

MINUTES

Commission on Outreach and International Affairs

April 16, 2026

3:30-4:30 p.m.

120 Gateway Center (902 Prices Fork Road)/Zoom

Present – Jennifer Clevenger (presiding), Guru Ghosh, Amanda Stewart, Susan Whitehead **Zoom:** Carol Cash, Charles Lowery, Nicole Martin (for Mike Gutter), Penelope Muelenaer, Chizoba Obunadike, Elsie Paredes, Nicole Sanderlin (for Diana Bairaktarova), Susan Short, Richard Shryock, Aimee Surprenant

Absent with Notice: Diana Bairaktarova, Francisco Carvallo, Mike Gutter, Carol Haynes, Lynn Resler

Absent: Eric Bendfeldt, Abbigail Moore, Kovid Sharma

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

The call was made to adopt the Agenda, a motion was made by Susan Whitehead and seconded by Amanda Stewart 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 February 19, 2026.

Jennifer noted that the minutes from February 19, 2026, have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website.

3. Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes

University Council from March 2, March 16, and April 6

Jennifer noted that the report for the March 2nd meeting of University Council included second readings and voting for the resolutions presented for first reading at the February 16th meeting; all passed and well as new resolutions for first reading from the Commission on Faculty Affairs 1) to revise the faculty handbook section on sanctions which proposes revisions to formally establish a process for addressing minor sanctions to create a clearer, more consistent process that incorporates faculty oversight and voice; and from the Commission on Research 2) to revise Research Faculty Non-Professional rank structure in the Faculty Handbook to streamline the research faculty non-professional rank structure to consolidate multiple research ranks into a more efficient and competitive structure that better aligns with practices at peer institutions. The report for the March 16th meeting of University Council included second readings and voting for the resolutions presented for first reading at the March 2nd meeting as indicated above; all passed, no new business was presented. The report for the April 6th meeting of University Council included first readings from 1) Commission on Administrative and Professional Affairs to revise the AP Faculty Senate Constitution to update faculty representation to constituent areas. 2) Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies resolutions 1) to form a working group to review Policy 6210 regarding the management of graduate assistantships and tuition remission 2) replace Presidential Policy Memorandum 232 which governs the deletion of

untaught courses, 3) revise policy on graduate academic appeals, and 4) retire a series of 40 Presidential Policy Memoranda related to graduate education and relocate them within the graduate catalog as the central policy repository. Approved minutes can be found at governance.vt.edu.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Nicole Martin indicated that there were no updates for Virginia Cooperative Extension.

University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA)

The University Committee on International Affairs last met on March 23, 2026. Elsie Paredes reported on the February 23, 2026 and March 23, 2026 UCIA meetings. Updates from both the meetings included reports from the International Student Well-Being, Student and Faculty Immigration Regulations Impact, Study Abroad and International Student Recruitment and Enrollment sub-committees. Elsie noted that at the February 23rd meeting, a new Chair will be needed for the International Education Week Planning Committee. The report for the March 23rd meeting included feedback on the updates to the Study Abroad Policy and a clean copy of the policy would be provided for review and discussion at the April meeting. The next meeting of the University Committee on International Affairs will be on Monday, April 27, 2026.

Engagement Leadership Council (ELC)

The Engagement Leadership Council met on March 26th. Discussion items included: a process/interest in establishing a Community of Practice, ongoing efforts for the university to have a universal definition of community engagement and identifying ways to celebrate and document engagement. The group viewed and discussed portions of an Engagement Scholarship Consortium professional development session focused on developing “A Promotion and Tenure Toolkit for Engaged Universities.” The session was facilitated by Rod Williams, Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement at Texas Tech University. Meeting participants shared updates related to engagement/outreach programs. The next meeting of the Engagement Leadership Council will be Thursday, June 4th at 2 p.m.

4. Considerations for Students with F-1 Visas Pursuing Entrepreneurial Activities

Sean Collins, Director of New Ventures of the Apex Center gave a presentation on the considerations for students with F-1 Visas pursuing entrepreneurial activities. Highlights included: discussion of the Apex Center’s purpose to give as many students as possible a highly curated experience in entrepreneurship while at Virginia Tech with support, what activities are inside/outside the spirit of education and visa requirements, and compensation through stipends and payments. More information about the Apex Center can be found at the [Apex Center for Entrepreneurs Website](#). Specific F-1 visa guidance for experiential entrepreneurship activities can be found on the [F-1 visa guidance for experiential entrepreneurship activities webpage](#).

5. Announcement/Commission Members Comments

The call for Announcements/Commission Member Comments was made. Jennifer announced from Maria Elisa Christie final global development discussion series event on Thursday, April 23, 2026 on Zoom, registration is required; the last meeting will be on May 7, 2026 and she will be chairing the meeting virtually from China.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:33 p.m.