
Present

Nils Rauhut             Laura Hoy             Debbie Connor
Emma Savage-Davis     David Holiday          Mark Burlinson
Bobby Wilkes           Kristi Forbus         Michael Roberts
Dan Ennis              Rachel Gandy           Brian Stamos

Kurt ?

1. Welcome
   Laura Hoy welcomed the board, and thanked them for involvement with, and support of, the Center this year. Prof. Rauhut also thanked everyone for attending at such a busy time of the academic year.

   The agenda was reviewed, and no items were added.

2. Meeting minutes
   There was an approval of the minutes from the last meeting of the board – motioned by David Holiday and seconded by Emma S-D. No objections.

3. Coastal Samaritans ethics in business award.
   Prof Rauhut and Laura Hoy were present at this year's award ceremony. They reported that the event was well attended, and well designed and carried out.

   The board reflected on possible future involvement of the Jackson Center in this event. Laura was impressed by the organization, and supportive of the cause behind the event. She expressed some reservations about future involvement without Jackson Center input into the focus of the awards. For instance, not enough was said by award nominees about their ethical achievements and projects in business (as opposed to their personal virtues), so that there was insufficient clarity about why someone/some company had been nominated in the first place. Laura was also surprised by the event's desire to press-gang participants into future involvement.

   Prof. Rauhut will suggest modifying their award structure, to move away from awarding businesses and businesspeople, to more focused sub-categories of success along the lines of award for safety, diversity or customer service. He agreed that all of the individuals in the award classes seemed very nice and worthy people, but the event needs clearer guidelines or more targeted categories that would serve as the basis for awards for ethics in business. This would allow the Jackson Center to participate in judging between candidates, as it would yield some clear criteria for success/achievement in ethical aspects of business.

   Similarly, Laura noted that Jack Thompson (a local photographer) got the individual award this year. Although he is a fine contributor to the local community it just wasn't clear enough why he should win the award as opposed to other nominees who are also fine community members.

   Laura and Prof. Rauhut suggested finding out more about next year's award, being involved from an earlier stage in the process and and perhaps bringing in a representative from Coastal Samaritans to discuss the Center's involvement in the award at the next board meeting. Prof. Rauhut also suggested more discussion with the event organizer, and perhaps inviting him to the next board meeting for that purpose.

4 Joseph Fleming
   A former Jackson Scholar, Joseph Fleming, has won a place on an Summer Teachers institute in African American studies at Columbia University. The program is well regarded and impressive, but very expensive (it will cost $1800 plus housing and food in NY for a week...). Prof.
Rauhut asked the board to consider whether a J.Scholar alumni might be able to receive some financial support for this project from the Center – perhaps a small contribution.

Laura Hoy noted that there is no precedent for this. Rachel Gandy asked whether this course will contribute to his degree (it will not). Bobby Jindall also suggested that because we haven't yet budgeted for something like this, we should be aware that this will set a precedent for future budgets from the Center's endowment. Debbie Connor and Dan Ennics discussed the possibility of helping Joseph from their discretionary funds.

Bobby noted that some board members might be interested to contribute personally, but the Jackson center shouldn't donate at this point because it is not in the present budget. Emma SD agreed that we should add some funding allocation for Jschol alumni in the future.

Prof. Rauhut suggested that we tell Joseph that we discussed this, that there is a desire to offer financial aid from the two Deans (Dan and Debbie), but although the board may be able to help out, it may not be through Center funds.

5. Review of Interfaith Dialogue and Follow up Events

Marva Lackey has been leading bi-weekly inter-faith meetings on inequality and social justice, and this Semester we had two events on the topic of economic inequality and social justice. Bobby reported on the event series. Ben Laurence set the table with his scholarly input about the political theory issues. The subsequent interfaith panel discussion raised the questions of: What each faith community teaches about income inequality and justice?; and What are the challenges to implementing what your faith teaches? Representatives from Christianity, Judaism and Islam spoke at the panel event, participation was high and energetic. The core problem identified by the three faith representatives was the obstacle of personal greed. At the reception after the event, many attendees professed a need for more events like this – people were excited to continue this dialogue about justice and faith.

Mark Burlinson, a representative from the Chaplin's Council, also reflected on the event. He was encouraged by the discussion there, which fits with the mission of the Council to reintroduce a spiritual component to campus life. He explained the structure, role and mission of the Chaplin's Council (which is a new institution at CCU). Debbie also held a student conversation on the meaning of faith in their lives at roughly this time (Easter) “How do you express your faith?”. Her and Mark agreed that it was valuable to have a safe and inclusive space for such a debate, and that the discussion

Prof. Rauhut suggested that in Fall 2016 we could perhaps have a session to discuss the role of spiritual counseling and support in campus life – in part to give the Chaplin's Council some direct feedback from students themselves as to what role they see for spirituality in their college experience.

