

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

September 21, 2023; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

120 Gateway/Zoom

Attendance (in person): Dave Close (Presiding), Jennifer Nardine

Attendance (via Zoom): Jan Helge Bøhn, Francisco Carvallo, Mike Gutter, Paul Knox, Kristin Lamoureux, Charles Lowery, Lauren Maghak, Penny Muelenaer, Martin Ochoa, Katalin Parti, Lynn Resler, Angela Scarpa, Megan Seibel, Richard Shryock

Absent with Notice: Guru Ghosh, Susan Short

Absent: Terry Clements, Kenner Love

Guests: France Belanger, April Goode, Kathy Hager, Rich Mathieson, April Myers, Menah Pratt, Lauren Pollard

Welcome and Self-Introductions: The meeting was called to order 3:33 p.m. Dave Close welcomed the group. Quorum was established, self-introductions were made.

- 1. Adoption of Agenda:** The call for adoption of the Agenda was made; Jennifer Nardine made the motion to adopt the agenda; Richard Shryock and Kristen Lamoureux seconded; all were in favor with no opposition; the Agenda was adopted.
- 2. Announcement of Approval of Minutes, May 4, 2023:** Minutes from the May 4, 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. Election of Vice-Chair:** Dave announced that he had received a nomination for Vice-Chair for COIA and asked if there were any further nominations. Francisco Carvallo was nominated for the Vice-Chair position; there was no opposition; all were in favor; Francisco was named Vice-Chair of COIA.
- 4. Beyond Boundaries Vision Discussion:** France Belanger presented a PowerPoint slide presentation updating the Beyond Boundaries Vision (**see attached**). In addition to the slide presentation, members were sent a summary of the work Beyond Boundaries has been involved in and future direction (**see attached**). France also provided a handout to in-person members (**see attached**). Discussion included the VT-Shaped student; collaborations; principles and strategies of the Beyond Boundaries Vision. Some of the areas that came out of the work includes Destination Areas; Inclusive VT and Bridge Experiences. All have a role to help with changes and how interaction occurs across the Virginia Tech community, local community and global community. Discussion included artificial intelligence and the rapid advancement of technologies; as well as the cost of in-person education and the tools needed to support education. Education needs to be fair and accessible; and what will the future look at 2047 or 2050. Members were asked to articulate some of the words they felt were important to include: versatile; nimble; being more to all; accessibility; increased access; reaching beyond; giving communities a voice; being more inclusive; awareness of environmental and social impacts; open to other education; recognizing the wants of others; reaching others; empathy; humility; willingness to learn from others; preparing students to teach across linguistic and other boundaries as well as cross-cultural work; integrating expectations; opening doors and supporting students.

France asked the group what does a global land-grant university mean. Some members discussed different ideas that included trans-disciplinary ways; working cross-culturally; relationships with organizations and institutions both locally and abroad; lifting up the brand and name of Virginia Tech globally; using tools and convening various groups to talk about facilitating access across education; assisting marginalized populations; community connections and that a global land-grant university means different things to different people. Members suggested a look back at historical events that were successful for Virginia Tech and use that knowledge to shape the future.

5. Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes:

- a. **Chairman's Report:** Dave discussed the University Council meeting from September 18, 2023 which included the Commission Chair Goals. Dave outlined the goals for COIA (**see attached**). He also talked about having guest speakers at meetings; and if there are suggestions of speakers to come and speak to COIA to please either email him or Kim Rhodes.
- b. **Engagement Leadership Council:** Due to time, Kim Rhodes gave a brief update of the Engagement Leadership Council meetings from June 1 and September 7, 2023. The summary included: The Engagement Scholarship Consortium annual conference hosted by Michigan State University on October 4-5; working group for graduate certificate programs; work with the Center for Rural Education; Rural Education Summit; Monuments Across Appalachia; Consumer Product Safety and Cyber Security program certifications; opioid abatement program; Autism Center Rural Autism project; STEM computing conference in Ghana; cemetery task force at the Reynolds Homestead. Kim announced more detailed highlights can be found on the Engagement Leadership Council website: <https://www.outreach.vt.edu/about/commissions-committees/elc.html>.
- c. **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE):** Mike Gutter updated there were some activities on the horizon for VCE and mentioned the support for impact evaluation.
- d. **University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA):** Jennifer Nardine indicated that the first UCIA meeting will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023. She indicated that one of the items that will be discussed will be the need for volunteers for International Education Week; typically held in November.

