

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

September 20, 2018; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Gateway Center; 902 Prices Fork Road; Suite 120

Attendance: Andrea Brunais, Urs Buehlmann, Cheng Chen, Gregory Daniel, Lehi Dowell, Guru Ghosh, Shelley Martin, Valerie Ragan, Heinrich Schnoedt, Brett Shadle, Tom Thompson,

Absent: Wayne Crotto, Ed Jones, Karen Munden, Juan Luis Nicolau, Susan Short, Kang Xia, Xiaowei Wu

1. Welcome and Introductions

Brett Shadle welcomed the group, self-introductions were made.

2. Agenda Approval

Brett made the call for motion to approve the agenda; motion made; was seconded; all were in favor and the agenda was approved.

3. Call for Announcements

The call for announcements was made; there were no announcements.

4. Announcement of Approval of Minutes, August 30, 2018

The minutes from the August 30, 2018 meeting were sent out electronically for edits; they are currently in the approval period and will be sent to University Council and will be posted to the University Governance website upon approval by University Council. Minutes can be found at: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/>. The main web page for COIA is: <https://www.outreach.vt.edu/VP/CommissionsAndCommittees/coia.html>.

5. Chairman's Report

Brett spoke of the Commission Chair Report; and the need for follow-up on the letter regarding support for Global Education Scholarships. Chair reports were given at University Council on September 20, 2018; which included the commission's work on gathering information from the university with regard to international and outreach efforts; and exploring initiatives currently in process and the resources needed.

The University Council meeting from September 17, 2018 included the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies Resolution to Establish a Master of Science Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics; and the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs Resolution to Remove Board of Visitors Approval for Changes to the Staff Senate Constitution. University Council minutes can be found at: <http://governance.vt.edu/>.

The Engagement Leadership Council met on September 6, 2018; which included the Continental Divide renovations at The Inn; the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, and JMU's Engagement for the Public Good conference. A reminder about COTA small grants and the Inn's Incentive funds for conferences, meetings, and special events at The Inn and the Hotel Roanoke; Reynolds Homestead programs; and various updates. Minutes may be found at: <https://www.outreach.vt.edu/VP/CommissionsAndCommittees/elc/elcminutes.html>.

Brett discussed the on-going future plans for COIA and spoke to the document out on Google Docs; he would like to send out guidelines to units and collect information. Discussion included sending the survey to specific groups such as the University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA); Dean's group; Faculty Senate and COIA member affiliations. A deadline for the survey to be completed should be established, perhaps a 30 day timeline. Brett and Graduate Student, Jessica Dorsch will be monitoring the results. The hope is to get it sent out within the next few days and report at the next meeting.

The suggestion was made to test the survey on COIA members. The structure of the survey was discussed, and it was suggested to have fewer lengthy questions that may take the person less time to complete and be more enticing for them to participate. A suggestion was made to have a question that includes a question if they are willing to participate in providing more information, the user could include their email address at the end of the survey. With regard to the letter that was sent to President Sands on

the loss of scholarship funding for Education Abroad, where the Language Culture Institute was a primary fund source, Brett was referred to discuss the matter with Interim Provost, Cyril Clarke. Brett is still waiting for a response. The hope is to get a meeting with President Sands and/or Dr. Clarke. Further discussion included how Honors/PGS programs are funded and the lack of endowed scholarships.

6. Vice-Chair Report

The Vice-Chair's report included the process of gathering three (3) members of COIA to serve on the Selection committee for the Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence both team and individual awards. The background included reviewing packets as they come in and shortly after the deadline of 4:00 p.m. on January 31, 2019; and discussion/meeting in early to mid-February to select a winner for each award. Lehi Dowell, Valerie Ragan, and Shelley Martin volunteered to serve on the committee.

7. Reports

There were no reports from the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), and UCIA did not meet since last meeting.

8. Commission Board Member Comments

Brett called for any board member comments. Guru Ghosh indicated that a Botswana working group was established to establish a southern Africa university to include Colleges of Veterinary Med, Science, Natural Resources and Environment, and the Departments of Biology, Wild Life Management. Finance and Legal Counsel is involved; the hope is to launch sometime within the next 2 years. Kathy Alexander and her husband have been working there for a while and have 43 years of a 50-year lease left in the area that they are working. There is a current center near Chobe National Park where Kathy has been exploring wildlife and human health and infectious disease issues and water issues.

Another project is the Rural Resilience Initiative to explore Southside and Southwest Virginia. Ron Rordam and Jerry Gwaltney have been traveling to areas to talk to Economic Development Leaders and City Managers and explore how we can engage and help with areas to include the Opioid crisis as well as other matters.

A third project is called Vibrant Virginia. The concept is to bridge urban and rural divide. Anne Khademian and John Provo are working to create programs with corporate partners with shared prosperity to create ways how artificial intelligence world can impact the blue-collar world and the social aspects around the world.

Guru reported that the Steger Center is doing well, the enrollment numbers are stable; there are several different programs being run there to include a program run by Yannis Stivachtis and Scott Nelson in Political Science; Bob Bodnar and the Geoscience program; PGS programs; Honors programs; Architecture programs and others. There are 20 students this fall and over 20 scheduled for next fall.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rhodes
Recording Secretary

TENTATIVE MEETING DATES FOR 2018-2019-(All meetings will be from **3:30-4:30 p.m.** and will take place at the Gateway Center-902 Prices Fork)

- October 18, 2018
- November 15, 2018
- December 13, 2018
- NO JANUARY MEETING
- February 21, 2019
- March 21, 2019
- April 18, 2019
- May 9, 2019