

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

May 5, 2022; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Zoom Only

Attendance via Zoom: Robert Weiss-Presiding, Jan Helge Bøhn, Ben Grove (for Ed Jones), Ralph Hall, Farida Jalalzai (for Laura Belmonte), Theresa Johansson, Kenner Love, Penny Muelenaer, Robert Oliver, Cassidy Rist, Angela Scarpa, Peter Schmitthenner, Megan Seibel, Alan Wang (for David Brinberg)

Absent with Notice: Laura Belmonte, Tara Brent, David Brinberg, Guru Ghosh, Don Hempson, Ed Jones, Susan Short

Absent: Jessica Agnew, Nick Copeland, Aimane Najmeddine

Welcome and Self-Introductions: Robert Weiss called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. and welcomed the group. Self-introductions were made; attendees signed into the chat; visual attendance was also taken; a quorum was established.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:**

Robert W. called for additions to the agenda, there were no additions. He called for a motion to approve the agenda; a motion was made; seconded; no discussion; all were in favor; the agenda was approved.

2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, April 21, 2022:**

Minutes from the April 21, 2022 meeting were sent out electronically for edits and were still in the approval process. Tomorrow is the deadline for edits; the minutes will then be approved electronically. Minutes will be sent to the Governance Information System; and can be found on the web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu/>).

3. **Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes:**

A. Chairman's Report: Robert W. reported on the May 2, 2022 University Council meeting. The report included second readings and approvals for several new degree programs in the Pamplin College of Business; changes to the Faculty Handbook; new bylaws and constitution for the Faculty Senate; and a presentation on Climate Action. Approved University Council meeting minutes can be found at: <https://governance.vt.edu/meeting-materials.php>.

B. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE): Ben Grove reported for VCE. The update included Ed Jones will be retiring and that a search for Ed's successor is underway. Additionally, Ray McKinnie, Dean of the College of Agriculture at VSU announced he plans to retire the end of June. State 4-H Congress will be held the third week of June. This is the 100th State 4-H Congress and will include celebrations for this milestone.

C. Engagement Leadership Council: The Engagement Leadership Council has not met since the last COIA meeting, but the next meeting will be held on June 9, 2022 beginning at 2:00 p.m.

D. University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA): Theresa Johansson reported on the April 25, 2022 UCIA meeting. Updates included reports on the working groups; the Global Advancement working group still has not met but exchanged conversations electronically and are moving forward with some ideas for the working group. The MOU working group is moving forward with the use of the current Summit system to include the MOU for signature process; faculty are already aware and Colleges will be aware on the front end of the approval process. Internationalization at Home has an ambitious plan to engage the University to commit to internationalizing the student experience. Discussions during the UCIA meeting also included plans for next year and making sure everyone is engaged and ability to bring information back to members' constituency groups. Additionally, any resolutions that would include policy change, as appropriate,

would be sent to COIA for review/approval. Farida Jalalzai will be the Chair of UCIA next year; the Vice Chair is currently to be determined.

4. **Call for Announcements/Commission Board Member Comments:** Theresa asked if Jan Helge Bøhn had any agenda items for next year as Chair; Jan Helge indicated he did not. Robert W. announced that University Council may look different if approved at the June Board of Visitors meeting. Some commissions will be reporting to Senates; it appears COIA will remain similar to what it is now reporting directly to University Council. Jan Helge asked for any input from the commission for activities for next year.

Robert W. indicated the Commission on Student Affairs may be bringing a resolution to University Council in the fall with regard to International Graduate Students inequalities and inequities. Discussion included the evaluation of Study Abroad programs, accessibility to Study Abroad, and the hope to have experiential learning as part of the curriculum in the future. Theresa stated that she would like to have Study Abroad scholarships for incoming international students. There are inequities for some countries as to affordability and the airfare and insurance among other expenses are cost prohibitive. Jan Helge spoke about the challenges of international graduate students and their ability to provide for their families; as some family members are not allowed to work while they are in country. Theresa commented on one of the VT surveys for students to indicate whether they are in a job; will be continuing their education; or are still looking for a job. Part of the survey indicates experiences within paid and unpaid internships; but does not include Study Abroad experiences.

Kimberly Rhodes thanked Robert Weiss for his leadership on the commission and for serving as Chair of the commission.

Penny Muelenaer asked about the activities and membership of the CUGH; and commented that perhaps there were scholarships for international students to attend those conferences. Robert W. suggested that Penny check with the office that paid for the membership and see if there is a way to find out activities of members and other opportunities.

Ralph Hall included a link in the chat: <https://malawiedandchildwelfare.wordpress.com/>. This is an update on the library at Mzuni University, Malawi. There is a potential for collaborations and funding. Jan Helge asked about how many students are in an exchange program; Ralph replied about 1-2, but that many groups from VT have gone there.

5. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made; seconded; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m. **The next meeting will be held September 15, 2022.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

PROPOSED DATES FOR 2022-2023 (Meetings 3:30-4:30 p.m. unless indicated otherwise)

- September 15, 2022 (3:00-3:30 p.m.)
(New Member Orientation)
- September 15, 2022 (3:30-4:30 p.m.)
(Regular Meeting)
- October 20, 2022
- November 17, 2022
- December 8, 2022
- NO JANUARY MEETING
- February 16, 2023
- March 16, 2023
- April 20, 2023
- May 4, 2023