital costs may arise as equipment requires replacement or new needs for equipment arise.

## 10. Immediate Space Needs

**The WRC has immediate needs for securing use of existing spaces.** The administrative offices of the WRC are hosted in the Graham Building and a shared laboratory space is located in the Science and Technology Building. Both of these spaces need formal recognition of long-term use by the WRC. Additional office and laboratory space has been provided by the Departments of Geological Sciences and Chemistry to support a variety of short-term staffing and research needs that evolve over time. The current spaces are adequate for the WRC's immediate needs, but alternative spaces should begin to be considered in a long-term growth plan for the next 5-10 years. In particular, office, computing/classroom, and laboratory space for engaging and training community members is likely to become an increasingly urgent need in the next 1-5 years.

## 11. Plan for Becoming Self-Sustaining

Under the budget plan described above, the WRC operates under a self-sustaining model with limited administrative and in kind inputs from the University. A primary dependence on F&A returns incentivizes growth through productivity and has been a highly successful model to date, though

the drastic decrease in F&A return to the WRC forecast by FY2028 will significantly impact the scope of future operations compared to current activities. The WRC will work with REDE to identify additional sources of revenue, including but not limited to donor, sponsorship and foundation support, to provide an additional path for future growth. It is also anticipated that support for WRC technical staff will shift toward costs to direct grants, though forecasts are not included in the budgets here given the unpredictable nature of external funding.

**12. Inter-institutional arrangements:** N/A

**13. Timeline and Milestones for Planning**

WRC leadership team went through an extensive planning process throughout the spring of 2024. Through fall 2024 we anticipate following the timeline for review and approval following the timeline below.

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Requested Deadline</b>
<b><i>Submission of Request to Plan for UNC Center</i></b>	<b><i>Oct. 18, 2024</i></b>
Feedback from Educational Policies and Planning Committee	Nov.8, 2024 (meeting date)
Recommendation by Centers and Institutes Committee	Nov.22, 2024
Approval by Chancellor	Dec.13, 2024
ECU Board of Trustees Review and Approval to Plan	Feb. 6, 2025
<b><i>Submission of Request to Establish UNC Center</i></b>	<b><i>Feb. 7, 2025</i></b>
Feedback from Educational Policies and Planning Committee	Feb.14, 2025 (meeting date)
Recommendation by Centers and Institutes Committee	Feb.21, 2025
Approval of Academic Council and Chancellor	Feb.21, 2025
ECU Board of Trustees Review and Approval to Establish	April 24, 2025
<b>Change in Status of WRC to UNC Center in FY2026</b>	<b>July 1, 2025</b>

**14. Additional Supporting Information:** See addendum.

**15. Signatures of Administrators:**

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Dean Allison Danell  
 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

## **ADDENDUM: NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE WATER RESOURCES CENTER**

### **>\$20M in Research Grants**

- First ever NSF NRT project awarded to ECU (\$2M)
- Lead institution for NSF CoPe Hub (1 of 6 selected in the nation, \$5M)
- Developed core partnerships for NSF CTGC grant (\$7M total award, \$4.1M at ECU)
- Leading development of proposal for CRISES social science research center

### **Community Engagement & Outreach**

- Spreading awareness of environmental issues, including environmental justice, and building relationships to build social capital for community capacity and future resilience.
- Tar River Community Science Festival (2022, 2023)
- Community Science Camp (residential camp in 2023) (30 participants)
- IMAGINE-NC Camp @ Aurora Fossil Museum (~100 kids from underserved communities)
- Community Water Network outreach program
- Piloting unique community science programs with high schools, including IECHS
- Developing the GIS-based NC Community Information Portal (nccip.org)

### **High Impact Co-Curricular Education Opportunities**

- Provide research and professional development opportunities and funding to students that wouldn't otherwise exist. (>193 students served)
- Water Corps & Community Water Corps (in last 3 years: 45 *paid* students, 6 high school students)
- Pirates on Water (currently 66 members)
- Water Scholars grants (48 awards to UG and Grad students)
- C2C REU program (28 participants since 2020)
- Development of new IADA (data science) graduate certificate program

### **Continuing to Develop & Support the ECU Academic Community**

- Awarded 7 faculty seed grants and 3 infrastructure grants
- Developed a vibrant community of ~50 ECU researchers:
  - Maintains regular networking events (e.g., Coffee Time)
  - Held 2 x Research Reboots + Stakeholder Summit (April 3)
  - Runs the Faculty Research Mentoring Network (w/Peralta)
- Developed key shared research infrastructure (WRC Lab, ESDN)
- Supported startup of Pingping Meng
- Assoc. Director Mosier named Ocean Decade Champion by NSF-Every Page Foundation
- Moysey serves in an advisory role to NSF on the Climate Equity Task Group

**AGENDA ITEM**

III. 2025 UNC System Institutional Peer Study Update.....Dr. Chris Buddo  
Interim Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Ying Zhou  
Assoc. Provost  
Institutional Planning, Assessment & Research

**Situation:** Each UNC System institution as a list of 10-12 peer institutions from around the country approved by the Board of Governors for benchmarking and comparison. The peer lists are in affect for 5 years. As the last UNC System Peer Study was conducted in 2020, a new round of the Study is being conducted across the System. ECU is one of four institutions to complete the Study by mid-February, 2025.

**Background:** The UNC System Office is responsible for developing methodology and conducting analyses and generating a list of potential peers for each institution.  
  
Institutions are responsible for identifying and confirming the variables that go into the statistical analyses and working with the System Office to determine the final list of peers.

**Assessment:** The ECU Board of Trustees are required to review the proposed list of institutional peers prior to submission to the UNC System Office and will receive that presentation today.

**Action:** This item is for information only.