

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

February 16, 2023; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

120 Gateway/Zoom

Attendance (in person): Jessica Agnew, Ben Grove (for Mike Gutter), Don Hempson, Susan Short

Attendance (via Zoom): Jan Helge Bøhn (Presiding), Francisco Carvallo, Terry Clements, Sameen Hanan, Farida Jalalzai, Kristin Lamoureux (for David Brinberg), Penny Muelenaer, Robert Oliver, Angela Scarpa, Peter Schmitthener, Megan Seibel, Richard Shryock, Bonnie Zare

Absent with Notice: David Brinberg, Guru Ghosh, Mike Gutter, Paul Knox, Carlos Saint-Preux

Absent: Dave Close, Kenner Love

Guests: Evan Czajkowski, Kathy Hager, Rich Mathieson

Welcome and Self-Introductions: Jan Helge Bøhn called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and welcomed the group. Self-introductions were made; visual attendance was also taken; a quorum was established.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:** Jan Helge called for any changes to the agenda, no changes were made; a motion to approve the agenda was made by Don Hempson; seconded by Ben Grove; no discussion; all were in favor; the agenda was approved.
2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, December 8, 2022:** Minutes from the December 8, 2022 meeting were sent out electronically for edits and were approved electronically. The minutes were sent to the Governance Information System; and can be found on the web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu/>).
3. **Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes:**
 - a. **Chairman's Report:** From the University Council Report on February 6, 2023, Jan Helge Bohn reported there were two (2) items for second reading and approval: 1) The Commission of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Resolution to establish CEOOD representation to University Council and 2) The Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies Resolution to Waive the general education requirements for students seeking a second Bachelor's degree.
 - b. **Vice-Chairman's Report:** Kimberly Rhodes reported that there were two (2) applications for the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence-Individual Effort and two (2) applications for the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence-Team Effort. The selection committee is scheduled to meet next week to select a winner for each category.
 - c. **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE):** Ben Grove gave the VCE report. In January VCE hosted their first face to face winter conference since 2020 and had close to 400 folks together on campus for professional development, networking, and planning. CALS is implementing a new integrated grant program requiring partnership between research and extension and anticipate the program will lead to impact on and off

campus and enhance collaboration throughout the system, including global opportunities, and partnerships with VSU- based extension faculty. VCE is planning significant technology upgrades across the six 4-H Centers to enhance local programming capabilities and improved connectivity. VCE has hosted Planning District events with Mike Gutter in Winchester, Harrisonburg, and Fairfax recently and have upcoming events planned on the Northern Neck, in Richmond, and Fredericksburg. These are great opportunities to meet with local stakeholders, as well as legislators, as VCE promotes engagement through Extension.

- d. **Engagement Leadership Council:** There has not been an Engagement Leadership Council meeting since the last COIA meeting; the next meeting is Thursday, March 16th beginning at 2:00 p.m.
- e. **University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA):** Farida Jalalzai summarized the meeting from January 27, 2023 that included Karen Roberto's overview of the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment and the different programs the institute offers. Iuliia Hoban recapped International Education Week (IEW) and shared survey results on the success of the event. David Clubb discussed IEW and the possibility of the event being organized by a committee within UCIA. Challenges of the event include the timing (right before Thanksgiving); and the hope to get planning to occur over the summer; a proposal from David was to be presented to UCIA. The meeting also included working group updates; with the global at home working group looking at assessing global projects as well as creating a centralized web page to showcase global work across the university. Members were asked about getting support for a central web site; the next meeting will explore and update on David Clubb's proposal and the web page discussions. The selection committee for Alumni Awards for Excellence in International Education, Outreach and Research is set to meet next week.

Susan Short asked that the minutes reflect a future conversation regarding the involvement of the Engagement Leadership Council with the Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence; and suggested that she could begin a conversation with the Alumni Association. Jan Helge indicated that the conversations could begin in COIA and then move to Alumni Affairs as appropriate. Robert Oliver mentioned last meeting that a committee was going to review, after this most recent cycle, the awards process and find better ways to solicit more applications.

