

## COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Minutes

May 2, 2024; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

120 Gateway/ZOOM

**Attendance (in person):** Dave Close (Presiding), Guru Ghosh, Mike Gutter, Penny Muelenaer, Megan Seibel, Susan Short

**Attendance (via Zoom):** Jan Helge Bøhn, Charles Lowery, Lauren Maghak, Lynn Resler, Richard Shryock

**Absent with Notice:** Francisco Carvallo, Paul Knox, Kristin Lamoureux, Jennifer Nardine, Katalin Parti, Angela Scarpa

**Absent without Notice:** Terry Clements, Kenner Love, Martin Ochoa, Judy Taylor

**Guests:** Ben Grove, Kathy Hager

**Welcome and Self-Introductions:** The meeting was called to order 3:31 p.m. Dave Close welcomed the group. Self-introductions were made; quorum was not met.

1. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, April 18, 2024:** Minutes from the April 18, 2024 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/>).
2. **VCE as a Statewide Engagement Partner:** Mike Gutter presented slides (**ATTACHMENT A**). The presentation included extension crossing many disciplines and encompassing many different subjects/areas across campus; the future of extension going forward; discussion of the future footprint; and the many collaborations across campus, the Commonwealth and beyond with other land grant institutions and global partners.
3. **Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes:**
  - A. **Chairman's Report:** Dave gave the update on the University Council meeting of April 22, 2024. The Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs Resolution CGPSA 2023-24A Resolution to Protect Against Caste and Caste-Based Discrimination second reading was deferred to May 6, 2024. New business included the Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution CFA 2023-24D to Amend Article IV and Clarify Sections of the Faculty Senate Constitution; Resolution CFA 2023-24E to Endorse the Statement on the Responsible Use of Research Metrics at the University Level; Resolution CFA 2023-24F to Revise Faculty handbook Language on Nominations to University Distinguished Professor and Alumni Distinguished Professor; and Resolution CFA 2023-24G to Update the faculty Handbook Description of Expectations for Promotion and Tenure.
  - B. **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE):** Mike Gutter did not have an update this meeting.
  - C. **University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA):** Kimberly Rhodes reported on the UCIA meeting from April 22, 2024 which included: election of Chair for International Education Week, Rachel Fitzgerald; presentation on Internationalization at Home Working Group and Badge Program; Global Website Update.
  - D. **Engagement Leadership Council:** Susan Short announced that the next meeting will occur on June 6, 2024.
  - E. **Announcements/Commission Board Member Comments:** The call for announcements and comments was made. Susan reminded members of the email requesting input for the Carnegie Reclassification that was sent on May 1, 2024 with a May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Kim Rhodes thanked Dave for his leadership in Chairing the Commission this year. Guru Ghosh thanked Mike for his presentation and reflected on the challenges of the Commonwealth and the nation; uplifting the need for a STEM-ready workforce and the decline of foreign language learning. He indicated communities are struggling with global competitiveness, and asked how to position the University to prepare for the decline of STEM/globalization and the need to grow talent.

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

The next meeting will be **September 19, 2024 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.; 120 Gateway/Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

**TENTATIVE MEETING DATES FOR 2024-2025** (All meetings will take place at either 120 Gateway Center-902 Prices Fork or Zoom)

- September 19, 2024 3:00-3:30 p.m.-ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS
- September 19, 2024 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- October 17, 2024 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- November 21, 2024 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- December 5, 2024 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**NO JANUARY MEETING**

- February 20, 2025 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- March 20, 2025 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- April 17, 2025 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- May 1, 2025 3:30-4:30 p.m.



Learning From the Past, Helping the Present,  
Planning for the Future

# What do we aspire to be?

- The go-to academic based organization that provides trusted solutions for the commonwealth's producers, landowners, leaders, communities, and families.
- The community participatory project partner for the campus to conduct Land Grant Engagement across the Commonwealth

