

MINUTES

**Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
February 19, 2026
3:30-4:30 p.m.
120 Gateway Center (902 Prices Fork Road)/Zoom**

Present: Jennifer Clevenger (presiding via Zoom), Guru Ghosh, Susan Whitehead **Zoom:** Eric Bendfeldt, Fransico Carvallo, Carol Cash, Mike Gutter, Charles Lowery, Penelope Muelenaer, Chizoba Obunadike, Elsie Paredes, Lynn Resler, Nicole Sanderlin (for Diana Bairaktarova), Susan Short, Richard Shryock, Amanda Stewart

Absent with Notice: Diana Bairaktarova, Carol Haynes, Kovid Sharma, Abigail Moore, Aimée Surprenant

Guests: Kathy Hager, Shelly Jobst (Presenter), Rich Mathieson, April Myers

Jennifer Clevenger called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. Visual attendance was taken; a quorum was established.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Richard Shryock and seconded by Carol Cash to adopt the agenda; there was no discussion or dissent, all were in favor; the motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of December 4, 2025

Jennifer noted that the minutes from December 4, 2025 have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed through [University Governance](#).

3. Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes

University Council from February 2 and 16, 2026

Jennifer noted that resolutions from the February 2nd meeting of University Council included second readings and voting for the resolutions from the Commission on Faculty Affairs 1) to revise the faculty handbook section on appeal of probationary non-reappointment decision 2) to revise formal grievance procedure in the faculty handbook which both passed; as well as resolutions for first reading from the Commission on Faculty Affairs to 1) revise the faculty handbook to defer tenure cases with legal entanglements; 2) resolution to explore alternative curricular avenues for graduate education requirements; 3) Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies to explore alternative curricular avenues for graduate education requirements; as well as Commission Chair reports for the upcoming semester. The report for the February 16th meeting of University Council included second readings and voting for the resolutions presented for first reading at the February 2nd meeting as indicated above; all passed and well as new resolutions for first reading from the Commission on Faculty Affairs 1) to revise appeals procedure in the faculty handbook; and from the Commission on Undergraduate studies and policies 2) to revise Policy 6815 Undergraduate Education; and 3) midterm assessment of undergraduate students. Approved minutes can be accessed through [University Governance](#).

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Mike Gutter updated the group regarding agriculture business management; and continuing the SNAP Education Program that was ended by Congress. Retention of some employees and pivot to other projects was realized as well as working with food pantries and schools and changing school lunch policies to bring healthy lunches to the schools. A secondary peer review process is being discussed for extension appointments; as well as clearly defining extension specialists. Eric Bendfeldt discussed food and food systems and webinars that have been offered as well as listening sessions and focus group on food systems resilience. An upcoming Food Systems Resilience Summit will be held on Tuesday, April 7th at Blue Ridge Community College in Weir's Cave to look at different elements affecting food system resilience with a final report to be developed as well as distinct, actional strategies to be implemented.

University Committee on International Affairs

The January meeting for UCIA was cancelled.

Engagement Leadership Council

The next meeting will be held on March 5, 2026.

4. Continuing and Professional Education Overview

Shelly Jobst gave a presentation on the overview of Continuing and Professional Education. Highlights included credit by contract partnerships; corporate training/certificate courses; technical assistance programs; academic conferences and bootcamps. Some examples of programs include Verification and Validation, Annual Virginia Tech Income Tax School and Java Essentials Bridge Course. Some examples of the certificate programs include Product Safety Certification Course; Semiconductor Courses; and Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management. Discussion included collaborations with community as well as faculty recruiting.

5. Announcements/Commission Member Comments

- The call for Announcements/Commission Member Comments was made. Penny Muelenaer made the announcement that everyone is welcome to join the Inaugural Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine Global Health Colloquium on Friday, March 6, 2026 from noon-5:00 p.m. [Details and registration link.](#)

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Penny; Richard seconded; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.