- 4. **University Global Strategy Working Group:** Don Hempson spoke to the Commission indicating it has been a while since the University has had a Global Strategic Plan. Dan Sui and Guru Ghosh are co-chairing the working group at the request of the Provost; with the goal to provide a white paper by the end of the semester/early summer to both the President and Provost. Members include Don Hempson, Aimée Surprenant, Tom Archibald, Robert Weiss, Juan Espinoza and John Torget. The group has met twice; and have discussed ways to solicit input for the white paper; developing a strategic plan and how to put the plan into

action. Discussion included using the United Nations' SDGs as guide posts for the strategic plan we will put forward, and the different ways they are realized through campus initiatives and how they are measured. The purpose is to put forth a comprehensive plan for the University that will broadly address global research and scholar; to include global faculty development leadership initiatives; to align the SDGs with current initiatives in line with the Destination Areas. Looking at ways the plan should address international undergraduate and graduate recruitment; campus experience; the University commitment to experiential learning; opportunities of the global perspective through undergraduate and graduate research; study abroad; reviewing global strategic services; faculty immigration services; MOU processes; promotion of global partnerships; safety and risk management services. A global infrastructure is being discussed as well as the financial strategy and the mechanisms in place to advance the global agenda as well as an engagement and outreach component. Initial groups that the working group is soliciting input from includes: COIA; UCIA; Council of Deans; Department Heads Forum; Academic Affairs Committee; Associate Deans with global responsibilities; Beyond Boundaries working group; Northern Virginia Steering Committee; Cranwell International Center; the Graduate School-to include students and organizations.

Discussion included how Foreign Language departments will fit into the plan; increasing students enrolled in Foreign Language courses and how to incorporate globalization in the curriculum; with the expansion in course offerings and how the University can encourage students to enroll; as advising is not encouraging enrollment for these courses. The intent is to provide a structure for guidelines around international engagement to include key priorities for the various stakeholders. There is some frustration with CIPP in bringing other university students to Virginia Tech for semester abroad; how international work is viewed with regard to faculty promotion and tenure; and child care components with how additional work can be done while balancing home responsibilities. Conversations have been ongoing regarding the value of international work in the promotion and tenure process and the incentivization of faculty in globalizing the curriculum. Further comments included larger departments versus smaller departments and the ability to incorporate a semester abroad program and how this can be accomplished financially; as well as supporting language training. What can COIA do for the working group. Don indicated that this is the first step to soliciting feedback and asked the members to discuss within their departments what would be essential objectives for a comprehensive global strategic plan to elevate the University to a top 100 global land grant university and to bring that back to the working group. What are some top strategic priorities and global themes. Discussion included short-courses (i.e. wintermester) also provide value as it relates to student experiences. Suggestions included a requirement for Foreign Languages for admission; which may lend to a desire to participate in Study Abroad and also strengthen the global land grant goal. Other land grant agencies are being researched by Evan Czajkowski. Comments included to become a leader; and to be aware of a gap in affordability and accessibility. Don

indicated the working group is not looking to replicate other agencies, but to understand what peers have already done; but trying to be expansive in our thinking. What actions will put Virginia Tech on the map and what faculty can do for their students; and not only how students are recruited, but how do we retain them in the work force.

Call for Announcements/Commission Board Member Comments: The call for announcements and comments was made, Susan Short announced the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, of which Virginia Tech is one of 40-member institutions, is seeking proposals for panels, presentations, posters, and workshops for its 2023 annual conference to be held at Michigan State University October 4-5, 2023. Proposals are due March 31. For more information or to submit a proposal, visit the Engagement Scholarship Consortium's website. The consortium is also seeking nominations for Awards of Excellence in Engaged Scholarship. The 2023 ESC Awards of Excellence in Engaged Scholarship will recognize exemplary institutional programs in the following categories: **Student, Faculty, Staff, Community Partner, and Institution**. New this year, ESC is accepting applications for the Distinguished Dissertation Award. The Distinguished Dissertation Award recognizes emerging scholars who advance research on community engagement scholarship through rigorous and innovative dissertation inquiry and whose work contributes to the field by having the potential for impact on the study, practice, and policies of community engagement. Deadlines are mid-March to the end of March. Continuing and Professional Education, the Center for Economic and Community Engagement and Outreach Information Services have moved from 702 University City Blvd to the Surge Building and will be housed in the Corporate Research Center at 1900 Kraft Drive by mid-March to early April.

5. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made; seconded; no discussion; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 4:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

PROPOSED DATES FOR 2022-2023 (Meetings 3:30-4:30 p.m. unless indicated otherwise)

- March 16, 2023
- April 20, 2023
- May 4, 2023