

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

May 7, 2020; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Michael Borowski, Tara Brent, Urs Buehlmann, Nick Copeland, Svetlana Filiatreau, Guru Ghosh, Ben Grove (for Ed Jones), Ralph Hall, Don Hempson, Lee Learman, Juan Luis Nicolau, Cassidy Rist, Susan Short, Robert Weiss, LaWanda Wright

Absent: Katrina Colucci-Chang, Ashley Johnson, Ed Jones, Hayden Marrs, Morgan Paulette, Xiaowei Wu, Kang Xia

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Urs Buehlmann welcomed the group. Self-introductions were made, participants were asked to sign in on the chat feature.
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, April 16, 2020:** Urs announced that the April 16, 2020 minutes were approved electronically and forwarded to University Council for approval and posting. Approved minutes can be found: <https://governance.vt.edu/outreach-and-international-affairs.php>.
4. **Chairman's Report:** The summary from the April 20, 2020 University Council meeting included second reading and voting on the Commission on Research resolution to update Policy 13005. First readings included: Commission on Faculty Affairs resolution to Change the Terms of Service for Faculty, Students, and Staff on University Council and Commissions; Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies resolutions to Edit Constitution of the Graduate Honor System to Add Revoking Graduate Degree to Penalty Option; and resolution to Approve New Major, Reputation Management, in Master of Arts in Communication; Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies resolutions to Establish the Pathways General Education Curriculum Review Committee and resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science. Commission minutes were also approved and posted; and a presentation on Changes to the Student Code of Conduct and the Hokie Handbook was given by Frank Shushok, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Ennis McCrery, Director of Student Conduct.

The May 4, 200 University Council meeting included second readings and approval on Commission on Faculty Affairs resolution to Change the Terms of Service for Faculty, Students, and Staff on University Council and Commissions; Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies resolutions to Edit Constitution of the Graduate Honor System to Add Revoking Graduate Degree to Penalty Option; and resolution to Approve New Major, Reputation Management, in Master of Arts in Communication; Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies resolutions to Establish the Pathways General Education Curriculum Review Committee and resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science. First reading included: Commission on Student Affairs resolution to Approve the 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct and to Retire the Hokie Handbook. Commission minutes were also approved and posted; and a presentation on the Date of Entry Change and the Registration Life Cycle was given by Rick Sparks.

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

5. **Reports:**
Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE): Ben Grove gave the VCE report on behalf of Ed Jones. Ben discussed that VCE has been working with VT Foundation to create an emergency fund to allocate to projects. VCE has been working to get creative and one way is for the 4-H centers to provide box materials for the virtual 4-H summer camps. The 4-H volunteer leaders conference was held virtually, with more than 500 people from 20 states attended. This participation was up from the typical 50 participants in a face-to face gathering in previous years. Learning to work, learn and communicate virtually; and working jointly with Virginia State University on projects. Tara Brent indicated that six (6)

centers are coming up with themes for their own summer camps, with a one-week Camping Across the Commonwealth which is to have access to all six (6) camps. Currently the camps are still in the planning process and information will be shared with the COIA group as it becomes available. LaWanda Wright also talked about the various resources for parents, guests and kids to include help with school and stimulus check information on the VCE website: <https://ext.vt.edu/>. Listed below are the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) and VCE link resources:

- VCE COVID-19 resources <https://ext.vt.edu/covid-19updates/resources.html>
- VCE News (including recent COVID-19 impact responses) <https://vtnews.vt.edu/feeds/virginia-cooperative-extension.html>
- Global Agricultural Productivity (GAP) Report <https://globalagriculturalproductivity.org/>
- Harvest 2050 Blog, including weekly COVID-19 impact coverage from around the world <https://globalagriculturalproductivity.org/harvest-2050-blog/>

Information about summer 4-H camp opportunities will be sent by email once that information is public.

