

Quello Advisory Board Minutes (March 10, 2015)



Present: *Marjory Blumenthal*, Bill Dutton, Brian Fontes (Chair), Steve Lacy, Gary Reid, Douglas Sicker, James Spaniolo, Karole White, Steve Wildman, Richard Wiley

Apologies: Johannes Bauer, Christine Borgman, Rick Coy, Laura DeNardis, Prabu David, Alyssa R. Harvey-Dawson

In attendance: Alison Keesey Hartman

Meeting Held at the Lansing Conference Center, Board Room 2, from 11-12, during the Great Lakes Broadcasting Conference and Expo, March 10 & 11, 2015, with thanks to Karole White, President of the Michigan Broadcasters Association (MAB).

Welcome and Introduction

Steve Wildman volunteered to chair until Brian Fontes could join the meeting. Steve welcomed new and continuing members to the meeting.

Notes from Previous Meeting and Any Matters Arising

Notes from the November 2014 meeting were approved as provided. No matters arose that were not otherwise on the agenda.

The Chairman, Brian Fontes, joined the meeting at this point, and took the Chair.

Membership of the Advisory Board

The Board welcomed its new members: Christine Borgman, UCLA; Prabu David, new Dean of the College of Communication Arts & Sciences at MSU; Laura DeNardis, American University; David L. Donovan, New York State Broadcasters Association, Inc.; Michael R. Nelson, CloudFlare and Georgetown University; Eli M. Noam, CITI, Columbia University; Douglas C. Sicker, Carnegie-Mellon University; James Spaniolo, Higher Education Advisor to the Governor, Michigan, since serving as President UT Arlington, and Dean of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at the founding of the Quello Center.

Karole White asked for email addresses to be shared among the Members of the Board. ACTION: Bill Dutton to circulate.

Bill Dutton noted the outstanding response to our invitations, the cumulative strength of our Board, and his appreciation for everyone's willingness to serve.

ACTION: All members were urged to check information posted about them on the Quello Web site and provide Bill Dutton with any up-dates or corrections. See: <http://quello.msu.edu/people/advisory-board/>

Up-date on Research and Related Activities

Bill briefly noted recent work for UNESCO's Connecting the Dots Conference, 3-4 March in Paris, which involved over 300 participants from 180 Member States to focus on a report written by the Quello Center's team for UNESCO, entitled 'Keystones to Foster Inclusive Knowledge Societies', draft available at: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/internet_draft_study.pdf UNESCO supported the drafting of this report, and are asking Quello to do further revisions based on discussions at the Paris meeting.

The success of this report has also led UNESCO to explore revision of Dutton et al's 'Freedom of Connection-Freedom of Expression' in late 2015, taking into consideration new developments in this area. We are considering a proposal. See: <http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/files/30748/12837652519UNESCO-19AUG10.pdf/UNESCO-19AUG10.pdf>

Bill indicated that work has begun on two papers underway for the World Bank on cybersecurity and Internet governance, which should also help bring the Center to the attention of a more international audience.

He also noted work underway on ICT4Detroit <http://quello.msu.edu/research/ict4detroit-the-role-of-ict-in-collaboration-for-detroits-revitalization/>, including a recent seminar in Detroit that featured the Deputy Director of IT and Civic Engagement for Detroit. A video is available for those interested at: <http://quello.msu.edu/the-internet-open-data-and-civic-engagement-in-detroit-video-of-quello-seminar/>

ACTION: Bill agreed to send more information on ICT4Detroit work to Marjorie Blumenthal, since she might have colleagues with similar interests.

Douglas Sicker inquired about our work on mobile. Bill noted that he presented his report supported by and in collaboration with Huawei at a conference in Hong Kong in February, and that the conference organizers want him to prepare a chapter for the book coming out of this conference. There was general agreement on the rising significance of mobile generally and mobile Internet

developments. The Center would certainly be open to any opportunities to build on this work. See: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2534236

This work at local and international levels is complemented by our recent launch of the Net Neutrality Impact Study, discussed below.

ACTION: Bill agreed to put together a list of faculty and researchers linked to various research areas of the Center.

