

MINUTES

Commission on Outreach and International Affairs

October 16, 2025

3:30-4:30 p.m.

ZOOM ONLY

Attendance (via Zoom): Jennifer Clevenger (presiding), Diana Bairakatova, Francisco Carvallo, Carol Cash, Mike Gutter, Carol Haynes, Penny Muelenaer, Elsie Paredes, Lynn Resler, Kovid Sharma, Richard Shryock, Aimeé Surprenant, Susan Whitehead

Absent with Notice: Guru Ghosh, Charles Lowery, Susan Short, Amanda Stewart

Absent: Eric Bendfelt, Abigail Moore, Chizoba Obunadike

Guests: Rich Mathieson, April Myers

Welcome and Self-Introductions: The meeting was called to order 3:34 p.m. Jennifer Clevenger welcomed the group. Self-introductions were made; written and visual attendance was taken, and quorum was established. Jennifer discussed the goals for COIA this year.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Jennifer asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, Carol Cash moved to adopt the agenda; Penny Muelenaer seconded; there was no opposition or abstention; the agenda was adopted as presented.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 18, 2025

Jennifer noted that the minutes of the September 18, 2025, meeting were sent out electronically for edits and are currently in progress. All were encouraged to vote, and reminded members that an absence of response indicates approval. Once the deadline for edits passes, they will be finalized and be sent to the Governance Information System for University Council acceptance; and will be found on the web after acceptance at: (<http://www.governance.vt.edu/>)

3. Election of Vice-Chair

Jennifer announced that Penny Muelenaer volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair for COIA and will serve as Chair for next year.

4. Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes:

A. Chairman's Report on University Council meetings of October 6, 2025:

Jennifer indicated that the Agenda included discussion of actions taken under exigent circumstances in relation to the federal executive guidance related to DEI from the White House and agencies. As a result, there are several requirements and programs that were detailed including the Graduate School, Pathways, and academic projects that may be impacted. University Council

minutes will be posted on the University Council website at: <https://governance.vt.edu/BodyDetails/UC>.

- B. University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA):** Elsie Paredes, gave a brief update from the September 22, 2025, meeting which included the call for a UCIA Vice-Chair, discussion of subcommittees and membership, enrollment, visa fees and regulations and international education week planning.
- C. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE):** Mike Gutter updated members regarding the launching of the 10-year strategic plan, Brian Bond's leadership role in CNRE and work with Mary Hosig, documentation of economic impact across the Commonwealth and the October 15th VCE and partners event that include 726,631 participants in many different programs. Mike offered to have VCE's strategic plan sent out by Kimberly Rhodes via email to members of the commission.

5. Announcements

Jennifer projected the 4 goals of COIA for this year. Discussions included the Language Culture Institute and credentialing as well as a university-wide definition for engagement. The Engagement Leadership Council has asked COIA to come up with a definition. The goals will be sent out by Jennifer with a call for volunteers for the 4 goal areas. Jennifer indicated she hopes to have some guest speakers at the November 20th meeting. There was a discussion about the new Provost and if goals may change; it was indicated that the goals could be worked on to be presented at the beginning of next semester if the commission believes additional goals may need to be realized.

6. Adjournment

Jennifer asked for a call for a motion to adjourn; Susan Whitehead made the motion to adjourn, Penny seconded; there was no opposition; the meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m. A reminder that the next meeting will be held November 20, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2025-2026: (3:30-4:30 p.m.-120 Gateway Center-902 Prices Fork or Zoom)

- November 20, 2025
- December 4, 2025
- NO JANUARY MEETING
- February 19, 2026
- March 19, 2026
- April 16, 2026
- May 7, 2026