

# COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Minutes

April 20, 2023; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

120 Gateway/Zoom

**Attendance (in person):** Guru Ghosh, Mike Gutter, Don Hempson, Susan Short

**Attendance (via Zoom):** Jan Helge Bøhn (Presiding), Francisco Carvallo, Terry Clements, Dave Close, Farida Jalalzai, Kenner Love, Penny Muelenaer, Robert Oliver, Angela Scarpa, Megan Seibel, Richard Shryock, Bonnie Zare

**Absent with Notice:** David Brinberg, Paul Knox, Peter Schmitthenner

**Absent:** Jessica Agnew, Sameen Hanan, Carlos Saint-Preux

**Guests:** Amanda Broome, Kathy Hager, April Myers

**Welcome and Self-Introductions:** The meeting was called to order 3:34 p.m. Jan Helge Bøhn welcomed the group. Quorum was established, self-introductions were made.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:** Mike Gutter made the motion to adopt the agenda; Farida Jalalzai seconded; all were in favor with no opposition; the Agenda was adopted.

2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, March 16, 2023:** Minutes from the March 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 April 3, and April 17, 2023, Jan Helge discussed the second reading and approval of the following resolutions: 1) the Commission on Administrative and Professional (A/P) Faculty Affairs resolution to revise the A/P Faculty Senate Constitution; 2) the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity resolution to approve the Land Acknowledgement and Labor Recognition Statements; 3) the Commission on A/P Faculty Affairs' resolution to revise Chapter 7, Section 7 of the Faculty Handbook; 4) the Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs' resolution to Expand and Secure Access to Reproductive Care at Virginia Tech; 5) the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs Resolution to revise the Staff Senate Constitution and Bylaws. Resolutions for first reading included: 1) the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies resolution to Create the Department of Neurosurgery at VTC School of Medicine and 2) resolution to Establish a Master of Professional Studies Degree in Climate Leadership; 3) the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs' resolution to Approve revisions and Updates to the Virginia Tech Student Code of Conduct and 4) the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies' resolution to Allow Administrative Resolution to First Time Honor Code Cases.

b. **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE):** Mike Gutter discussed the integrated grant competition awards with \$1.4 million in projects funded. The competition has opened up to Principal Investigators (PI) beyond the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The summary included congressional visits in Washington D.C.; planning district visits May 19, May 25 and August 14; summit lead by Abigail Spanberger; agriculture and youth programs; collaborations with Susan Johnstad of the Virginia Tech Richmond Center; Virginia State University (VSU) partnerships and working with Robert Corelli, Interim Dean at VSU, as well as Janine Woods, Associate Administrator Cooperative

Extension, VSU. Mike indicated there are some pilot programs VCE is working on and will have more at the next meeting.

- c. **Engagement Leadership Council:** No new meetings since last meeting.
- d. **University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA):** Farida Jalalzai reported on the UCIA meeting on March 27, 2023. Updates included ways to better enhance/promote global work; the International Education Week standing committee to be formed from UCIA; the Global VT website and ways to report on international activities in a central way. Discussion included the Global Data App and University Commons has some components of international activities, and the web site would be different from those resources. UCIA members discussed mechanisms to get information; Amanda Broome would be a point of contact to request updated information a couple of times throughout the year to the Associate Deans; discussions are continuing. Other items discussed at the UCIA meeting included a University Global Newsletter to highlight international news; seeking feedback on content and the frequency of the newsletter. Mallory Miller gave a presentation on the UN SDG impact and University rankings to include data collected and ways to tag and link the SDGs. Richard Shryock commented on the emphasis of communication and creation of new initiatives; Farida indicated there are working groups looking to add new strategies including more information on global at home.

4. **Update on Global Strategy Working Group:** Guru Ghosh gave an update of the Global Strategy Working Group; which President Sands charged Guru and Dan Sui to assemble a committee. A report is expected to be submitted by the end of the fiscal year. There are ten (10) principal areas that are being looked at for the report:

1. Global Research
2. Global Advancement
3. Global Recruitment (Graduate, Undergraduate, ESL)
4. Global Education (Experiential education: study abroad, internships, service learning, etc.)
5. Global Strategic Services (immersion, foreign student advising, faculty immigration services, MOU development for global partnerships)
6. Global faculty development & leadership
7. Globalizing the curriculum and campus experience
8. Campus & student life (community building)
9. Global Infrastructure & financial strategy (resource development, structure, policies and procedures)
10. New Initiatives/Areas/Stretch Goals (data analytics, Cyber, Global Health/Infectious diseases, etc.)

Several members of the working group have visited academic leadership meetings; sending faculty commissions, Executive Council for Department Heads, graduate and undergraduate international student boards and other groups across campus. The working group members have very diverse experiences and will be including aspects in the report. Reports from areas around the University are currently being received; COIA membership has previously been asked to provide information; Guru reiterated the members to submit any written reports to Don Hempson, Dan Sui or Guru with regard to information for the report. The UN SDGs will be included in the report as well as information regarding Land Grant Institutions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Don Hempson also included members of the working group attended a couple of Research Innovative Council constituency group meetings;

Guru added Tom Archibald of the Center for International Development, Education and Research (CIRED) is putting together a survey to solicit feedback for the report.

Questions included the type of feedback; the response was any content pertaining to the 10 areas included above, or additional topics that may not be addressed. Richard reported the discussion with the Foreign Languages department and indicated Guru will be receiving an email with content as a result of that meeting. Guru discussed the advances that have been made over the 15+ years, but indicated there is still work to be done; describing a culture of continuous improvement. Discussion included advisors with a pathway to graduation and the lack of opportunity to explore electives. Referring to the Global at Home reality; suggesting not to lose sight of the work that needs to be done and student work that needs to be done to become globally literate prior to graduation. Work needs to be done to the financial structures and advising centers to promote the pathways to graduation and to include students and Study Abroad to move forward; to include promotion from University leadership. The messaging during orientation and advising needs to be positive and not to discourage exploration beyond requirements in order to allow growth as professionals and scholars.

Jan Helge discussed his previous experience in building a curriculum to include the requirements of a Mechanical Engineering Bachelor's degree that included a German Degree with no A/P credits and not electives accomplished in a four (4) year period. Richard commented the need to build in mechanisms to reward faculty and have more departments participate in projects. Discussions included too little electives in the undergraduate curriculum and addressing access and affordability. There are several factors including degree requirements preventing students from graduating. Penny Muelenaer discussed the medical school rotations abroad currently in more developed cities; but suggested rotations in less developed places to include Malawi. In order to accomplish abroad rotations, oversight and supervisors from faculty would need to be financially realized. Guru spoke of the Dean of Vet Med and health partnerships abroad; David Trinkle's trip to India; multiple colleges' working in Malawi; as well as Kathy Alexander's work in Botswana. The hope is to transform medical education; and for folks to share their ideas for the report.

5. **Call for Announcements/Commission Board Member Comments:** The call for announcements and comments was made; there were no announcement or comments.
6. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made; all were in favor; the meeting ended at 4:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be **May 4, 2023 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.; 120 Gateway/Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

**PROPOSED DATES FOR 2023-2024** (Meetings 3:30-4:30 p.m. unless indicated otherwise)

September 21 (Orientation-3:00-3:30 p.m.)  
September 21 (Regular Mtg-3:30-4:30 p.m.)  
October 19, 2023  
November 16, 2023  
December 7, 2023

**NO JANUARY MEETING**  
February 15, 2024  
March 21, 2024  
April 18, 2024  
May 2, 2024