

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

December 15, 2016; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Gateway Center; 902 Prices Fork Road; Suite 120

Attendance: Bonnie Alberts, Jan Helge Bøhn, Dave Close, David Clubb, Ed Jones, Kaveh Rahimi, Heinrich Schnoedt, Brett Shadle, Susan Short, Juan Espinoza (guest)

Absent: Kathy Alexander, Andrea Brunais, Cyril Clarke, Guru Ghosh, Brian Hairston, Sara Jordan, Reed Kennedy, Roberto Leon, Karl Markgraf, Djordje Minic, Jordan Schoeneberger, Gerhardt Schurig

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; motion made; was seconded and approved.

3. **Call for Announcements**

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

4. **Approval of Minutes, November 17, 2016**

The minutes from the November 17, 2016 meeting were sent out electronically for updates; were approved electronically; will be 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. **Juan Espinoza Discussion of International Undergraduate Students**

Juan Espinoza, Director of Diversity and Access Initiatives, spoke to the commission with regard to international undergraduate students. He spoke about increasing the recruitment process through travel and the growing number of applications over time. Juan works closely with Don Back in the Language Culture Institute (LCI) and how the LCI works with international students in getting acclimated to campus. Virginia Tech's international population includes a large number of students from China; with large numbers of students attracted to the College of Engineering programs. Other countries in southeast Asia where there is active recruiting include South Korea, Japan, and Myanmar (formerly Burma).

The goal is to recruit more students in different colleges and disciplines. Juan indicated that recruitment is moving toward growth in India and the middle east-gulf countries. He expressed going beyond the brand of "tech" to include conversations with arts, liberal arts and not just the perception of STEM focused programs. He went to central Europe this past fall and would like to recruit in areas to include Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

There seems to be a sub-culture on campus with regard to students from China forming their own group, which prevents integration within the Blacksburg community. Juan has focused on trying to recruit within a variety of diverse schools globally that tend to have students with a pre-conception of Virginia Tech's College of Engineering. There was a controlled decline last year due to the large amount of accepted international students the previous year. The focus is now more on growing the diversity and disciplines of international students.

Discussion included making Virginia Tech more available for applicants; allowing SATs to be optional for International students this year; and broadening the English fluency and classroom understanding. Juan talked about an outside Vendor, Initial View that interviews the applicants for 15 minutes either on-line or face to face at the student's cost. This tended to help with determining how students might fare in the classroom with comprehension of the English language and what checkpoints they might be able to meet in order to measure success. The questions are not necessarily pre-determined and tend to build off of one another to gauge understanding.

Juan asked if it might be helpful to return to a COIA meeting in the spring in order to follow-up with numbers and best practices. The commission agreed that this was a good suggestion.

6. Chairman's Report

Dave Close gave the reports for the University Council meeting held on November 28 and December 5, 2016. The November 28th meeting included a deferred resolution for the establishment of a School of Plant and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech (first reading); the resolution to revise the constitution of the University Council (second reading; passed); resolution to revise the faculty handbook language regarding reassignment (second reading; passed). New business included the resolution to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in biomedical engineering (first reading). The December 5th meeting included a presentation on the University Master Plan; resolution for establishment of a school of plant and environmental sciences at Virginia Tech (second reading; amended language and passed); the resolution to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in biomedical engineering (second reading; passed). All minutes can be found at: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/>.

The Engagement Leadership Council meeting was post-phoned until January.

7. Vice-Chairman's Report

Jan Helge Bøhn reported on the Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence. Kim Rhodes offered that the notice had appeared in the E-Daily News as well as being sent out to Deans, Department Heads, Vice Presidents and COIA to distribute widely. Jan Helge asked for volunteers to serve on the review committee; Brett Shadle, Heinrich Schnoedt and Kaveh Rahimi volunteered. Jan Helge will contact previous winners (listed on the website) for one more volunteer.

8. Reports

a. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

Ed Jones discussed the alternative severance and early retirement of extension agents; which will affect 22 people; January 1st is the earliest date and March 1st is the latest date for the retirement. The VCE winter conference will take place virtually to save on costs.

b. University Council on International Affairs (UCIA) Meeting

David Clubb reported that the December meeting was cancelled; and that Juan Espinoza will be attending the January UCIA meeting. The November meeting brought presentation by Frank Shushok of the Mozaiko Global Living-Learning Community to pilot the fall of 2017. The pilot program will include language pods with about 80 students in the pilot program. Minutes for the UCIA meetings can be found on-line at: <http://www.outreach.vt.edu/VP/CommissionsAndCommittees/ucia/uciaminutes.html>.

9. Commission Board Member Comments

Dave Close made the call for comments; Susan Short indicated that the Inn will be hosting a Chinese New Year Saturday, January 28, 2017.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, all in favor; adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rhodes
Recording Secretary

TENTATIVE MEETING DATES FOR 2016-2017

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

- **NO JANUARY MEETING**
- February 16, 2017
- March 16, 2017
- April 20, 2017
- May 11, 2017