

## MINUTES

**Commission on Outreach and International Affairs  
December 4, 2025  
3:30-4:30 p.m.  
120 Gateway Center (902 Prices Fork Road)/Zoom**

**Present:** Jennifer Clevenger (presiding), Penelope Muelenaer, Susan Whitehead **Zoom:** Eric Bendfeldt, Carol Cash, Mike Gutter, Jennifer Nardine (for Elsie Paredes), Chizoba Obunadike, Lynn Resler, Kovid Sharma, Susan Short, Richard Shryock

**Absent with Notice:** Fransico Carvallo, Guru Ghosh, Carol Haynes, Charles Lowery, Elsie Paredes, Aimée Surprenant

**Absent:** Diana Bairaktarova, Abigail Moore, Amanda Stewart

**Guests:** Rich Mathieson, April Myers

Jennifer Clevenger called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. Visual attendance was taken; a quorum was established.

### 1. Adoption of Agenda

The call was made to adopt the Agenda, a motion was made by Susan Whitehead and seconded by Richard Shryock to adopt the agenda. There was no discussion or dissent, all were in favor, the motion carried.

### 2. Announcement of approval and posting of November 20, 2025 minutes

Jennifer C. noted that the minutes from November 20, 2025 have been voted on electronically and were submitted to University Governance and will be publicly accessed on the Governance Website once accepted by University Council: [governance.vt.edu](https://governance.vt.edu).

### 3. Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes

- **University Council Report from December 1, 2025:** Jennifer C. noted that the resolution from the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies to modify the withdrawal policy in the graduate catalog was presented for second reading, voted on and passed. New business included the Commission on Faculty Affairs presenting the resolution to revise the faculty handbook section on appeal of probationary non-reappointment decision; and the resolution to revise the formal grievance procedure in the faculty handbook. Approved minutes can be found at [governance.vt.edu](https://governance.vt.edu).
- **Engagement Leadership Council (ELC):** The December 4, 2025 ELC highlights included reflections of the success of the 2025 Engagement Scholarship Consortium where over 700 participants attended. This was the largest participation in the 25-year history with 95 Universities represented. Conversations included establishing a community of practice around engagement and the Carnegie application process. The latest edition of the VT Engagement Newsletter recently went out, if you are not subscribed to receive the newsletter in your In-Box, contact Diane Deffenbaugh ([dideff@vt.edu](mailto:dideff@vt.edu)). COIA's goal of creating a university-wide definition of engagement as well as exploring other university best practices were discussed as

well as a hub and spoke model with spokes clearly defining 7-8 areas within the hub. Various updates across campus were given as well as the Blacksburg tree lighting ceremony to be held tomorrow night. Highlights can be found at the [ELC Website](#).

- **Virginia Cooperative Extension:** Mike Gutter gave an update that the 10-year Strategic Vision was released, engagement with OIA, engagement, campus and various stakeholders continues. An Extension Advisor Council will be formed and include discussions surrounding food access. Work within this council will begin in January. Although the Federal SNAP program ended, VCE was able to use carryover to extend the program across the Commonwealth of Virginia into 2026.

#### **4. Call for Announcements/Commission Member Comments**

The call for Announcements/Commission Member Comments was made. Jennifer C. indicated that she met with Shelly Jobst, Director of Continuing and Professional Education (CPE), to discuss one of COIA's goals surrounding certificate programs. Currently CPE creates many programs for groups that include certificate programs. The discussion was to create programs that were open to more of the community (i.e., high school students, college students, and others) that may lead to certificates and possibly master's programs. An analysis of programs would need to be explored to include competitive prices, affordability, career readiness and a market analysis would need to be completed. Shelly is expected to attend the February 19<sup>th</sup> COIA meeting. The survey of the COIA goals/subcommittees are expected to go out by the middle of next week for members to sign up to serve.

#### **5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Richard; Susan W. seconded; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.