

# COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Minutes

May 11, 2017; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Gateway Center; 902 Prices Fork Road; Suite 120

**Attendance:** Bonnie Alberts, Jan Helge Bøhn, Dave Close, Svetlana Filiatreau, Michael Lambur (for Ed Jones), Ian Leuschner (for David Clubb), Roberto Leon, Kaveh Rahimi, Gerhardt Schurig, Brett Shadle, Susan Short

**Absent:** Kathy Alexander, Andrea Brunais, Cyril Clarke, David Clubb, Guru Ghosh, Brian Hairston, Ed Jones, Sara Jordan, Djordje Minic, Heinrich Schnoedt, Jordan Schoeneberger

### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Dave Close welcomed the group; self-introductions were made.

### 2. **Agenda Approval**

Dave Close made the call for motion to approve the agenda with the amended item; motion made; was seconded and approved unanimously.

### 3. **Call for Announcements**

The call for announcements was made; no announcements were made.

### 4. **Approval of Minutes, April 20, 2017**

The minutes from the April 20, 2017 meeting were sent out electronically for updates; were approved electronically; were sent to University Council and will be posted to the University Governance website upon approval by University Council. Minutes can be found at: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/>.

### 5. **Chairman's Report**

**A. Engagement Leadership Council:** No meetings have taken place since the last COIA meeting.

**B. University Council Meeting Reports:**

The University Council meeting on **May 1, 2017** reflected a presentation by Denny Cochran on Sustainability; and the second readings/voting of the following resolutions: Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution CFA 2016-17E-Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a University Ombuds Function at Virginia Tech and Resolution CFA 2016-17H-Resolution Clarifying Standards of Appeals Language in Faculty Handbook; Commission on Student Affairs Resolution CSA 2016-17A-Resolution on the Commission on Student Affairs Membership-Resolution CSA 2016-17B-Resolution to Include the President of the Muslim Student Union of Virginia Tech to the Commission on Student Affairs Membership.

Minutes for University Council can be found at: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/>.

**C. COIA Special Committee Report**

Dave Close spoke about a draft letter he had developed to send to President Sands which describes the importance of elevating international advancement with in Virginia Tech and passed that around. He is waiting on some more edits from Guru Ghosh and anyone that would like to edit, can send their edits to Dave Close before the end of the month (**see attached**).

### 6. **Reports**

**A. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)**

Michael Lambur passed around a handout of some of the recent activities for VCE (**see attached**).

**B. University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA) Meeting**

The UCIA meeting on May 8, 2017 yielded discussion of Vice Chair to be Tom Thompson next year; Ian Leuschner will be Chair. Previous minutes for the UCIA meetings can be found on-line: <http://www.outreach.vt.edu/VP/CommissionsAndCommittees/ucia/uciaminutes.html>.

**7. Commission Board Member Comments**

There were no comments; Dave Close thanked the group for their service; the group thanked Dave for serving as Chair this year.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, all were in favor; adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rhodes  
Recording Secretary

**TENTATIVE MEETING DATES FOR 2017-2018**

*(All meetings will be from **3:30-4:30 p.m.** and will take place at the Gateway Center-902 Prices Fork)*

- August 31, 2017                   **3:00-3:30 p.m. New Member Meeting**
- August 31, 2017                   3:30-4:30 p.m. All Member Meeting
- September 21, 2017
- October 19, 2017
- November 16, 2017
- December 14, 2017
- NO JANUARY MEETING
- February 15, 2018
- March 15, 2018
- April 19, 2018
- May 10, 2018

Dear Dr. Sands,

You may recall from the Commission Chairs meeting last fall where I presented the agenda for the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA). One of our top priorities was to elevate the importance of international advancement within the Virginia Tech (VT) community particularly as it intersects with study abroad opportunities for our students. As we consider Virginia Tech as a global land grant university, international advancement and study abroad are paramount to attaining global status in all three of our mission areas of scholarship, discovery, and outreach.

Through the course of COIA's customary activities, we invited Mr. Juan Espinoza from the Undergraduate Admissions Office and Mr. Charlie Phlegar from Advancement to dialogue with us on our priority agenda matters. These guests and their perspectives on international student engagement and international advancement were informative and have compelled our Commission to pursue further actions in the coming months. Based on the open and impassioned conversation, COIA unequivocally identifies international fundraising as a priority. We have engaged faculty with first-hand experience and understanding of the importance of international experiences for faculty and students alike. Robust international experiences contribute to the evolution of our community into VT-shaped citizens.

