

## COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Minutes

April 18, 2013

3:30-4:30 p.m.

325 Burruss Hall

**Attendance:** Carlyle Brewster, Andrea Brunais, Jack Davis, Christine Fiori, Guru Ghosh, Jerry Niles, Andrew Overbay, Llyn Sharp, Yannis Stivachtis, Elankumaran Subbiah

**Absent:** Onwubiko Agozino, Kathy Alexander, Kirsten Buhls, Peter Callan, Lee Cooper, Bilan Jama, Aditya Johri, Ed Jones, Maryam Kamali, Reed Kennedy, Ionnis Kokkinidis, Susan Short, Bob Smith

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Christine Fiori welcomed everyone to the meeting. Self-introductions were made by name cards.

#### 2. Agenda Approval

Christine made a call for the approval of the agenda; the agenda was moved to approve; seconded and was approved.

#### 3. Announcements

Christine made the call for announcements.

Christine announced that Jerry Niles will be stepping down as Interim Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs (OIA); and that Guru Ghosh will be the new Vice President for OIA effective April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Lyn Sharp announced the ICAT “Dino Dig” event on April 21, 2013 beginning at 1 p.m. on the plaza between the GLC & Squires.

Llyn also passed out some fliers for the SWITCH event on Monday, April 22, 2013 (see attached); Kim Rhodes sent it out to both the COIA members and the Outreach Council members after the meeting for distribution.

Jerry Niles described a VT Engage event, Service Learning and Recognition Ceremony, hosted by Gary Kirk, which took place yesterday and included 45 exhibits.

Andrea Brunais suggested that Gary Kirk come to a February or March COIA meeting next year to talk about this event.

Discussion included the University-Affiliated International Travel for Student Groups memorandum that was sent out by President Steger (see attached). COIA representatives are invited to bring feedback regarding this committee; Jack Davis is also a committee representative.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes, March 21, 2013

The minutes from the March 21, 2013 were sent out electronically for updates; and were approved electronically and were sent onto University Council and to the University Governance website.

#### 5. Chairman’s Report

Carlyle Brewster reported on the University Council meeting from April 15, 2013; as the April 1, 2013 meeting was cancelled. There was a second reading/pass for the Major in Environmental Informatics, in the Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Wildlife.

New business included first readings for a resolution to the faculty handbook to allow professors of practice to chair graduate committees; resolution to include a scholarly ethics and integrity component in Graduate Education; resolution to establish a Doctor of philosophy degree in Translational Biology, Medicine and Health; resolution for revision on Policy 13000-Policy on Intellectual Properties; resolution for changes in the Hokie Handbook to expand the Abusive Conduct Policy for Student Code of Conduct; resolution for changes in the Hokie Handbook to expand the Drug Policy for Student Code of Conduct; resolution for changed to the Hokie Handbook to expand the Unauthorized Entry Policy for Student Code of Conduct; resolution to approve major in Russian, in Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages; and resolution to approve the Bachelor of Science degree in Fish and Wildlife Conservation.

The minutes may be found at: [http://www.governance.vt.edu/univcouncil/ucminutes\\_04-15-13.pdf](http://www.governance.vt.edu/univcouncil/ucminutes_04-15-13.pdf).

There was no report for Outreach Council, as the meeting on March 26, 2013 was cancelled.

## **6. Reports**

### **a. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)**

Ed Jones was unable to make the meeting, but provided the following update, which Kim Rhodes read at the meeting (edited from original text):

1. VCE will be unveiling a new graphic identity in May.
2. Every five years there is a national extension meeting. This year it is in Pittsburgh and VCE anticipates significant participation.
3. Because of the large number of relatively new field faculty (agents), VCE is implementing district program leadership teams to help with training, mentoring and supporting these new agents. This will begin this summer.
4. Federal Budget concerns-sequestration cost VCE 7.6% of federal appropriation or about \$500,000. VCE also lost 28% of a large federal grant related to SNAP (food stamp) education. This was over \$1 million. It is unclear what the SNAP program will be like for the future. Ed will be in Washington DC next week to learn more.
5. 2014 will be the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act - the enabling legislation that created the national system of Cooperative Extension. VCE is in the process of developing plans to showcase and celebrate Extension.

