

MINUTES

**Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
May 7, 2026
3:30-4:30 p.m.
120 Gateway Center (902 Prices Fork Road)/Zoom**

Present: Guru Ghosh, Susan Short, Amanda Stewart

Zoom: Jennifer Clevenger (presiding), Eric Bendfeldt, Carol Cash, Charles Lowery, Chizoba Obunadike, Elsie Paredes, Lynn Resler, Richard Shryock, Aimee Surprenant, Susan Whitehead

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

Guests: Kathy Hager, Rich Mathieson, Dee Dee Somervell

Jennifer Clevenger called the meeting to order at 3:34 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 Richard Shryock 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 April 16, 2026 minutes

Jennifer noted that the minutes from April 16, 2026 are currently under review, members have until May 12, 2026 to submit edits. If no edits are received the minutes will be electronically approved and will be submitted to University Governance and will be publicly accessed on the Governance Website once accepted by [University Council](#).

3. Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes

University Council from April 20, and May 4, 2026

Jennifer noted the following items for the April 20 and May 4, 2026 meetings: 1) Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs-Revision to AP Faculty Senate Constitution to Update AP Faculty Representation to Constituent Areas; 2) Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies-a) Resolution to Form a Working Group to Review Policy 6210–Management of Graduate Assistantships and Tuition Remission; b) Resolution to Revise PPM 232; c) Resolution to Revise the Policy on Graduate Academic Appeals; d) Resolution to Retire Presidential Policy Memoranda Regarding Graduate Education and Establish the Graduate Catalog as the Definitive Repository of Official University Policy Governing Graduate Education and Program Specific Requirements. New Business included: Commission on Faculty Affairs-a) Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Expectations Guidelines for Non-Tenure Track Instructional Faculty; b) Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Section on Part-Time Faculty; c) Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Regarding Additional Compensation for Faculty; d) Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Section on Clinical Instructors; Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs-a) Resolution to Update the GPSS Constitution; b) Resolution to Form a Campus Working Group to Study Graduate and Professional Student Utilization of the Student Activity Fee; Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies-a) Resolution to Review Process for Pathways Concept 7; b) Resolution

to Revise the Foreign Language Requirement. For the May 4, 2026 meeting all New Business as listed above was presented for second reading and approval. Approved minutes can be found at [University Governance](#).

Virginia Cooperative Extension

There were no updates for Virginia Cooperative Extension.

University Committee on International Affairs Report from April 27, 2026

Elsie Paredes reported on the April 27, 2026 UCIA meeting. Updates included the committees support for International Student Well-Being, Study Abroad committee update as well as a wage matching program funded by Cranwell and departments that have a need for work in their areas for a support of \$3,000 per student. Immigration uncertainty continues as well as work authorization uncertainty; study abroad trends are being evaluated. International students are not leaving campus to go to their home countries for fear of not being able to return to campus. A potential 5% University budget reduction may have impact on many programs. The request for feedback regarding a new policy for Study Abroad.

Engagement Leadership Council

ELC will next meet on June 4, 2026. Susan Short announced that VCE is adding new personnel and will be sharing some space in the Roanoke Higher Education Center space and is looking forward to welcoming personnel to the space early to mid-summer.

4. Sub-Committee Update

No formal sub-committee updates were given. Jennifer acknowledged that the committee could potentially meet over the summer as well as continuing their work for next academic year.

5. Announcements/Commission Member Comments

- The call for Announcements/Commission Member Comments was made. Guru Ghosh asked if there was a faculty senate representative and if the senate letter regarding the Presidential Search had reached faculty senate. Richard indicated that no responses have not been shared, and that he was unsure of the status. The President of faculty senate, in a meeting 2-3 weeks ago, indicated that the Rector of the Board understands that some items regarding the search may need to be delayed due to the new appointments for the Board of Visitors (BOV); and that the processed should not be rushed. Guru commended Elsie on her report from UCIA and wanted to add clarification for the summer work program that the students cannot return home and then return to the U.S., and the program is to provide a relief for students experiencing financial hardships, with a focus on the graduate student population.

6. Adjournment

Kimberly Rhodes thanked Jennifer for serving as Chair for this year. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.