

# COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Minutes

December 13, 2018; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Gateway Center; 902 Prices Fork Road; Suite 120

**Attendance:** Andrea Brunais, Urs Buehlmann, Gregory Daniel, Guru Ghosh, Ed Jones, Shelley Martin, Karen Munden (via phone), Hunter Pittman (representing Heinrich Schnoedt), Valerie Ragan, Tom Thompson, Bob Hicok (guest speaker)

**Absent:** Cheng Chen, Wayne Crotto, Lehi Dowell, Roberto Leon, Juan Luis Nicolau, Heinrich Schnoedt, Brett Shadle, Susan Short, Madilynne Tanner, Xiaowei Wu, Kang Xia

### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Urs Buehlmann welcomed the group. Brett Shadle was unable to attend the meeting, and will be on sabbatical spring semester. Urs Buehlmann, Vice-Chair will Chair the remainder of the meetings and take over as Chair in August. Kimberly Rhodes announced that she thanked Brett for his service as Chair on behalf of the commission. Self-introductions were made.

### 2. **Agenda Approval**

Urs made the call for motion to approve the agenda; motion made; was seconded; all were in favor, there was no opposition and the agenda was approved.

### 3. **Call for Announcements**

The call for announcements was made. Guru Ghosh announced that he traveled to the Universidad Austral de Chile (UACH) with Valerie Ragan, Gerhardt Schurig, Robert Weiss, Theresa Johansson and Gene Ball. Their visit include expanding the UACH program, creating an expansion of the campus in Patagonia, broadening Virginia Tech's presence. An honorary degree was awarded to Dr. Schurig for his work in Chile. There was a gathering of Alumni from the College of Veterinary Medicine while the group was in Chile.

Andrea Brunais announced that Season 5 of the Save Our Towns series is available on line for viewing at the Outreach and International Affairs (OIA) website. The Save Our Towns series has won many journalist awards including the CASE and Bulldog Reporter awards.

Hunter Pittman announced the FutureHAUS won first place at the 2018 Solar Decathlon Middle East competition. Virginia Tech was the only entrant from the United States. The project brought together the Colleges of Architecture and Urban Studies, Science, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Pamplin College of Business and Myers-Lawson School of Construction, and many labs and centers within Virginia Tech, to form an interdisciplinary team. The competition took place in Dubai.

Guru also mentioned that the Language and Culture Institute partnered with Alumni Relations in Dubai for an event with about 80 alumni from that region.

### 4. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, October 18, 2018**

Since the November 15, 2018 COIA meeting was cancelled, the minutes from the October 18, 2018 meeting had been previously sent out electronically for edits. The minutes were approved electronically and were sent to University Council to be posted to the University Governance website upon approval by University Council. Minutes can be found: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/>. The main web page for COIA: <https://www.outreach.vt.edu/VP/CommissionsAndCommittees/coia.html>.

### 5. **Chairman's Report**

The University Council meeting from October 29, 2018 included the first readings of Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies Resolution to Establish a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Neuroscience and Resolution to Rename the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies to the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies and Update the Charge. Brandy Salmon gave a presentation on LINK, and Bob Hicok lead a discussion regarding community involvement with the Office of the VP for Research volunteers.

The November 26, 2018 University Council meeting was cancelled. The December 3, 2018 meeting had the second reading and approval of the above two (2) resolutions presented at the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting; and first readings of the Commission on Student Affairs Resolution to Change the Membership of the Commission on Student Affairs and University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning Resolution to Change the Membership of the University Advisory Council on Strategic Budgeting and Planning.

### 6. **Faculty Handbook Revisions**

Bob Hicok presented on revisions to the Faculty Handbook (see attached). He indicated that committees were attempting to bring to the Commission's attention that all scholarship should be treated the same and that all tenure track faculty should be required to engage in scholarship work and should adhere by specific criteria set forth. Bob also indicated that the language indicates that Chairs can no longer serve on committees, and that interviews should occur without Deans and the Provost present. The handbook shall reflect more specifics on Promotion and Tenure (P & T) documents. The notification process was previously unclear, and that faculty are required to receive notification and reasons why P & T are denied. The appeals process is expected to change; to include an appeal cannot occur simply because a faculty member disagrees with the outcome; but due to issues with the P & T process. Kim Rhodes will send the document to the group, and questions can come back to Kim to be complied and sent to Bob for response.

## 7. Reports

Ed Jones announced that Dan Goerlich would be the new Associate Director of the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Bobby Grisso, who previously held this position, will be returning the College of Engineering as Professor and Interim Department Head of Biological Systems Engineering. He also announced Karen Munden is the President of the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Ed mentioned there are a number for faculty engaged in addressing the local opioid crisis and the efforts to bridge the medical community with the lawmakers.