★ **Land Grant Universities**  
Virginia Tech & Virginia State University

▲ **District Offices**

● **Unit Offices**

⬢ **Agricultural Research & Extension Centers (ARECs)**

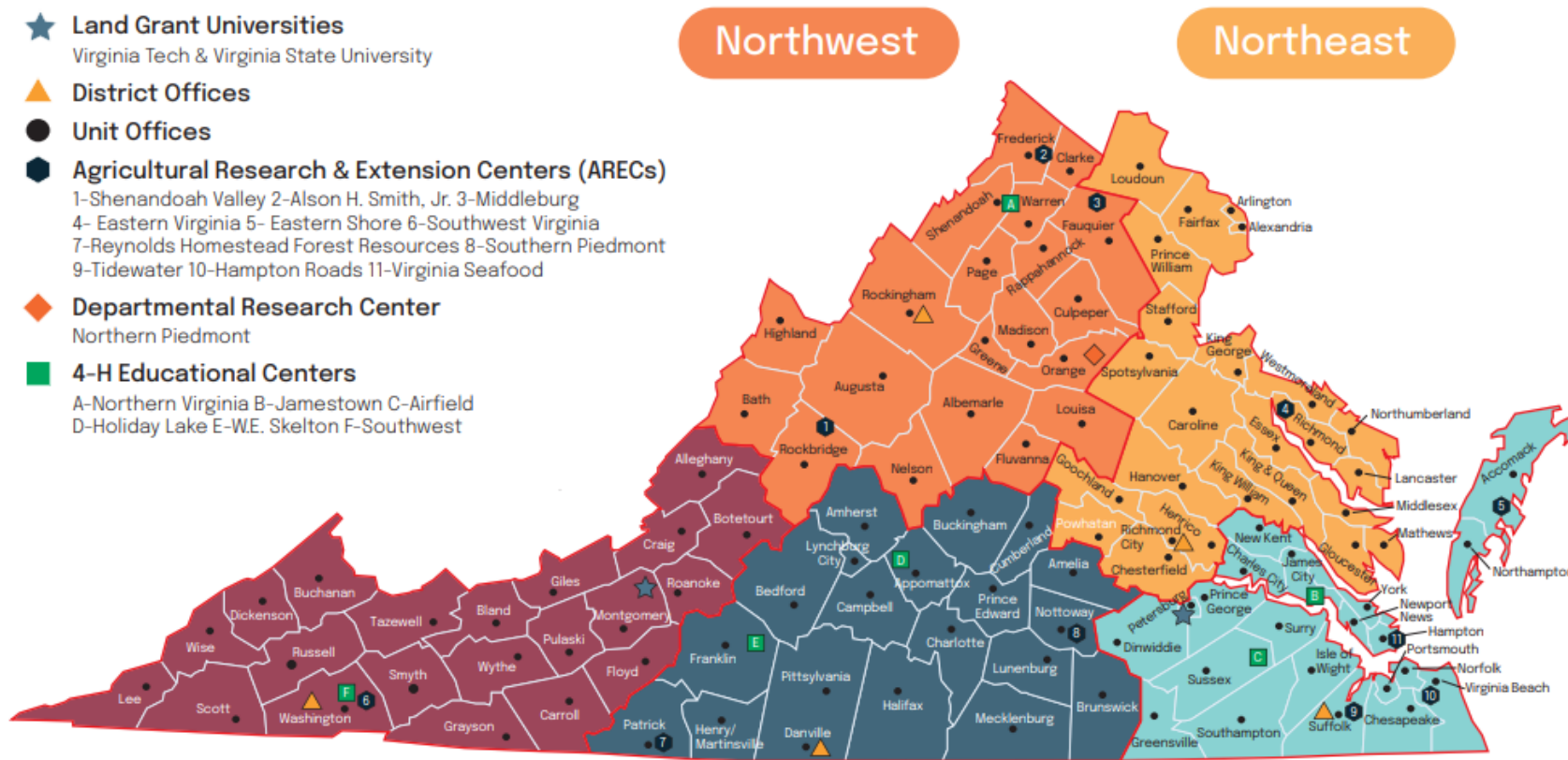
1-Shenandoah Valley 2-Alson H. Smith, Jr. 3-Middleburg  
4- Eastern Virginia 5- Eastern Shore 6-Southwest Virginia  
7-Reynolds Homestead Forest Resources 8-Southern Piedmont  
9-Tidewater 10-Hampton Roads 11-Virginia Seafood

◆ **Departmental Research Center**

Northern Piedmont

■ **4-H Educational Centers**

A-Northern Virginia B-Jamestown C-Airfield  
D-Holiday Lake E-W.E. Skelton F-Southwest



Southwest

Central

Southeast

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VCE/0122/VCE-1092

# Program teams

- **4-H Positive Youth Development**
- **Agribusiness Management and Economics**
- Agronomy and Horticulture
- Animal Production
- **Community, Leadership, and Civic Engagement**
- Community, Local, and Regional Food Systems
- Emerging Pests and Pesticide Management
- **Family and Community Economics**
- Farm to School
- **Healthy People, Healthy Communities**
- Human Development
- Natural Resources, Environmental, and Agricultural Literacy Education
- Natural Resources Management
- Safe, High Quality Food from Field to Table

# Discussion Points

- Engaged Extension
  - Internally
  - Externally
- Partnerships and systems thinking
  - What is our role in solving challenges, who are our partners?
- Measuring our impact and telling our story
  - What we do and WHY it matters!!!
  - Recent investments in this
- Synergy between the three missions of VT and CALS
  - Best projects are ones where research and extension are working in concert with each other

# Extension Over the Next 50 Years

- Campus Land Grant Engagement: Addressing issues of tomorrow in systemic approaches
- Seen as partner for community participatory programs and research for the whole campus
- Continue to bridge the divide between tech and in person delivery with more seamless integration
- Powered by AI and continued research, improved decision tools disseminated through local and virtual options
- Finds a nimble footing to be what urban, suburban, rural uniquely need from us
- Our work is well documented with proven success



# On Our Horizon

- Working toward the shared goal of helping Virginia Agriculture be a leader in innovative agriculture
  - Extension can help by working locally to bring relevant and sometimes incremental innovations for where people are today
- Working to build our capacity to support community development around these opportunities
  - Community economic development cohort
- **Planned Impacts** of this support layer to help our existing unit faculty and local partners
  - Market planning for producers
  - Grant collaboration with local partners including grant writing
  - This requires an Innovation Cohort with additional specializations
  - A support layer to help our existing unit faculty meet this opportunity
  - Increase responsiveness to local needs
  - Further improve the time between discovery and dissemination
  - Improve external funding for Extension
  - Improve opportunity in rural communities
  - Further the prevalence of Urban Agriculture

# What can it look like?

- Connecting researchers and programs with their communities
  - Applied projects
  - Learning systems
  - Unique data
  - Grant competitive advantages
- In other states this has led
  - New initiatives in rural health
  - Workforce projects
  - Literacy, STEM, and other youth projects
  - Rural community vitality
  - Shared positions
  - 2022 American Medical Colleges Award for Building Public Trust
  - Recruitment for freshman and transfers

# What does Land Grant Engagement Mean

And how does this add value to our campus's goals and aspirations ?

How will *what* we teach  
change?

How will *how* we teach  
change?