6. Announcements/Commission Board Member Comments: The call for announcements was made. Rich Mathieson announced Study Abroad Week is next week; the Study Abroad Fair will be held on the Drillfield on Tuesday, September 26; with a rain location of Squires Ballroom.

7. Adjournment: There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Kristin; Lynn seconded; all were in favor; the meeting ended at 4:19 p.m.

The next meeting will be **October 19, 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)

October 19, 2023	February 15, 2024
November 16, 2023	March 21, 2024
December 7, 2023	April 18, 2024
NO JANUARY MEETING	May 2, 2024

VT Beyond Boundary: A Revision to the 2047 Vision

Beyond Boundaries 2047 Vision

- 2016 Report, <https://beyondboundaries.vt.edu/assets/visioning-document.pdf>
 - Two goals:
 1. be a truly global land-grant university
 2. address challenges and opportunities from changing landscape of higher education
 - Three discovery-themed concepts:
 - VT-Shaped Discovery, Communities of Discovery, Nexus of Discovery
 - Four principles
 - 10 strategic “Future Directions”:
 - (e.g., VT-shaped people, partnerships, new funding models, diverse partnerships, innovation, etc.)
 - Led to Destination Areas, InclusiveVT, bridge experiences, and others

Why Update (not rewrite) the 2047 Vision?

ENVISIONING VIRGINIA TECH

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

A 2047 Vision

A framework prepared by Beyond Boundaries participants

- World changes:
 - pandemic, heightened societal & political polarization, affordability crisis, public loss of confidence in higher education, mental health, increased value of experiential learning, concerns over the looming "enrollment cliff"
- Co-chairs:
 - Julia Ross (Dean, Engineering), Sylvester Johnson (Dir. Center for Humanities, CLAHS), France Bélanger (UDP, PCOB)

What We Have Found To Date?

- University leadership retreat 05-23 + stakeholders
- Given the already occurring changes in higher education...
 - Rapid advancement and ethical considerations of AI
 - Exponential increase in the costs of in-person education
 - Increased need for different modalities of learning
 - Importance of ensuring education is fair, accessible and diverse
- A vision for 2047 is a university described using words like “agile”, “responsive,” and “adaptive”.

Questions for You:

From your perspective...

1. When you think of an agile university, what comes to mind?
2. What other characteristics might be needed for our vision of a university in 2050 (2047)?

Thank You!
belanger@vt.edu

Revisiting the Beyond Boundaries Vision

Earlier this year, President Sands engaged the Beyond Boundaries Co-Chairs, Julie Ross, France Belanger, and Sylvester Johnson to revisit the Beyond Boundaries 2047 vision and identify potential opportunities for realignment to the realities of the world and current strategic initiatives of Virginia Tech. Below you will find a summary of key themes and goals from the original document.

Key Themes from Envisioning Beyond Boundaries: A 2047 Vision (as completed during the 2015-2016 academic year, full text available at this [link](#)).

Context:

- Beyond Boundaries: A 2047 Vision offers a framework for the future as we look ahead to the 175th anniversary of Virginia Tech.
- In August 2015, President Tim Sands challenged the university community to envision Virginia Tech a generation into the future without the confines of today.
- The Envisioning Beyond Boundaries: A 2047 Vision paper represents the work of thought leaders from across the university, and is just the beginning of an ongoing dialogue and new understanding of the university's future in a changing landscape.
- It is important to consider this work alongside the many existing initiatives and efforts underway at Virginia Tech. The Beyond Boundaries process has specific ties to InclusiveVT, Destination Areas, and the university strategic plan. These efforts are inextricably linked.
- The success of this vision is dependent on the university community working together to challenge aspects of our current environment and refine and implement emerging initiatives.
- As students and university alike come to recognize the energizing power of Virginia Tech's motto, *Ut Prosim*, we envision a time when the full impact of the land-grant promise informs and drives the undergraduate experience as well as the rest of the enterprise.