Launch of Network Neutrality Impact Study

The release on the day of the FCC's decision is at: <http://quello.msu.edu/launching-the-net-neutrality-impact-study/> Bill noted the interest it has generated, and acknowledged the challenges facing this research. Members noted the uncertainties tied to Net Neutrality, but these are arguably part of what makes this a fascinating project with at least a two year horizon.

Given the deep political and industry divisions tied to this regulation, it was agreed that the Advisory Board should not be the Advisory Committee for the project. Instead, the Center will organize an Advisory Committee for this purpose as one means to avoid any potential conflicts of interest.

ACTION: Bill to create a special advisory committee for the NNI study

Oral Report on Developing Five Year Plan for the Quello Center

Bill Dutton outlined his plans to build the scale of activity within the Center as his major priority. He will do this in the first instance by concentrating more resources on research. More resources will be sought through development work on endowments, and sponsorship, and through discussions of the Center's development with the Department and College. Bill is in discussion with the Department and College on ways to build the research capacity of the Center since this would benefit the Department and the College and University.

One early but significant step will be to shift a sizeable proportion of current funds devoted to administrative support to increase funds targeted on research. In line with this plan, Bill announced the departure of our Center and Events Coordinator, who has done fine work for the Center, but has been moved up to the Dean's Office. Instead of immediately replacing our coordinator, the Center will instead recruit a post-doctoral researcher to further augment the research staff within the Center.

In addition to recruiting a post-doctoral researcher, the Center aims to recruit a Research Assistant Professor, who will work on the Net Neutrality Study, and on new grant proposals. An announcement of this position will be sent to Members of the Advisory Board as soon as this search is launched.

Moreover, the Center has announced a program to provide summer support for faculty of the Department of Media and Information, the College, or across MSU, who wish to work with Quello on preparing research proposals.

If these combined activities are successful in winning new research grants and contracts, the Center might be in a better position to bring in a new administrative coordinator in due course.

Doug Sicker suggested that we consider some variation on a successful Presidential Fellows program at Carnegie-Mellon.

ACTION: Bill will explore this program and how we might propose a similar means for attracting sponsorship and also recruiting high quality graduate students focused on policy research.

Steve Wildman's Quello Lecture, 20 April 2015 at MSU

The date for Steve Wildman's leaving lecture is now set for the 20th of April, from 4pm to 5.30 pm. Steve provided a brief abstract of his talk, but for more information, see: http://quello.msu.edu/event/dominating-and-leveraging-domination-in-search-markets-why-how-and-how-to-respond/?instance_id=111

ACTION: Members of the Board who can join us are encouraged to please let Bill know so that we can invite you to join us for a dinner following the lecture.

Members of the board expressed their gratitude for Steve Wildman's academic, administrative and personal contributions as Founding Director of the Center. Professor Wildman thanked the Board, noted his support of the new directions the Center is taking, and remarked on his pleasure at seeing James Spaniolo joining the Board, since he recruited Steve, when he was Dean of the College, and helped raise the funds to found the Center, with Gary Reid, Brian Fontes and other early colleagues.

Emerging Issues for Policy and Regulation

The Board has been usefully engaged in creating a set of emerging issues, both to inform the priorities of the Quello Center, as evidenced in shaping our net neutrality initiative, but also to inform the large community of academics and practitioners interested in media, information and Internet policy, regulatory and governance issues. <http://quello.msu.edu/quello-policy-issues-comments-on-emerging-issues/>

ACTION: Bill Dutton agreed to distribute the most current draft of the Board's views on Emerging Issues. New and Continuing Members are urged to review

and edit or comment on this draft to ensure that it reflects the best and most current thinking of the new and expanded board.

AOB

None.

Dates of Future Meetings

Richard Wiley kindly offered to again make one of his conference rooms available for our meeting. It was decided to meet at 4pm on 24 September 2015 in the Wiley Rein Conference Room on the 11th Floor at 1776 K Street, NW, in Washington, D.C. Directions to the office and parking are available at: <http://www.wileyrein.com/offices.cfm?id=2>

This meeting is just prior to start of the annual Telecommunications Policy Research Conference (TPRC) at George Mason Un.