

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

May 4, 2023; 3:30-4:30 p.m.
120 Gateway/Zoom

Attendance (in person): Jessica Agnew, Guru Ghosh, Farida Jalalzai, Megan Seibel, Susan Short

Attendance (via Zoom): Jan Helge Bøhn (Presiding), Dave Close, Ben Grove (for Mike Gutter), Kristin Lamoureux, Penny Muelenaer, Peter Schmitthenner, Richard Shryock,

Absent with Notice: Francisco Carvallo, Terry Clements, Mike Gutter, Don Hempson, Robert Oliver, Angela Scarpa, Bonnie Zare

Absent: Sameen Hanan, Paul Knox, Kenner Love, Carlos Saint-Preux

Guests: Kathy Hager, Rich Mathieson

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

1. **Adoption of Agenda:** The Agenda was presented; there were no changes; all were in favor with no opposition; the Agenda was adopted.

2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, April 20, 2023:** Minutes from the April 20, 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:** The University Council met on May 1, 2023. Jan Helge discussed the second reading and approval of the following resolutions: 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. Resolutions that were presented with first readings and second readings waived due to the end of the academic year included: 1) Major in Nutrition; 2) Major in Dietetics; 3) B.S. in Human Nutrition, Food and Exercise; and Technology Education resolution for a B.S. in Secondary Education.

b. **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE):** Ben Grove gave the report for VCE: VCE is preparing for their summer residential camping season, which begins June 4 and ends August 19. Camps will be held at their six 4-H educational centers (located in Abingdon, Appomattox/Holiday Lake, Front Royal, Jamestown, Wakefield, and Wirtz/Smith Mountain Lake), and they anticipate more than 10,000 youth will participate. The 4-H Centers have a variety of conferencing, meeting, and accommodation spaces and are available for year-round programming.

4-H Virtual Forest is an interactive, web-based learning experience that supports Virginia Standards of Learning and introduces forest management concepts to youth aged 9 through 13. The 4-H Virtual Forest website <http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/virtualforest> covers land-use management, renewable resources, photosynthesis, tree identification, old-field succession, tree measurements, and timber harvesting. The site was launched in the early 2000's and hosted more than 419,000 visits more than 9,100 hosts in one review year, with traffic from around the world. An effort is underway to migrate 4-H Virtual Forest to a new software platform and re-launch the program later this year.

A new funded partnership between the Virginia Tech Autism Clinic, the Center for Autism Research, the Center for Rural Education, and Virginia Cooperative Extension will create and test the feasibility of a model for autism service provision within an academic-community partnership that leverages telehealth and mobile services to increase professional capacity through school-based autism assessments and educator training on autism identification and intervention. Partnering with university-based ASD experts, including graduate students, to empower rural schools to better meet the needs of children with ASD and their families will strengthen Extension's presence as a community resource for comprehensive health, wellness and empowerment. The project will bring the VT Mobile Autism Clinic and a post-doc to Dickenson County to support the project. The project is funded by a private foundation (the Rapha Foundation), a CALS integrated programming grant, VCE, and the Commonwealth Autism Human Services.

- c. **Engagement Leadership Council:** The next meeting will be held on June 1, 2023. Susan Short summarized items for the June meeting that included the Carnegie reclassification which will be completed by December 2025. The Steering Committee will be formed by September 2023 to include a cross-section of members. A Graduate Certificate Program for Community Engagement for Faculty, Graduates and Undergraduates is being developed; meetings with Diane Doberneck, Director for Faculty and Professional Development, Office for Public Engagement and Scholarship, University Outreach and Engagement at Michigan State University have taken place. The goal is to have transcriptable credentials on one's transcript. Information at the June 1 meeting is to include the credential process.
- d. **University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA):** Farida Jalalzai reported on the UCIA meeting from April 24, 2023. Updates included the Global at Home working group developing a badge/pathway for a structured avenue toward global learning and international experiences. Some of the other working groups did not get an opportunity to meet much the past year, and hope that the Advancement/Alumni group can have input in the global strategic working group. The MOU working group had many organizational changes in International Support Services; including a name change to Global Strategic Services (GSS) as well as turnover in personnel which has affected the flow of visa processing. A search is currently underway for a Director of GSS. The proposal for a standing committee to include members from UCIA to serve on the planning committee for International Education Week was approved; and members should

be selected and assembled soon to begin planning. If anyone from COIA may be interested, or knows of faculty/staff that may be interested, please email Farida. Farida also mentioned that with Amanda Broome's International Newsletter, the hope is to bring more attention to global projects to the community. The Global website was also discussed, with difficulty in maintenance and obtaining general information. Ben asked if Faculty and Staff might be eligible for the Badge program, Farida was going to check. Jessica Agnew indicated navigation of the website was going to be important; and a searchable database would be appreciated.

Discussion included the Global Strategy Working Group. Guru Ghosh indicated a taskforce met and development of a survey will be going out. The hope is for the survey to go out next week to stay open for a couple of weeks to gather data. A meeting with the department of Foreign Languages is to occur tomorrow; further discussions with the Provost and research for the best presentation without causing concerns with colleges/departments. Guru hopes the white paper will move the broader agenda of the University. Farida asked if this would trigger the Global Plan. Guru responded that recommendations will include resources for the University to review/catalyze faculty involvement/research focus to base on current talents. The best way to move the needle for faculty would be to incentivize faculty who are working on global activities; and optimize efficiency while not creating duplication of efforts.

4. Call for Announcements/Commission Board Member Comments: The call for announcements and comments was made. Megan Siebel announced that the Center for Cooperative Problem Solving is offering a 2-week practitioners' course on problem solving and the way we look at norms. Individuals from Finland, Italy and the United Kingdom will participate in the course via Zoom. Kimberly Rhodes thanked Jan Helge for his leadership as Chair of COIA this Academic Year.

5. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting ended at 4:13 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be **September 21, 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