

## COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Minutes

September 17, 2015; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Gateway Center; 902 Prices Fork Road; Suite 120

**Attendance:** Bonnie Alberts, Jan Helge Bøhn, Andrea Brunais, Howard Chung, Dave Close, Guru Ghosh, Reed Kennedy, Jenn Mackay, Karl Markgraf, Channing Mitchell, Nicole Sanderlin, Susan Short, Eric Vance

**Absent:** Montasir Abbas, Kathy Alexander, Brian Hairston, Ed Jones, Michael Schwarz, Elizabeth Spiller

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

Jan Helge Bøhn welcomed the group; self-introductions were made. Guru Ghosh gave the charge which included Outreach and International Affairs mission to build relationships with communities and people that we serve through cultures; to bring back to VT and strengthen those relationships. The charge is for the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs to look at policies and procedures to be competitive in our work.

#### **2. Agenda Approval**

Jan Helge made the call for approval of the agenda with the exception of moving reports and items around in the agenda; was seconded and approved. A handout with regard to the Commission Chairs meeting was passed around for discussion later in the meeting (see attached).

#### **3. Announcements**

Jan Helge made the call for announcements.

Guru announced and welcomed Karl Markgraf, Associate Vice President for International Affairs. Eric Vance announced that at the last meeting, there were three (3) statistics labs that have been set up and now there are five (5) in the U.S. Guru also recognized Elankumaran "Kumaran" Subbiah's death and asked everyone to keep his family in their thoughts.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes, May 7, 2015**

The minutes from the May 7, 2015 meeting were sent out electronically for updates; have been approved and 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**

Jan Helge referred to the Commission Chair's handout with regard to the hope to grow the global agenda; improve experiences and assess experiences; international recruitment strategy; and globalizing the curriculum.

There have been no University Council meetings since the last meeting; therefore there is nothing to report.

The June 4, 2015 Engagement Leadership Council included guest speakers from VT Engage and work to capture student and faculty engagement at VT. Discussion included how are faculty recording and how activities are being captured. The September 3, 2015 meeting was postponed until October 22, 2015.

**6. Election of Vice-Chair**

Several people were nominated for the Vice-Chair position; by the end of the meeting, Eric Vance accepted the nomination and seconded; all were in favor.

**7. Reports**

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

We did not have a report from the VCE; summary to come from Ed Jones and communicated to the group.

**b. University Council on International Affairs (UCIA) Meeting**

Nicole Sanderlin, Chair of UCIA, reported on the UCIA meeting from August 24, 2015. The meeting included welcoming Van Crowder, Executive Director of the Office of International Research, Education and Development (OIRED); David Clubb, Cranwell Center and Vice-Chair of UCIA; and Randy Penson, Assistant Director for Global Safety and Risk Management. There has been an increase in international students; 42% for undergraduates as well as graduate student increase; UCIA is setting priorities for this year to include improving Study Abroad and globalizing the curriculum.

Please see minutes located at: [https://www.outreach.vt.edu/UCIA/minutes\\_index.html](https://www.outreach.vt.edu/UCIA/minutes_index.html).

**8. Commission Board Member Comments**

The group was asked to think about three (3) topics for people to take a lead on and deliver through this commission for this year.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, all in favor; adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rhodes  
Recording Secretary

## **Commission Chairs' Meeting**

September 8, 2015

### **Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA)**

Chair: Jan Helge Bøhn, Mechanical Engineering (0710), [bohn@vt.edu](mailto:bohn@vt.edu), 231-3276

Proposed action plan for 2015-2016:

Select three items to focus on this year:

1. Strengthen the fiscal infrastructure needed to grow the university's global agenda
  - a. Work with the Vice President for Advancement
    - i. Identify priorities within the university's global agenda that would appeal to domestic and international alumni
    - ii. Grow the active alumni base abroad to support this agenda
  - b. Move towards near-net-zero-cost student experiences abroad
  - c. Support faculty creation and maintenance of student programs abroad
    - i. Improve financial models for faculty-led and faculty-organized student programs abroad
2. Improve the quality of student experiences abroad
  - a. Increase the average duration of the experiences abroad; research shows significant measurable growth takes place after 2-3 months abroad
  - b. Grow foreign language training capabilities
  - c. Initiate a systematic evaluation of existing student programs abroad
    - i. Pre- and post-experience participant assessment
    - ii. On-site visits by faculty assessment teams
3. Develop an international student recruitment strategy
  - a. Work with the Vice Provost for Enrollment & Degree Management to increase number of degree-seeking students
  - b. Improve infrastructure for integration of F/J students into our community
  - c. Increased emphasis on English language training for graduate students as the number of international graduate students per faculty member increases
4. Globalize the curriculum
  - a. Identify and remove roadblocks that discourage participation
    - i. Inhibiting academic and administrative policies and procedures
    - ii. Inhibiting cost structures
  - b. Leverage the increasing F/J student population

## **Notes taken at Commission Chairs' meeting:**

I presented this document (page 1) at the commission chairs' meeting, seeking suggestions from Drs. Sands and Rikakis on which of these items that they would encourage COIA to focus on this year.

Drs. Sands and Rikakis both emphasized that all four groups of questions were of importance and on their agenda this semester. They smilingly rebuffed my attempt towards the end of the meeting to pull their comments together and single out particular items for us to focus on, after they had expanded this list:

Dr. Rikakis added a fifth area to be considered: How do we feel about increasing our global footprint? In particular, he called for a cost-benefit analysis of our investment in centers abroad. He felt that a critical review of these investments were in order, though pointed out that he is not against such centers on principle, and highlighted the tangible and broad benefits of CMU's investment in Qatar. Dr. Sands briefly added the investments in VT India as an example where such analysis would be needed.

In the review of the first area, Dr. Sands pointed out that there is a need to dramatically improve the affordability of student experiences abroad, citing that only 14% of students going abroad are on financial aid, referring to experiences abroad thus being limited to the wealthy students, and that it is incumbent upon us to raise significant amounts of funding to make this happen.

Dr. Sands ended with encouraging COIA — and subsequently the other commissions as he elaborated — to start thinking about how VT international goals might be described within his *Envisioning Virginia Tech in 2047* initiative. In effect, he made this the sixth topic.