

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

April 16, 2020; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Michael Borowski, Tara Brent, Urs Buehlmann, Svetlana Filiatreau, Guru Ghosh, Ralph Hall, Don Hempson, Ashley Johnson, Ed Jones, Cassidy Rist, Susan Short, Robert Weiss, LaWanda Wright

Absent: Katrina Colucci-Chang, Nick Copeland, Lee Learman, Hayden Marrs, Juan Luis Nicolau, Morgan Paulette, Xiaowei Wu, Kang Xia

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Urs Buehlmann welcomed the group. Self-introductions were made.
2. **Agenda Approval:** Urs made the call for motion to approve the agenda; motion was made; was seconded; all were in favor, there was no opposition and the agenda was approved.
3. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, February 20, 2020:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and faculty working to get classes on-line during the extended spring break, the March 19, 2020 COIA meeting was cancelled. Urs announced that the February 20, 2020 minutes were approved electronically and forwarded to University Council for approval and posting. Approved minutes can be found: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/>.
4. **Chairman's Report:** The summary from the March 2, 2020 University Council meeting included first readings of: Commission on Faculty Affairs-Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Promotion and Tenure Guidelines; Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies-Resolution to Change Membership to the Athletics Committee; Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies-Resolution to Approve New Major, Community Economic Development, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management; Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies-Resolution to Approve New Major, Food and Health Systems Economics, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management; Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies-Resolution to Approve New Major, Environmental Economics: Management and Policy, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management; Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies-Resolution to Approve New Major, International and Trade Development, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management; Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies-Resolution to Approve New Major, Arabic, in Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages.

The summary from the March 23, 2020 University Council meeting included second reading and passing of all resolutions listed above **except** Commission on Faculty Affairs-Resolution to Revise Faculty Handbook Promotion and Tenure Guidelines. The resolution was withdrawn to be presented at a later date. New business included: Commission on Research-Resolution on Updates to Policy 13005. Additionally, there was a presentation on Federal Affairs and General Assembly Session presented by Dwayne Pinkney, Chris Yianilos, and Elizabeth Hooper. A second presentation on the Planning for Virginia Tech's Sesquicentennial by Rosemary Blieszner, Co-Chair of the Sesquicentennial Steering Committee.

Approved University Council minutes can be accessed at: <https://governance.vt.edu/meeting-materials.php>.

5. **Reports:**
Virginia Cooperative Extension: Ed Jones described how VCE is addressing the issues similar to what everyone is dealing with regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and how operations are handled. He indicated his disappointment about activities that will not happen in person now and over the summer. Employees are staggering their presence in offices, which are closed to the public. There are many working toward getting supplies such as lunches, masks and supplies to the community and farmer; all meetings have gone virtual. La Wanda Wright and Tara Brent commented on school's efforts to provide meals to families; 4-H working with communities; fresh foods; activities, master gardening; working with Boys & Girls Clubs. Ed commented that there is a digital divide and wide-spread food insecurity. Budgets are strapped for programs in the county.

University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA): Svetlana Filiatreau spoke about the February 24, 2020 UCIA meeting. Updates included: Global Education Office (GEO)-creation of an early semester abroad program for freshmen and sophomore students; LCI's conferences and EXPOs, which due to the pandemic may have a different timetable; Pamplin's update on programs; NMIMS delegation visit; summary of the data collection project; Alumni Awards committee was to meet; winners were subsequently announced. The minutes for all UCIA meetings that have been approved thus far are available at the following link on-line:

<https://www.outreach.vt.edu/VP/CommissionsAndCommittees/ucia/uciaminutes.html>.

Engagement Leadership Council: Susan Short gave an updated on the Engagement Leadership Council meeting held on March 5, 2020. Don Hempson provided an updated on COVID-19; the Engagement Academy hosted by the University of Minnesota has been postponed; the Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) annual conference originally scheduled for September in Philadelphia, PA has been rescheduled to 2021. The ESC board decided to continue forward with the ESC awards competition. Over 25% of this year's nominations have come from Virginia Tech faculty members. The winners should be selected by mid-May. Cathy Sutphin provided an update on the task force assigned to address the university minors' policy; talks have included the hiring of a Youth Protection Specialist which will be housed in VCE to oversee, which needs to go before the Board of Visitors. Ed Jones has been given the okay to proceed with hiring. Previous meeting highlights can be found (<https://www.outreach.vt.edu/about/commissions-committees/elc/elcminutes.html>).

6. **Call for Announcements:** The call for announcements was made. Susan sared that the recipient/project of the Alumni Affairs for Outreach Excellence Team award will be forwarded as the university's nomination for the ESC Kellogg/APLU Magrath award program. Don Hempson gave an update of the extraction from Switzerland of students, faculty and staff and sent great thanks for all that assisted in the process as well as across the globe. Great efforts brought over 250 students, faculty and staff from all corners of the world including Vietnam, Australia, South America, South Korea, North Africa and Europe. All but 18 students returned, those not returning had special circumstances connected to them. The greatest concentration was at the Steger Center which is 50 miles north of Milan, Italy; within 48-72 hours about 120 students, faculty and staff were extracted. Programs for spring and summer are currently suspended and looking forward to see what will happen for fall programs. Nick Copeland, COIA member was stuck in Guatemala and was able to come back to the states via Mexico. Svetlana expressed her appreciation to getting everyone back. Ralph Hall talked about Community Systems and Engagement (CSE) Pathways minor. There were several students that signed up that were interested in the courses that were being offered, but weren't pursuing the minor. Courses and more connections are to be built out. Svetlana talked about the international track for the Peace Corps training has won an award.

Urs asked the group present if there is a need to still have the May meeting or cancel. After much discussion, there were topics that members wanted to bring back to the commission for May, and it was decided to have the May meeting. Guru Ghosh also suggested to have the Director of the Cranwell Center give an update and ask questions regarding student needs. He indicated that enrollment looks pretty strong, but there are about 96 international undergraduate students accepted whereas in the past there have been about 1,000. About 900 out of state, domestic students have been accepted to fill the gap.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting will be held May 7, 2020 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. connection/location details will be sent.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

TENTATIVE MEETING DATES FOR 2020-2021 (All meetings will be from **3:30-4:30 p.m.** and will take place at 120 Gateway Center-902 Prices Fork)

- Sept 17 3-3:30 p.m. (orientation)
- Sept 17 3:30-4:30 p.m. (reg mtg)
- October 15, 2020
- November 19, 2020
- December 10, 2020
- February 18, 2021
- March 18, 2021
- April 15, 2021
- May 6, 2021