While the current academic year is drawing to a close we wish to remain vigilant in addressing the international advancement piece of our agenda. We are driven by a strong sense of intentionality to participate in building a foundation and strategy for international advancement. As such, we will be establishing a subcommittee from within COIA to focus specifically on international advancement as it relates to Virginia Tech's global brand.

Momentum, enthusiasm, and determination are all high right now within the commission. We want to capitalize on this energy to move forward decisively in the arena of international advancement and a global presence through study abroad opportunities for our students. We aspire to offer scholarships for study abroad opportunities, scholarships for international students, and endowed professorships in international areas. We wish to partner with campus leaders in the areas of advancement, undergraduate admissions, and alumni relations to assist in forging a global brand, a global strategy, and a global presence thereby reinforcing our impact through scholarship, discovery, and outreach. We believe an investment in forging long-term relationships with many of our international alumni and domestic alumni working abroad will assist us in realizing our goals.

COIA encourages you to make international development a priority within the Beyond Boundaries process for charting our Institution's course for the next several decades.

Respectfully,

David D. Close, Chair  
Commission on Outreach and International Affairs

cc: Guru Ghosh  
Jan Helge Bohn



## ASRED Spring Meeting

Update

April 2017

**Increased Composting and Compost Use Knowledge:** Eighteen compost professionals received comprehensive information during a 5-day composting school in preparation for conducting best composting practices, furthering their career, & passing the Maryland Compost Operator's Proficiency Examination. Thirteen out of 14 (93%) students in the Wastewater 4 Level Virginia Tech-Department of Environmental Quality Wastewater Operator's Short School, where biosolids composting and use were taught, passed their final examination. DCR certified 18 new Urban Nutrient Management Planners in 2016, bringing the total number of planners for the program since its inception to 174 certified in the Turf & Landscape Category. A critical component of the Urban Nutrient Management training includes the proper use of compost in urban landscapes. From the most recent DEQ reporting period (CY2015), 166,352 tons of organic residuals were composted by permitted compost and other waste management facilities in Virginia. Partially due to our education awareness, operator training programs, & regulatory inputs, this is an increase in composting mass over time (2008: 35,721 tons composted; 2013: 142,191 tons composted). Thirty tons of food (poultry) processing waste from George's Edinburg (VA) location were successfully composted and applied to farmland, keeping the organic residual out of the landfill and improving soil quality. Nearly all of the organic residuals being composted are expected to be applied to agricultural, urban and disturbed lands. Use of such recycled organic residuals reduces the reliance on energy-intensive fertilizer manufacturing and improves soil quality via the addition of organic matter to soil.

**Virginia Quality Assured Feeder Cattle Program:** VCE partnered with the Virginia Cattlemen's Association (VCA) to continue to develop and implement this program, which encourages the use of scientifically based cattle health and management procedures for feeder cattle. The VQA program is a cooperative effort among VCE, VCA, VDACS, VMRCVM, and producer organizations. Producers that handle their cattle in this manner are eligible to market their calves through the VQA certified feeder cattle program. Results in 2016, a total 17,914 calves were marketed through the VQA program. Producers received a premium of \$95 per calf resulting in \$1,693,752 of additional income for Virginia beef producers. Since 1997, producers have marketed over 182,000 head of feeder cattle resulting in \$9.9 million in value-added income.

**Virginia 4-H Maker Education:** Engages youth in tinkering and problem solving as they create products and processes in fun, hands-on ways. Virginia 4-H has developed a broad strategy to reach youth and their families through programs including in-school and after-school, Maker Camps, Maker Fairs/Festivals, Maker Spaces, Maker Trainings/Workshops, and Military Maker Partnerships. Key outcomes include increased knowledge, ability, and skill development in problem solving, creativity, and invention across various project/content areas. Virginia 4-H partnered with NIFA to present at the Capital Hill Maker Fair Panel Discussions sponsored by the Senate Maker Caucus. 4-H agents in the Northern District have partnered with VT Continuing Education to host Maker Fairs each of the last three years. Over 3,000 youth have participated each of the last two years.