Mark noted that many people of faith feel like a neglected minority and are isolated in their denominational groups, whilst those without Christian faith feel oppressed by Southern religious culture – which is why we need a safe space for free dialogue and disagreement. Emma noted that college is a time when we shift from received spirituality to an adult, personal relation to spiritual life. Mark suggested that the Council also hopes to be available for staff and faculty; and stressed that he is interested in listening rather than giving out answers. Laura was enthusiastic about holding another series of events on this issue, and also about the inclusion of non-Christian faith communities in such events (a point which Mark also enthusiastically supported). Debbie threw out a talk title or topic to work on: “The challenge of inter-sectionality – faith and other aspects of personal identity/development”

Prof. Rauhut committed to creating an event for discussion of spirituality at CCU involving a diverse range of students – including religious groups of different denominations/faiths and “humanists” – to serve as site for such discussion. He expressed some concern that the Center not be seen as pushing spirituality on students, and asked if there is a similar concern from the board. No one expressed a strong worry. Laura reminded us that the Center's founding director Claudia McCollough wanted the Center's events to be on hot topics (to cause a stir, or raise a lively debate):
– what is important is to balance that energy against holding an open and inclusive discussion. Rachel firmly agreed.

Michael said that care would be needed to ensure that the event is clearly open to a diverse range of opinions – Coastal has a narrow sense of what is acceptable religious expression (e.g. speeches at Coastal Invocation appeal to a very narrow – Christian – constituency) – perhaps the Jackson Center could help to counteract that by presenting a broader and more open approach to faith and spirituality than has historically been the case.

Bobby also noted that the faith panel was set up clearly to exclude proselyting, but just to be giving different perspectives on.

Mark agreed that there is a challenge to make an open and inclusive spiritual climate at Coastal, without thereby jettisoning spirituality as a concern of the institution altogether. He also agreed that the Center could help facilitate such a climate.

Brian asked what the students might want from such an event – Prof. Rauhut asked if Debbie would connect him to the student groups at his events.

Emma noted that the Jscholars should be involved as well. Prof. Rauhut noted that they are a microcosm of diversity across the University.

2.5 High School Ethics Bowl in the Future

Prof Rauhut explained that a visiting speaker for this year's Celebration of Inquiry, Prof. Jeff Sebo, is involved in UNC Chapel Hill's Parr ethics center. The center hosts a high-school ethics bowl. He suggested moving towards J.Center involvement in high-school ethics bowls in the future. For next year, a trial run: one team, from the scholars academy for the regional in NC. J.Scholars are excited about coaching. In the future, we might want to think about hosting a regional high school bowl at Jackson Center for SC. There was some enthusiasm expressed for being a State leader on this program in the future.

Prof. Rauhut suggested that we might transition away from current middle school ethics academy format, and move towards hosting an informal ethics debate-style event – hosted and judged by Jackson scholars.

Prof. Rauhut was concerned about insurance/legal issues with J.Scholars coaching in other high schools. Dan noted that the relationship with the scholars academy would be an easy set-up because the University has a standing understanding, things might be more complex with other local schools. Emma noted that generally insurance falls on the schools themselves, and there is a need for background checks and documents to sign for students spending time in middle/high schools.

As a conclusion, the board was interested in testing the waters with the HS bowl – and shifting the Ethics Academy towards an ethics bowl model.

Emma suggested that middle schools have a mathematics excellence program that might be a useful model for this, as it prepares students for the event. Perhaps some preliminary talks by scholars, or team-coaching sessions with a Middle School teacher.

Laura suggested that the Ethics Academy is to teach them about ethical behavior – opening up right and wrong to them “what is bullying” – she was concerned that they wouldn't be prepared to debate ethical issues without the training from Ethics Academy. This would take some pre-training. E also suggested that an ethics bowl would require considerable preparatory work in the middle school.

In light of this, Prof. Rauhut suggested keeping the present format, but adding in an element of discussion of ethics cases. Laura suggested that perhaps we could get Ethics Academy alumni to form a team at the HS level (an “at large” team).

Events

Prof. Rauhut went over the highlights from the Fall 2016 events calender.

Dan commented on the spirituality session with the Chaplin's Council. Event programming is becoming a “zero sum game”: i.e. there is not sufficient space on campus to host all of the events
that people wish to have. Perhaps, he suggested, we should consider swapping in new events and losing weaker ones – avoiding adding on events (we have a full schedule Sep-Oct).

**Jackson Scholars program**

Prof. Rauhut explained that we will do an end of year review with all of the Jackson Scholars, and we looked over the questions that we will ask them. Part of the aim is to get an internal evaluation of the program, we will report on the findings to the board in the next meeting. He also presented to the board about the the Hilton Head Ethics Symposium (10/20/2016), and mentioned that we are in the process of organizing a trip to Chicago in the Spring.

**Annual Report**

The board was presented with the Center's annual report for review.

**Budget**

Prof. Rauhut noted that while we have a little headroom on the budget, but we are using almost the whole endowment. Student stipends are still our leading expenditure.

**Closing**

Prof. Rauhut ended the meeting, thanking all for their participation.