

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

March 5, 2009

3:30-4:30 p.m.

325 Burruss Hall

Attendance: Jan Helge Bøhn, Jeri Childers, Susan Clark, Terry Clements, S.K. De Datta, Billie Jean Elmer, William Greenberg, Gary Long, Thomas Olson (sub for Bob Smith), Max Stephenson, Scott Tate, Chris Thomas, Jane Wemhoener, Leah Wickham, Melissa Yates

Absence: Ray Ali, Sarah Burkett, John Dooley, Susan Felker, Devi Gnyawali, A.L. (Tom) Hammett, Lance Matheson, Kevin Pelzer, Gerhardt Schurig, Ted Settle, Bob Smith

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jane Wemhoener welcomed everyone. Self-introductions were made.

2. Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes, February 5, 2009

Kimberly Rhodes indicated since the minutes were sent out late, they are currently in process of being approved. Any changes can be submitted by March 13, 2009. Once approved electronically they will be forwarded to University Council for approval.

4. Chairman's Report

Jane asked if anyone at the meeting had attended the University Council meeting on Monday, March 2, 2009. Gary Long indicated he attended and that it was brief. The group had three (3) agenda items. The first item was a first reading of the Graduate Studies and the definition of who can chair a committee. The second item was a second reading of the Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) resolution regarding the removal of a Principal, Co-Principal or Lead Investigator. The third item was a second reading of the CFA's resolution regarding Professors of Practice.

5. Vice-Chairman's Report

Terry Clements indicated that her committee comprised of Sara Burkett, Jeri Childers, Susan Clark and herself concluded their selection for the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence in the individual category and Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence in the team category. The winners would be announced at a later time to ensure the winners have received their congratulatory letters.

6. Nominating Committee for Chair and Vice-Chair for COIA

Jan Helge Bøhn and his committee consisting of Bill Greenberg and Leah Wickham indicated that the selection for Chair had been completed. According to the by-laws, the current Vice-Chair of COIA, Terry Clements, will serve as Chair of COIA for the following year. The Vice-Chair will be selected during the fall meeting when all the COIA members have been put in place.

7. Commission Members' Brief Reports on Examples of Engaged Scholarship in Context of the Engagement Document

Discussion began concerning an example of a faculty member that may regularly teach in a certain discipline, but outside projects involve a completely different discipline. Another member suggested that the departments needed to build the culture of Engaged Scholarship and change the

department's perception. Several members discussed the definition of Engaged Scholarship and whether a published paper or a particular action fit into the definition.

8. Reports

a. University Council on International Affairs (UCIA)

S.K. De Datta reported on the UCIA meeting from February 12, 2009. The UCIA group discussed the Alcohol Policy and students studying at CESA. The conflict was VT policy on alcohol use and the culture at CESA. Since the VT policy is governed by the Board of Visitors (BOV), our policy must preside over any cultural "norms".

The group also discussed how the International website is not user friendly. There was talk to revamp the site.

The group shared concerns that some faculty feel that the regional studies interest groups (i.e. Africa, East Asia and Latin America) were exclusionary. However, the group explained that any faculty member can join and just needed to send an email to Betty Watts of their intent to join.

The Office of International Research, Education and Development (OIRE) sponsored small grants program will continue at least for the time being despite the budget cut at Virginia Tech. The last date for applications for the next round of grants cycle is March 1. Mike Bertelsen chairs the oversight committee.

The Faculty Development Program group will be traveling to University of Austral in Chile.

A suggestion was made to put a notice on the website concerning faculty members wanting to join the interest groups as well as an e-news announcement.

7. Commission Board Member Comments

S.K. announced that Chris Thomas was nominated for the President's Award for Excellence and the Governor's Award for Career Achievement and was awarded the President's Award for Excellence.

Chris Thomas posed the question for future discussion of what is considered interdisciplinary.

Future Meeting Dates

April 9, 2009

May 14, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rhodes
Recording Secretary