

# COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Minutes

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

120 Gateway/Zoom

**Attendance (via Zoom):** Jan Helge Bøhn (Presiding), Francisco Carvallo, Dave Close, Ben Grove (for Mike Gutter), Farida Jalalzai, Kristin Lamoureux (for David Brinberg), Kenner Love, Penny Muelenaer, Robert Oliver, Peter Schmitthenner, Richard Shryock

**Absent with Notice:** Jessica Agnew, David Brinberg (sent Kristin Lamoureux), Terry Clements, Guru Ghosh, Mike Gutter (sent Ben Grove), Don Hempson, Paul Knox, Megan Seibel, Susan Short, Bonnie Zare

**Absent:** Sameen Hanan, Carlos Saint-Preux, Angela Scarpa

**Guests:** Lori Buchanan

The meeting was delayed due to establishing quorum, there were not enough members for quorum, the meeting proceeded without voting.

**Welcome and Self-Introductions:** The meeting began at 3:40 p.m. Jan Helge Bøhn welcomed the group. Self-introductions were made.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:** This item was not voted on due to lack of quorum.
2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, February 16, 2023:** Minutes from the February 16, 2023 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 Reports on February 20, and March 13, 2023, Jan Helge indicated three (3) items that were presented on February 20 for first reading and subsequently for second reading and approval at the March 13, 2023 meetings: 1) The Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution to Revise the Faculty Handbook Regarding Emeritus or Emerita Designation 2) The Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies Resolution on Co-operative Education Program Change 3) The Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies Resolution to Establish a Master of Science Degree in Applied Data Science. Two (2) items were presented for first reading at the March 20, 2023 meeting: 1) Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs Resolution to Revise the Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Constitution 2) Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity Resolution to Approve the Land Acknowledgement and Labor Recognition Statements.
  - b. **Vice-Chairman's Report:** Dave Close reported on the Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence (Team and Individual Awards). The Selection Committee, comprised of Francisco Carvallo, Don Hempson, Katrina Powell, Susan Short and Dave Close met in mid-February. Dr. Mintai Kim was the individual winner; the program, VTTI-Sharing the Road with Trucks was the team winner. Faculty members included Matthew Camden, Mark Golusky and Scott Tidwell. The two non-winning submissions were both encouraged to reapply. The two winners edged out the other submissions slightly. Due to a change in process, the announcement of winners was made in COIA; the attendees of the meeting and all members/guests of COIA were asked to keep the information private until it

has been publicly announced by Special Events. Dave thanked the selection committee for their work.

- c. **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE):** Ben Grove shared 1) Virginia Land Energy Navigator: in last year's General Assembly session, through House Bill 894, VCE was charged with developing a decision-making tool for local governments around land use. That tool was released earlier this year, which brings together GIS information related to prime farm and forest land and helps with land conservation, electric utility infrastructure and other themes to help local governments with land use planning. It is not a prescription but a tool to help make informed decisions. Rolled out in January and has received a good reception. 2) The Virginia FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) has been affiliated with Virginia Tech since the 1920s when the organization was founded. FFA is a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) based in middle and high schools. Two more CTSOs organizations that have come into VCE's fold; DECA, which is a global organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management, and HOSA, which promotes career opportunities in the health industry and to enhance the delivery of health care to all people. The state advisors for DECA and HOSA will report to the Associate Director of Youth Families and Health in VCE.
- d. **Engagement Leadership Council:** Jan Helge reported on the Engagement Leadership Council meeting from March 16, 2023. Updates included information regarding the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, Contract Credit policy and Graduate Certificate Program. Contract credit information is related to programs offering credit courses on a course-by-course basis to external entities (e.g. government agencies, business and industry). Ben added that there is work to get the policy changed beyond a traditional graduate student; looking at new possibilities and degree programs. Jan Helge also indicated that we are up for accreditation in 2026 for the Carnegie Foundation Classification for Community Engagement.
- e. **University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA):** Farida Jalalzai reported on the UCIA meeting on February 27, 2023. Updates included consideration for forming a standing committee to organize International Education Week. Conversations were to continue, the proposal needed to be updated to further define UCIA's role. The proposal was updated, the members of UCIA will be voting. Global at Home Website-site where International Activity would reside; the request for members to go back to their units to solicit feedback. Some feedback included the audience-internal or external; who would be responsible for updating the site. Some members that have been previously involved in a similar project indicated a need for this, the project was started, but the maintenance caused the projects to be unsustainable-conversations will continue on this item. Rich Mathieson spoke about the development of an International Newsletter that could include various announcements and different opportunities that might supplement the project. Mallory Miller will be a guest speaker next meeting to talk about rankings. Don Hempson spoke about the Global Strategy Working Group; an update of the International Alumni Awards winners was made.

- 4. Call for Announcements/Commission Board Member Comments:** The call for announcements and comments was made. Richard Shryock wanted to comment on the Global Strategic Working group and asked if there was an update; as he understood that a white paper was going to be developed by the end of the semester; since we are currently mid-March. He was surprised on what is being discussed currently in that the role of foreign languages was missing from the current iteration, whereas it was one of the top three recommendations in the previous plan. Richard asked for an update at the next meeting; and to have the opportunity to provide more input to the working group. Jan Helge was in agreement to get an update. Richard wanted to make sure important aspects are not left out given the importance of being an international land grant institution doesn't seem to have been discussed.

Discussion also included Experiential Experiences and the importance of providing feedback to the working group. Farida indicated the Research Innovation Council is to meet next week; and expressed the desire to have more time to include more aspects in the plan. Concerns included moving forward and advising with regard to foreign languages that is holding back students as well as better communication and more information on the history.

Penny Muelenaer discussed her trip to Malawi, with Guru asking how to increase international engagement. Penny indicated connecting with those folks that are participating in global activities that have leading edge qualities to them and increase student and faculty participation. Although students didn't get credit, they had international experience efforts to develop their senior design projects. She indicated the International Newsletter was a great idea to reach students, faculty and staff to inform them of activities.

Jan Helge expressed concern over the talk about graduate assistants and graduate teaching assistants not being able to go abroad; which will hinder research, education and credit transfers. He indicated that some credits will not be counted toward their degree for some courses taken abroad, and indicated these were policies made by some of the members of the working group. Jan Helge is very concerned with what is going to come out of the working group; and hopes there will be good ideas that will come to facilitate global activity.

- 5. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting ended at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

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

- April 20, 2023
- May 4, 2023