

NEW CENTER PROPOSAL

Name of Institutions: **Francis Marion University and Coastal Carolina University**

Name of Proposed Center/Institute: **Belle W. Baruch Institute for South Carolina Studies**

Proposed Date of Implementation: **December 7, 2017**

Site: **Hobcaw Barony, Georgetown, SC**

Program Contact Information (name, title, telephone number, and email address)

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Institutional Approvals and Dates of Approval

Signed Memo of Understanding, May 16, 2016

Institute Bylaws, signed November 9, 2017

Articles of Incorporation & MOU Addendum, January 9, 2018

Articles of Incorporation, signed by SC Secretary of State, June 11, 2018

Background Information

State the nature and purpose of the proposed center/institute and its centrality to institutional mission. (1500 characters)

Francis Marion University, Coastal Carolina University, and The Belle W. Baruch Foundation have established The Belle W. Baruch Institute for South Carolina Studies. The Institute provides a structure to coordinate research efforts in the humanities and social sciences. The Belle W. Baruch Foundation will serve as the host partner, providing office space and access to Hobcaw Barony. The governing board of the Institute is comprised of the two university presidents and the executive director of the Belle Baruch Foundation.

As stated in Article I of the bylaws, “The purpose of the Baruch W. Institute for South Carolina Studies is to engage in the study and research of the cultural, historical, and archeological heritage of South Carolina, to present educational programs, and to publish manuscripts from its study and research projects to foster education about the relationship between humans and the coastal environment of South Carolina.” This purpose statement aligns with the missions of each partner, as indicated below.

Francis Marion University	To provide students with an excellent education that smoothly integrates traditional instruction with out-of-the-classroom experience, to stimulate inquiry and research, and to serve the Pee Dee region and the state of South Carolina.
Coastal Carolina University	To develop students who are both knowledgeable in their chosen fields and prepared to be productive, responsible, healthy citizens with a global perspective. To this end, CCU encourages faculty and staff to mentor students in collaborative research, creative opportunities, and internships.
Belle W. Baruch Foundation	To conserve Hobcaw Barony’s unique natural and cultural resources for research and education.

List the objectives of the proposed center/institute. (1000 characters)

The Institute promotes research in the history of South Carolina, illuminating relationships between people and the environment, as well as the influences that have shaped our state’s culture. Because studying the past enlightens the future, the institute provides a framework for investigating pertinent contemporary issues. Studies originating from the Institute will inform scholarly publications and presentations, as well as public educational programs.

The Institute will:

- Disseminate information on research opportunities for faculty and students
- Create a website describing the goals and accomplishments of the Institute, as well as application processes
- Ensure effective collaboration among the partners of the Institute and other institutes operating on Hobcaw property
- Track the progress of research projects initiated through the Institute

- Collaborate with other research institutes on the Hobcaw property to organize symposia for both scholars and the public
- Encourage scholars to publish their findings and develop presentations for academic conferences and public educational programs.

Assessment of Need

Provide an assessment of the need for the proposed center/institute for the state, the region, and beyond, if applicable. (1500 characters)

The Institute will provide opportunities for humanities and social science students to learn in a hands-on environment while working with faculty mentors and other professionals. In this way, the Institute will address needs identified in the Quality Enhancement Plans of both FMU and CCU to increase experiential learning and foster professionalization. By addressing these needs, the Institute will help prepare students to enter the workforce and meet the challenges of graduate study.

Additionally, research conducted through the Institute will address the long-standing need in our state to recover and preserve the cultural heritages of the coastal and Pee Dee regions. The Hobcaw Barony contains artifacts not only of the Baruch family, the members of which had an appreciable impact on American society, but also of African-American and Native-American communities. Some of these artifacts, such as those found in Friendfield Village, are currently accessible, but their cultural significance has not yet been fully defined. Others remain beneath the ground and will only be recovered through the careful work of archeology. By conducting research that supports not only scholarly publications, but also educational materials, the Institute will enrich the understandings of citizens across the state and beyond.

Will the proposed center/institute impact any existing programs and services at the institution?

Yes

If yes, explain. (1000 characters)

Housed under FMU's Robert E. McNair Center for Research and Service and CCU's Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts, the Institute will enhance those entities' ability to promote research that improves the quality of life for the people of South Carolina. The Institute will do so through project-based teaching and learning and by disseminating new information to scholarly and public audiences.

The collaborative nature of the Institute will also positively impact the ability of academic programs at FMU and CCU to work cooperatively on scholarly projects. By joining resources, existing programs at the two institutions will be able to engage in larger projects and may become more competitive when applying for external funding.

List of Similar Centers/Institutes in South Carolina

The studies conducted at Hobcaw Barony since the 1960s have largely focused on forestry, marine biology, flora, and fauna. However, Belle Baruch also inadvertently protected elements of South Carolina’s history when she protected her land from development and reserved it for research and education. The Institute is poised to provide the missing components of the humanities and social sciences at Hobcaw Barony. Focusing on the people in Hobcaw’s unique environment, the Institute represents a joint effort to study and conserve Hobcaw’s cultural resources. In so doing, the Institute advances the missions of all three partners.