Tom Thompson spoke about University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA) meeting held on November 26, 2018. Theresa Johansson had updated UCIA about a new employee in Global Education, Martha Jensen; Svetlana Filiatreau discussed her trip to Shanghai to connect with about 350 VT Alumni across all colleges; Don Back updated UCIA about his trip to Dubai as described above, Guru updated UCIA about the Hokies in London event for June 2019 as well as the memo sent to the Provost regarding the request for funding for Study Abroad. Additionally, Tom Thompson gave an overview of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Global Programs mission and activities as a series for UCIA members to get understand members' activities and gather more information to make connections across the university. Nicole Sanderlin and Van Crowder will present at the January meeting. Minutes: <https://www.outreach.vt.edu/VP/CommissionsAndCommittees/ucia/uciaminutes.html>.

## 8. Reports

Discussion included the letter that was sent to President Sands with regard to funding for Global Education Scholarships, and subsequently sent to Interim Provost, Cyril Clarke. Theresa Johansson and Brett Shadle developed a letter with and summary (see attached) to Dr. Clarke inviting him to a COIA meeting to discuss the proposals in more detail. A response has not yet been received. Guru offered to inquire about next steps during his next meeting with the Provost.

Additionally, discussion about the survey that Brett had initiated to collect information about current OIA initiatives/projects that are developing between Virginia Tech and international partners. The question was raised if the commission wanted to continue the initiative, those present at the meeting seemed open to continue. Tom Thompson asked if the intent was to send out to all faculty, the response was unknown. Tom indicated that Elements might be a better route for gathering information. Many members indicated that might be the better route to alleviate the need to build a separate database that only provides a snapshot of activities; Elements would be an on-going/updated view of continuous projects. If access could be given to run a real-time report of current activities, this would be a much more comprehensive look at activities. Additionally, the response of more participants would yield better data. It was suggested to invite Ken Smith and Peggy Lane to attend one of our COIA meetings so we could inquire about data gathering. The question of what the timeline needed to be, Kim will ask Brett if he was looking at a particular timeline and a more detailed summary of his vision.

## 9. Commission Board Member Comments

The expression of happy and safe holidays was made.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 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)*

- NO JANUARY MEETING
- February 21, 2019
- March 21, 2019
- April 18, 2019
- May 9, 2019

***Colleagues: CFA is undertaking revisions to the Faculty Handbook. The process will continue over the next several months. What follows is a very early draft of part of the P&T section. When a previous version was presented to Faculty Senate, those with extension appointments or duties expressed concern that it did not reflect their situation. Bob Hicock of CFA is hoping for feedback on this point. I'd also like to discuss how we might encourage departments and colleges to value international and outreach activities in P&T decisions.***

#### **3.4.4 General Expectations for Promotion and/or Tenure**

Promotion to a higher rank and/or appointment with tenure may be granted to a faculty member on a regular faculty appointment based on evidence of effectiveness in teaching and advising, and significant contributions to service and outreach. Additionally, promotion to the rank of associate professor requires evidence that a candidate's research, scholarship, Extension, or creative activity has had impact beyond the university and has the potential for greater impact in the future. Promotion to the rank of professor requires evidence that a candidate's research, scholarship, Extension, or creative activity has had impact nationally or internationally, and that their earlier potential has been reached.

Not all candidates are expected to have equal levels of commitment or equal responsibilities in each of these areas. For example, some faculty positions are devoted primarily to conducting discipline-oriented research or Extension with few additional assigned responsibilities, and other faculty positions have extensive assigned duties in teaching and advising, with fewer opportunities for scholarly output. Regardless of assigned duties, some scholarly activity is expected of all tenure-track faculty in at least one of the mission areas of teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and engagement, and this scholarship will be evaluated by the standard outlined above.

Evaluators must take unique features of every candidate's discipline and assignment into account. Therefore each department is required to have an Expectations Document that accounts for disciplinary differences unique to and within the department and specifies what is required of their faculty members to fulfill the general requirements above. These distinctions can only be clarified at the department level, and must be taken into account by evaluators at every stage of the promotion and/or tenure process. A college may elect to adopt an Expectations Document that applies to all departments and schools in the college, which likewise should account for differences within and across departments and schools. Expectations Documents must be approved by the provost's office and available online. Because expectations may change over time, candidates should be evaluated based on the aggregate of Expectations Documents over a five year window.