### **b. University Council on International Affairs (UCIA) Meeting**

Elankumaran Subbiah provided the UCIA report from April 8, 2013. Education Abroad deadlines on scholarships mini-grants has been extended to April 15, 2013. The student photo contest deadline for Education Abroad is also on April 15. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, a brown bag lunch will take place on how to take photos on travel. Education Abroad documents are due May 1, 2013. Rommelyn Conde, communications coordinator for Education Abroad was commended for her good work.

The Cranwell Center held the International Street Fair on April 6. Suzie Baker announced the search was to begin for the new Cranwell director.

A task force on Education Abroad report was detailed by John Browder. The intent is for initiatives to reach a target of 31% participation. Eight (8) key areas were identified as issues, and policies should be coming out in the fall.

Don Back introduced some of the Humphrey Fellows, which are expected to be in and around campus for 20 weeks.

Bob Smith will be stepping down as Chair of UCIA next year, and Elankumaran Subbiah will become Chair. Nominations to serve as vice chair were accepted; Don Back volunteered to serve as vice chair.

Guru Ghosh was announced as the new Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs.

Guru Ghosh spoke about the International Faculty Development Program (IFDP). It was started in 2005. This year they will be going to Southeast Asia, Singapore; the National University of Singapore. There were 8 very qualified candidates that were selected. Research projects will occur in Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, etc. and will include slum and rural health issues and cancer research. Next year the hope is to travel to Cape Town, South Africa; the following year to London.

## **7. Engagement Discussion**

Christine would like to send out the list of questions to the group in the near future.

## **8. Commission Board Member Comments**

There were no comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Rhodes  
Recording Secretary

# SWITCH



THE MOST  
IMPORTANT ISSUE  
OF OUR TIME

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 7:00PM

SQUIRES COLONIAL HALL

FREE ADMISSION AT THE DOOR



Watch the trailer at  
[SWITCHENERGYPROJECT.COM](http://SWITCHENERGYPROJECT.COM)

[www.outreach-geos.vt.edu/switch.html](http://www.outreach-geos.vt.edu/switch.html) **arcos**

An **informative** and **unbiased** look at the state of **energy** worldwide.

Showing includes a special panel discussion with four of Virginia Tech's top energy researchers, hosted by the Department of Geosciences.

**Presidential Policy Memorandum No. 281**

**TO:** Faculty and Staff  
**FROM:** Charles Steger   
**DATE:** April 17, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** University-Affiliated International Travel for Student Groups

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Virginia Tech's long-range plan reinforces the value of international engagement and the need to intensify our focus in the international arena. The university has a number of very strong international programs, and their success is due to the hard work of faculty who conceived the programs and made them a reality. Such initiatives are applauded and encouraged.

However, in the context of the university's historically decentralized approach to international engagement, the university's Safety and Security Policy Committee has been considering the issue of the welfare of members of the university community who are engaged in university-affiliated international travel, which includes study abroad and service-learning programs as well as other types of travel. At the recommendation of that committee and with the support of Academic Council (deans, vice presidents, and major institute directors), I have appointed Guru Ghosh, soon-to-become Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs, to chair a task force to examine best practices at other universities and to provide policy recommendations with respect to safety and security to me by the beginning of the fall semester.

As an interim measure, the Office of the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs immediately will create a data base to maintain information about all university-affiliated international travel programs and the participants in those programs. **Effective immediately, all university employees planning university-affiliated international travel for student groups are required to contact the Office of the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs and provide all information requested well in advance of travel.** Non-compliance will result in all sources of funding for the travel program being withheld.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation to ensure to the extent possible the welfare of those participating in university-affiliated international travel. Please direct any questions to Dr. Guru Ghosh at [gghosh@vt.edu](mailto:gghosh@vt.edu) or 1-7888.