Furthermore, the incorporation of the institute mirrors the collaborative intent of the 1975 tripartite agreement among Clemson, USC, and the Belle Baruch Foundation, an agreement that clarified their working relationships and shared responsibilities on Hobcaw property.

Center Name	Institution	Similarities	Differences
Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science	Clemson University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operates on the property of Hobcaw Barony. • Relies on a proprietary access agreement to use Hobcaw Barony’s land and resources as a laboratory for research and education. • Provides information to scholars, students, and the public. 	Focuses on the sciences of coastal ecology, forestry, flora, and fauna
Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences	University of South Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operates on the property of Hobcaw Barony. • Relies on a proprietary access agreement to use Hobcaw Barony’s land and resources as a laboratory for research and education. • Provides information to scholars, students, and the public. 	Focuses on the sciences of marine biology, flora, and fauna

Faculty

Provide a brief explanation of any changes in faculty and/or administrative assignment that may be required as a result of the proposed center/institute. (1000 characters)

To ensure smooth, coordinated operations of the Institute, each university has appointed a co-director to represent her institution, conduct the operations of the Institute, and carry out other duties as prescribed by the board of directors. These additional responsibilities are managed through a reduction in each faculty member's typical assigned workload.

Library and Learning Resources

Identify current library/learning collections, resources, and services necessary to support the proposed center/institute and any additional library resources needed. (500 characters)

None currently required.

Physical Resources

Identify any new equipment needed for the proposed center/institute. (500 characters)

Will any extraordinary physical facilities be needed to support the proposed center/institute?

No

Identify the physical facilities needed to support the center/institute and the institution's plan for meeting the requirements, including new facilities or modifications to existing facilities. (1000 characters)

Currently, the institute is operating from a temporary, shared office provided by the Belle W. Baruch Foundation in Hobcaw's Gate House. The co-directors also maintain offices at their respective universities. This space is sufficient for current projects. In time, scholars, students, and the co-directors will need a more permanent, designated workspace on the Hobcaw site. The Institute's Board of Directors have agreed to work on identifying a suitable space, possibly within Bellefield House, once that structure has been restored.

Financial Support

Sources of Financing by Year						
Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
Tuition Funding						
Special State Appropriation						
Reallocation of Existing Funds	\$134,000	\$136,400	\$139,252	\$141,958	\$144,716	\$696,526
Federal and/or Other Funding						
Total	\$134,000	\$136,400	\$139,252	\$141,958	\$144,716	\$696,526
Estimated Costs Associated with Implementing the Center/Institute by Year						
Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
Program Administration and Faculty/Staff Salaries	\$130,000	\$132,600	\$135,252	\$137,958	\$140,716	\$676,526
Facilities, Equipment, Supplies and Materials	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$ 20,000
Library Resources						
Other (specify)						
Total	\$134,000	136,400	\$139,252	\$141,958	\$144,716	\$696,526
Net Total (i.e., Sources of Financing Minus Estimated Costs)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Budget Justification

Provide a brief explanation for the other new costs and any special sources of financing (state funding, reallocation of existing funds, federal funding, or other funding) identified in the Financial Support table. (1000 characters)

Program Administration and faculty/staff salaries represent those of 2 co-directors appointed by Coastal Carolina University and Francis Marion University including fringes.

Note: Only provide this budget justification if any other new costs, state funding, reallocation of existing funds, federal funding, or other funding are included in the Financial Support table.

Evaluation and Assessment

Provide an outline of how the proposed center/institute will be evaluated. Identify assessment tools or software in the evaluation. Explain how the assessment data will be used. (1500 characters)

Every six months, the Co-directors of the Belle Baruch Institute for South Carolina Studies will write a progress report to the Board of Directors, describing studies in the humanities, social sciences, and arts related to Hobcaw Barony. The report will cover research projects conducted by faculty and similar professionals, as well as course projects and internships involving students. Projects will include those that have been proposed since the last reporting, those underway, and those completed. The report will also describe any resulting presentations and publications, whether they are intended for scholarly venues or tailored to public audiences.

The Co-directors will also prepare a year-end report that will be shared with each partner institution's board of trustees in order to track productivity and ensure contributions to a deeper understanding of South Carolina's history, culture, and people.

The current status of BISCS activities can serve as an initial benchmark for measuring success. Seven projects are currently underway: four from Francis Marion University, one from Coastal Carolina University, one from Wofford College, and one from the South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology. So far, 10 students have been involved in these research projects as active participants; and four public presentations have been delivered, in addition to one public exhibit that runs through mid-August. One scholarly article is currently under review. While the institute is still establishing policies, procedures, and a web presence, the projected increases in productivity are expected to be modest with a target of 25% in all measurable areas.