October 29, 2018

Dear Dr. Clarke,

Over the past several weeks, Theresa Johansson, Director of the Global Education Office (GEO), Dr. Guru Ghosh, myself and my fellow members of the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA) have continued our research and review into and discussions on study abroad scholarships. The following page summarizes our findings and recommendations.

I would like to invite you to visit a COIA meeting to discuss our proposals in more detail. We have two remaining meetings this semester, on November 15 and December 13. Both meetings will take place in the Gateway Center, Suite 120 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Please let me know if you are available for either of these meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Shadle".

Brett Shadle  
Chair, Commission on Outreach and International Affairs.

In his 2014 investiture address, President Tim Sands stated that “every undergraduate who wishes to participate in study abroad [should] have the opportunity to do so without delaying progress toward their degree and without financial hardship.” We fully support these sentiments. National research has demonstrated that students, who study abroad, especially underserved and underrepresented students, perform better academically and have higher graduation rates than those who do not. Study abroad participants also show superior growth in an array of personal traits and “power” skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, adaptability, interpersonal skills, communication, and tolerance for ambiguity, many of which are the very qualities that today’s employers – and VT faculty – value most.

Engaging our students in study abroad serves the specific needs of VT students, contributing materially to a VT-shaped education, and particularly to the goal of providing all graduates with experiential learning opportunities. It is difficult to imagine how Destination Areas and Strategic Growth Areas, and the Pathways associated with them, can fulfill their promise if our students have not spent time immersed in other cultures. As President Sands has recognized, “The best way for VT to serve Virginians is to acknowledge that a global perspective is required to help citizens and companies compete internationally and to help address our own complex problems locally.” A body of alumni with that global perspective, nurtured through study abroad, will be increasingly necessary to fulfilling our duty as a global land-grant institution.

The number of VT students engaging in study abroad (1421, i.e., 19.5%) is rising, but remains well below our SCHEV peers. For instance, the majority of our SCHEV peer institutions send at least 25% of their students abroad, and some have grown their study abroad enrollments to 39-69 percent. In fact, two of our fellow research institutions in the commonwealth, the University of Virginia and William and Mary, send nearly 50% of their graduating classes abroad. The Global Education Office (GEO) has set an ambitious goal of increasing participation to 23% by 2020, and 50% by 2030. GEO has the expertise and commitment to remove most of the obstacles towards reaching this goal, such as working closely parents and families, coordinating with Financial Aid to ensure students are able to apply their grants and loans to study abroad, and identifying semesters abroad that will keep students on track to graduate, even in majors with tightly controlled course sequences. However, the single largest challenge, and one that VT must rise to at the institutional level, is cost.

The university now provides GEO a meagre \$25,000 in scholarship funds to serve over 1,300 VT students studying abroad (the entire non-Steger Center study abroad population). These scholarships support less than 2% of the annual study abroad cohort. Many students decline scholarship awards of up to \$3,000 because they are insufficient to bring study abroad experiences within their financial reach; for many others, the gap between program cost and availability of scholarships is so great that they never even apply. At the current level of assistance to less than 2% of study abroad participants, all but the most financially secure of our students are priced out of this transformational and life-changing experience.

Virginia Tech must be serious in our commitment to increasing and equalizing access to study abroad experiences, and if we are to live up to President Sands’ vision VT must begin to offer scholarships to a minimum of 12% of the study abroad cohort annually. For 2019-2020’s target numbers, this translates to 126 short-term (summer and wintermester) faculty-led, 66 semester-long, and two academic year scholarships. We must also make awards at a level that will catalyze enrollment in study abroad programs. After careful review, GEO has concluded that the average scholarship levels necessary for short-term, semester, and yearlong programs are, respectively, \$6,000, \$9,000, and \$15,000 per student. This will require a base budget allocation beginning in FY20 to be \$1,380,000. Ultimately, to achieve the goal of 50% participation by 2030, GEO would require ongoing institutional support in the amount of \$3,888,000 annually.

In the last month, the Commission on Outreach & International Affairs (COIA) has worked closely with the office of the vice president of Outreach and International Affairs (OIA) and the director of GEO to conduct a comprehensive overview of study abroad goals and set scholarship amounts to reach the goals highlighted above. We believe that these aspirational goals of enrollment increase and scholarships are achievable with a combination of institutional funding and private philanthropy. COIA looks forward to discussing this plan with you in more detail, including working with University Advancement leadership to institute a *Global Education Scholarship Fund* in the next Capital Campaign to ensure long-term support for students, thereby enabling vital immersive study abroad experiences to become an integral part of the Hokie experience.