The Beyond Boundaries framework for the future revolves around three central discovery-themed concepts: "VT-Shaped Discovery," "Communities of Discovery," and "Nexus of Discovery."

- VT-Shaped Discovery will build from and fully integrates the outreach and service missions of the university. VT-shaped learners will benefit from deep disciplinary understandings, cross-cutting partnerships, and broad interpersonal and communications skill development.
- Communities of Discovery will have experiential learning and applied research competencies at their core, and the communities themselves will include broad-based partnerships between the university and industry, nongovernmental, and governmental actors.
- The Nexus of Discovery approach will integrate disciplinary excellence and complex societal problem spaces, as seen in the recently launched "Destination Areas."

The Beyond Boundaries thematic groups were tasked with creating a future vision for Virginia Tech that would prepare the university for two related goals:

- Advance as an internationally recognized, global land-grant university

- Strategically address the challenges and opportunities presented by the changing landscape of higher education

Four principles would remain critical to the university in the future:

- Academic Excellence, World-Class Research, and *Ut Prosim*: Virginia Tech must reaffirm and enhance its commitment to integrating its threefold mission of teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and engagement.
- Engaging the Whole Person: Virginia Tech has a responsibility not only to educate through hands-on, minds-on learning, but also to create a diverse and inclusive environment that is person-centered.
- Innovation: Through flexibility and continuous improvement, Virginia Tech will foster an environment of creativity and connectivity among all students, faculty, and staff—an environment that is easy to adapt in response to a changing landscape of higher education and societal trends.
- Affordability and Accessibility: As a global land-grant university, Virginia Tech must be within reach financially for everyone—regardless of income, gender, race, or identity—who wishes to pursue academic excellence, world-class research, and service to the world.

Ten future directions:

1. Advance academic excellence to differentiate the Virginia Tech experience, and deepen the university's value to the commonwealth, nation, and the world.
2. Foster VT-shaped people who prioritize purpose-driven engagement with a combination of disciplinary depth and interdisciplinary capacities.
3. Offer flexible and personalized degrees to support increasing interest in and demand for interdisciplinary work.
4. Become a problem-situated, distributed institution that tackles natural, interrelated, global problems.
5. Integrate the tripartite land-grant mission so that graduate and undergraduate students engage in meaningful research, work, and learning experiences.
6. Cultivate global citizens by enhancing international engagement on our existing campuses and viewing the world as our extended campus.
7. Nurture diverse partnerships in ways that allow Virginia Tech to invest in new initiatives, leverage resources, and "project" core competencies.
8. Grow infrastructure with a networked and nimble approach that integrates future physical and technological demands.
9. Adopt reflexivity and evaluation to become a true learning organization that continuously and rigorously innovates, evaluates, and improves.
10. Develop new and varied funding models to offset the public disinvestment in higher education and to make investments in new initiatives.

Beyond Boundaries Refresh Engagement Session Discussion Questions:

When we think about a university in 2050 and the changes we are already seeing within the higher education landscape, the Beyond Boundaries Co-Chairs envision several key considerations for higher education in the future. These include:

- the rapid advancement and ethical considerations of AI
- the exponential increase in the costs of in-person education
- the increased need for different modalities of learning
- the importance of ensuring education is fair, accessible and diverse.

As part of addressing these key considerations, we envision a university described using words like “agile”, “responsive,” and “adaptive”.

- From your perspective, what other components might be missing from this vision for a university in 2050?
- When you think of an agile university, what comes to mind?



Draft Summary of Key Themes from Envisioning Beyond Boundaries: A 2047 Vision
(<https://beyondboundaries.vt.edu/assets/visioning-document-print.pdf>)

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2023-24 Proposed Goals	Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
Goal 1	Work collaboratively with the taskforce on the Global Strategic Plan.
Goal 2	Identify and promote additional scholarships or funding opportunities for student study abroad opportunities.
Goal 3	Create an international alumni database for the purpose of friendraising and securing financial support for international experiences.
Goal 4	
Goal 5	