University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA): Svetlana Filiatreau indicated that the minutes should be out next week for the April 27, 2020 UCIA meeting that was held via Zoom. Additionally, the last meeting will be held later this month. Updates included: how members were doing, working with students, grading, etc.; various updates from members. The issue of declining international enrollment was brought up and how International is coping. Global Education Office (GEO) and Library updates and on-line learning; Foreign Languages was notified that they received the Russian Flagship Program; Pamplin College of Business is working on a two (2) 3+1 programs-one in India and the other in China. 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 announced that the University successfully submitted the application for the Virginia Tech Autism Clinic and Center for Autism Research to the C. Peter Magrath & W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Engagement Scholarship Awards committee. The Agrarian Trust has established an Agrarian Commons in southwest Virginia and has designated the Catawba Sustainability Center as its educational and technical advisor under the direction of Adam Taylor, Director. The Agrarian Trust is a national organization that works particularly with young farmers. A press release is forthcoming. Susan indicated that there haven't been any meetings since the last meeting; the next meeting is June 11, 2020. Previous meeting highlights can be found (<https://www.outreach.vt.edu/about/commissions-committees/elc/elcminutes.html>).

- 6. Call for Announcements:** Urs made the call for announcements. Ralph Hall spoke about the task force on Community Systems and Engagement for a Pathways minor. There have been a couple of meetings so far and the group is working to anchor the program in the Leadership and Social Change Residential College. Working to get a cohort option, looking to allow students that might not be on the trajectory of the Social Change path. One of the challenges is that there is not a consistent flow of students and students are picking up the courses independently. He spoke about the Cooperative Extension connections; hope to figure out the residential college piece first and then focus on other ways to enrich the experience for the students.

Urs thanked Guru and Susan for their support on the commission; and Kim Rhodes for her work on the commission. Kim thanked Urs on behalf of the commission for his leadership over the past year and a half. Nick Copeland asked about where we were in the university decision making process regarding international research. Guru echoed the appreciation of Urs for leading the commission and the leadership of moving forward the Study Abroad scholarship piece; the Provost has renewed his one-time commitment to this for the upcoming year. He addressed Svetlana's update about enrollment, we are 450 short of the target of 6,000+ students; out of state is 82 above the expectation; the in state is 180 less than targets; and international numbers were 342 below targets; Enrollment Management will be going to wait lists. We don't know what the summer attrition will look like. In responding to Nick's question, the University's Response team has transitioned to a new group working with COVID-19, and the Governor is not allowing state resources to be used for non-essential travel. As part of that we are unable to deploy our university assets in terms of global projects that would require travel to other

locations. The hope is that restrictions may be lifted over the summer either June or July. Guru indicated that Robert Weiss had wanted a broader discussion about engagement, outreach, globalization in the new era we are facing. Nick indicated that the research work should be looked at and the impact on such important issues as food systems, whereas CALS and VCE are heavily involved and that Virginia should commit a lot more resources to extension. Food insecurities in this state are many, and there are a number of areas that are researching including the College of Vet Med.

Ben indicated that he was going to share some links that relate to discussions today; he indicated a lot of work is still being done with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as well as serving communities. Ben also discussed the Global Agricultural Productivity (GAP) report, the 2020 report will be published and released in October, with a working title Productivity in a Time of Pandemics.

- VCE COVID-19 resources <https://ext.vt.edu/covid-19updates/resources.html>
- VCE News (including recent COVID-19 impact responses) <https://vtnews.vt.edu/feeds/virginia-cooperative-extension.html>
- (Global Agricultural Productivity) GAP Report <https://globalagriculturalproductivity.org/>
- Harvest 2050 Blog, including weekly COVID-19 impact coverage from around the world <https://globalagriculturalproductivity.org/harvest-2050-blog/>

Information about summer 4-H camp opportunities will be emailed to the group once that information is public.

Robert Weiss indicated he felt that now may be an opportunity to look at the current mission of outreach and international affairs and communicate up to administration and the VT community the importance of its mission. He is interested in discussing further; Nick will look into getting a meeting scheduled to discuss proactive measures for the future. Guru suggested that the meeting be an ad hoc committee from the commission.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m. The next meeting will be held September 17, 2020 with the orientation meeting from 3:00-3:30 p.m. and the regular meeting from 3:30-4:30 p.m. connection/location details will be sent closer to the meeting date.

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 either 120 Gateway Center-902 Prides Fork or Zoom-details closer to September will be announced)*

- Sept 17, 2020 3:00-3:30 p.m. (orientation)
- Sept 17, 2020 3:30-4:30 p.m. (regular meeting)
- October 15, 2020
- November 19, 2020
- December 10, 2020
- **NO JANUARY MEETING**
- February 18, 2021
- March 18, 2021
- April 15, 2021
- May 6, 2021