**Virginia 4-H Youth Voices:** Telling personal and issue-based stories through visual media helps youth feel more connected to their lives and leads to greater self-efficacy, increased community engagement and a greater understanding of their world. Urban youth and adults across Virginia participated in a digital media project that culminated in team-produced videos that were shared on YouTube, at local and state 4-H events, and at the culminating Red Carpet Event for final productions. Youth practiced free choice learning in divergent youth settings to increase technological, communication, and group process skills through personal and group issues-based stories. Youth reported that they learned about and were better able to share issues of importance, felt that their project made a difference, were encouraged to be creative, learned to use video and digital equipment well enough to teach others, and became better at editing their work. Critical thinking skills such as decision-making and problem solving were rated high.

**FCS Agents:** Collaboration with Master Financial Education Volunteers, Extension Leadership Council members and community volunteers to deliver financial literacy workshops, and one-on-one counseling sessions to Virginia residents. Agents collaborated with the Department of Social Services, Department of Housing, community colleges, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites, earned income tax sites, community organizations, correction facilities, as well as churches and businesses across the state. 4,659 adults attended one of 623 sessions led by 17 FCS Extension agents in 2016. There was a dramatic increase in planned behavior based on surveys taken prior to the adult financial literacy programs and after them.

**VCE Diversity and Inclusion Fellows:** Established in the fall of 2014, this group enhances our faculty and staff's awareness and knowledge of diversity and inclusion issues and improves skills in order to cultivate an environment of mutual respect, an appreciation of differences, and foster more inclusive Extension programs. To prepare for this work, all members participated in an intense weeklong Diversity Development Institute, earning their Diversity Ally Certification. This group has gone on to assess the needs of the organization and conduct trainings to help Unit staff and regional work teams better understand each other and their personal strengths through the use of the Strengths Quest assessment and training and Generations in the Work Place training. In 2016, the D&I Fellows spearheaded an effort to increase understanding and acceptance of the LGBTQ community. After participating in a three-day training organized by VT's office of Diversity and Inclusion, the D&I Fellows led a training and discussion with VCE leadership, receiving their buy-in to deliver a LGBTQ training to all field faculty and staff. This past fall, over 500 VCE employees, including those on campus, participated in a two-hour training effort on this topic. We believe that this is the first statewide training on this topic for any national Extension system. The result has been a greater understanding and acceptance of this community within the ranks of VCE and with the clients VCE serves.

**Addressing the Needs of LEP Clients:** A new emphasis in the past several years is our effort to address the needs of Limited English Proficient (LEP) clients. CALS Extension faculty and staff were trained on our responsibilities with LEP clients as part of the overall civil rights compliance training that all new employees receive. Using US Census data, every Unit office was provided with data on the number and percentage of LEP persons and the prominent languages spoken by LEP clients. An LEP reporting tool was developed for Unit offices to track LEP contacts, which is one of the USDA requirements.

A survey of all field-based Extension faculty and staff was conducted to determine the needs of LEP clients and the extent of contact VCE has with LEP audiences. The results of this survey found that Spanish speaking clients are the largest LEP audiences for our Unit offices. The survey identified specific publications that needed to be translated into Spanish to meet local demands. Beginning in 2014, VCE first began to set aside funds to specifically translate a set number of its publications into Spanish on an annual basis. With the finding that Hispanic clients are VCE's largest LEP audience, VCE initiated Spanish language distance education classes for VCE faculty & staff across the state beginning in 2013. The classes have been provided through a partnership developed with the VT Language and Culture Institute. Agents and staff have reported that they have been able to more effectively interact with Hispanic clientele. One agent felt comfortable enough with his Spanish skills to begin teaching classes to Hispanic audiences.

In 2015, we began providing language interpretation services for walk-in clients to our Extension offices. We were able to locate an existing state contract with the Virginia Court system that provided language interpretation services. VCE became a partner on this contract that provides each Extension office toll-free phone access to language interpretation services for over 100 languages. Now clients that come in to Extension offices who speak a language other than English can communicate with Extension staff through this phone-based interpreter.

**Administration/Budget:** Virginia has been faced with budget shortfalls, and the Governor proposed a 5% cut on funds not considered match for federal and local funds for Extension and the Agriculture Experiment Station. The General Assembly restored those funds in the budget. They also fixed a budgeting practice of only partially funding the costs associated with a state-authorized salary increase program. The General Assembly also requested two studies, one to evaluate the impact of Extension and Experiment Station on the economy of Virginia. This is to set up asking for a major budget increase. The second was to look at how Virginia Tech and Virginia State University can have an impact on the career and technical education programs in the state.