

**COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**Minutes**

**September 17, 2020; 3:30-4:30 p.m.-Via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Holly Carroll, Nick Copeland, Guru Ghosh, Ralph Hall, Don Hempson, Lee Learman, Penny Muelenaer, Juan Luis Nicolau Gonzalbez, April Myers (guest), Nicole Nunoo, Robert Oliver, Cassidy Rist, Peter Schmitthener, Susan Short, Latanya Walker, Robert Weiss, LaWanda Wright, Xiaowei Wu

**Absent:** Tara Brent, John Galbraith, Ashley Johnson, Ed Jones, Morgan Paulette

1. **Welcome, Self-Introductions and Charge to the Commission:** Nick Copeland welcomed the group. Self-introductions were made.
2. **Agenda Approval:** Nick made the call for motion to approve the agenda; a motion was made; was seconded; all were in favor, there was no opposition and the agenda was approved.
3. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, May 7, 2020:** Nick called for the approval of the May 7, 2020 minutes, which were sent out electronically by vote and forwarded to University Council for approval and posting. Approved minutes can be found: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/>.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Nick updated the group concerning the Commission Chair meeting with President Sands. Discussion included Commissions are dealing with many difficulties due to the global pandemic, and Nick outlined some of the difficulties that included: 1) The impact of COVID-19 on mental health and depression; 2) Climate Change; 3) Impacts as they relate to racial inequalities, food insecurity, health impacts and economic impacts.

Discussion included how people need to re-think inequalities, the way the world is globally connected, and what is necessary for a global economy. Dialogue included the work the Cooperative Extension does and the partnership with public health. Although many Cooperative Extension programs have been defunded, there has still been a great need for services through Cooperative Extension, especially during the pandemic. Nick indicated that some students that are set to graduate are concerned about their futures in the work force. He suggested that one path forward for addressing interrelated crises of COVID-19, economic depression, and climate change would be an expansion of extension services, which could help initiate changes in the food system, address inequalities, promote renewable energy and conservation and create jobs. He also indicated that President Sands communicated his concern regarding the impact and relationship with China due to the outbreak originating there.

The commission discussed moving in a positive direction, and asked for guidance on how it could be accomplished both financially and logistically. Cooperative Extension is in every county in all states, therefore this is a wide-spread concern.

5. **Election of Vice-Chair:** The background on the duties of the Vice-Chair was given: 1) the Vice-Chair is responsible for assembling a sub-committee to review application packets and collect voting for the Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence (both Individual and Team Awards). Deadlines for application packets are 4:00 p.m. January 29, 2021. In order to be eligible for the Vice-Chair position, nominees must have one year after current year in order to serve as the Chair for COIA, meaning their appointment on the commission must be 2022 or later. The charge was given to members to think about filling this position, and discussion included that a Vice-Chair will be voted on at the next meeting in order to move forward with the Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence.

The committee for the Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence review committee will include five (5) members; four (4) of which are selected from the commission with the fifth person being a previous award winner. The Vice-Chair will need to contact a previous award winner to ask if they would be willing to serve on the review committee. The expectations of the committee include: 1) reviewing the criteria for the award; 2) reviewing the applications that come in (deadline is January 29, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.); and 3) as a group, discussing either in person or remotely the application packets to decide on a

winner for both the individual and the team awards. The vice-chairs will be responsible for reviewing and approving the announcement memo that will be publicized; as well as convening the review committee and selecting a winner for each award (typically within the first week of February). All materials must be submitted to special events by the first week of March, therefore the vice-chairs will be in contact with Kim mid-February with the winners' names. Kim prepares the announcement memo for review and publicizes the awards, puts materials on the web, receives application packets, posts them to Google Drive for all members to access as they come in, receives the award winners and puts the material packets together for Special Events.

**6. Reports: Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE):** There was no report

**University Committee on International Affairs:** UCIA has not yet met for this year, previous minutes for all UCIA meetings that have been approved thus far are available at the following link on-line: <https://www.outreach.vt.edu/VP/CommissionsAndCommittees/ucia/uciaminutes.html>.

**Engagement Leadership Council:** Susan Short indicated that the minutes for both the June 11<sup>th</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings can be found on-line at: <https://www.outreach.vt.edu/about/commissions-committees/elc/elcminutes.html>. Susan gave a brief summary for both meetings which included the need to fill the Youth Advisor position in conjunction with the Minors Policy. The Engagement Scholarship Consortium that was to be held in Minneapolis is postponed to 2021, with awards recognition occurring virtually. Jake Grohs (College of Engineering, "Building Community Capacity for Integrating Engineering in Rural Middle School Science Classrooms") and Crystal Tyler-Mackey (Extension Specialist, Community Viability, CALS/VCE, "Food for a Long Life: Engaging Community Partners to Tackle Food Access") are being recognized for their work at the virtual event. This event will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:30 p.m.; the registration link for this event is: [https://virginiatech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_-6VuUJQRkCsPlyK2vCRaQ](https://virginiatech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-6VuUJQRkCsPlyK2vCRaQ). Angela Scarpa and Jennifer Scott (Mobile Autism Clinic; College of Science, VT Autism Clinic and Center for Autism Research) are being recognized for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Engagement Scholarship Awards Ceremony. This virtual ceremony will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:00 p.m.; the registration link is: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TZQ7xNxbTD6VC4lxBE-t8g](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TZQ7xNxbTD6VC4lxBE-t8g). Additionally, CPE leaders have moved conferences and meetings to virtual platforms, with over 100 programs confirmed both domestically and internationally from now until March, 2021. John Provo, Director of the Office of Economic Development presented at the September meeting. The Engagement Leadership Council will be bringing forth a resolution to the commission for renaming the Office of Economic Development as the Center for Economic and Community Engagement. The hope is that John can present at the November COIA meeting for first reading.

**7. Global Alumni Engagement Sub-Committee Update:** The group has not met since last time, once there is an update, Latanya Walter will update the commission.

**8. Commission Board Member Announcements and Comments:** The question was asked about leveraging the Steger Center to allow for collaborations with Chinese students. A decision for Study Abroad has not yet been made, and meetings will determine the course of action. Discussions included upgrading to better virtual platforms as well as the update on the Data Analytics Program in the Innovation Center. For the program, faculty were tasked with recruitment of students, and overall were able to recruit 46 students.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

**TENTATIVE MEETING DATES FOR 2020-2021-***(All meetings will be from 3:30-4:30 p.m. via Zoom until further notice)*

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| • October 15, 2020  | • <b>NO JANUARY MEETING</b> | • April 15, 2021 |
| • November 19, 2020 | • February 18, 2021         | • May 6, 20      |
| • December 10, 2020 | • March 18, 2021            |                  |