

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

February 18, 2016; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Gateway Center; 902 Prices Fork Road; Suite 120

Attendance: Montasir Abbas (via phone), Bonnie Alberts, Jan Helge Bøhn, Howard Chung, Dave Close, Guru Ghosh, Joe Hunnings (for Ed Jones), Jenn Mackay, Karl Markgraf, Nicole Sanderlin, Gerhardt Schurig

Absent: Kathy Alexander, Andrea Brunais, Henri de Hahn, Brian Hairston, Ed Jones, Reed Kennedy, Djordje Minic, Channing Mitchell, Michael Schwarz, Susan Short, Elizabeth Spiller, Eric Vance

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Jan Helge Bøhn welcomed the group; self-introductions were made.

2. **Agenda Approval**

Jan Helge made the call for approval of the agenda; motion to approve was made; was seconded and approved.

3. **Announcements**

No announcements were made.

4. **Approval of Minutes, December 10, 2015**

The minutes from the December 10, 2015 meeting were approved electronically and forwarded to University Council. They will be posted to the University Governance website upon approval by University Council. Minutes can be found at: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/>.

5. **Chairman's Report**

The University Council meeting from February 1, 2016 are located at: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/>. Items noted by Jan Helge were resolutions for the formation of a University Governance Task Force and Resolution of Shared Governance. He described a one-year pilot program with the committee to meet and discuss.

6. **Vice-Chairman's Report**

Karl Markgraf spoke with regard to the Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence. The committee met and agreed upon potential winners. There is a minor issue with regard to the clarification of the team award and whether or not all members need to be teaching faculty or not. Jan Helge is to follow up on this item. Additionally, to note the proposal to vote on changing the name of the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence will be sent out electronically and all members need to vote.

7. **Reports**

- a. **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)**-Joe Hunnings discussed an International Exchange Opportunity in Ireland, and a \$-H program in Senegal. (**see attachments**)
- b. **University Council on International Affairs (UCIA) Meeting**
Nicole Sanderlin gave an update on the UCIA meeting from January 25, 2016. Minutes from previous meetings are located at: https://www.outreach.vt.edu/UCIA/minutes_index.html.

She discussed that the sub-committee is reviewing the application packets for the Alumni Awards for International Education, Research and Outreach and the hope to have winners selected soon. Additionally, Nicole talked about the International Education Policy Committee, which is a subgroup/working group of UCIA, that had their meeting most recently and will be looking at policies with regard to Study Abroad.

8. Commission Board Member Comments

Jan Helge discussed that he is working on bringing in speakers to the March and April COIA meetings to address undergraduate international strategies and the next campaign to raise funding. He is working on getting Wanda Dean and Mildred Johnson, the suggestion was to include Juan Espinoza and Don Back.

Motion to adjourn was made; seconded and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rhodes
Recording Secretary

TENTATIVE MEETING DATES FOR 2015-2016

(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 18, 2016

March 17, 2016

April 14, 2016

May 5, 2016

An International Exchange Opportunity for VCE ANR Agents

Teagasc – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority – is the national body in Ireland providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities. It was established in September 1988 under the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act, 1988.

The organization is funded by State Grant-in-Aid; the National Development Plan 2007 to 2013; fees for research, advisory and training services; income from national and EU competitive research programmes; and revenue from farming activities and commodity levies.

Teagasc is a client-based organization employing approximately 1,100 staff at 52 locations throughout Ireland with an annual operating budget in excess of €160 million (\$182 million). They operate in partnership with all sectors of the agriculture and food industry and with rural development agencies. They have developed close alliances with research, advisory and training agencies throughout the world and are continuously seeking to expand their international contacts.

- There are over 250 advisors based at county and local offices.
- The eight colleges and local training/research centres are staffed by college lecturers, technicians and education officers.
- Research services are provided by 216 research scientists, 51 specialists and specialist advisers and 116 research technicians and technologists, 171 support staff and approximately 175 Walsh Fellows (PhD students) at six dedicated centres.

Teagasc Advisors

Advisors are generally graduates in Agriculture, Horticulture or Forestry who work as part of a local team to develop agricultural resources in the area. Contact is made with farmers through farm visits, discussion groups, office and phone consultations and training courses. They play a vital role in ensuring that farmers can participate in development schemes and assist with applications for EU and national programmes to support farm incomes.

Knowledge Transfer

- Animal & Grassland
 - Dairy
 - Cattle
 - Grassland
 - Sheep
 - Pigs
- Crops, Environment & Land Use
 - Crops
 - Horticulture
 - Environment

- Energy
- Forestry
- Soil & Soil Fertility
- Food
- Rural Economy and Development
 - Farm Management
- BETTER Farms

Teagasc Advisory Service members can avail themselves of:

- An adviser with full access to specialist and research backup
- On-farm visits, according to contract
- Herd and flock management advice
- Business and financial planning
- Office and phone consultations
- Farm management advice
- Grassland management planning service
- Breeding advice
- Nutrition and ration formulation service
- Advisory Services
- Advice on farm buildings and paddock layout
- Assistance with Department of Agriculture schemes
- Options planning for the future
- Advice on alternative enterprise development
- Joint programmes with industry
- Participation in enterprise-based discussion groups
- Young farmer discussion groups
- Farm partnership services
- The Teagasc Cost Control Planner
- Use of the Teagasc Profit Monitor
- Environment and REPS advice and planning service
- Soil and grass analysis service
- Access to farm walks, demonstrations and public events
- A monthly newsletter with practical and timely advice
- Today's Farm magazine six times a year
- BETTER farm programmes
- Access to adult farmer education courses and programmes
- The very latest agriculture and food research updates
- An independent and confidential advisory service

Scaling-Up the “4-H Senegal: Positive Youth Development in Agriculture” Program

March 17-April 2, 2016

Introduction

As part of ERA’s efforts to promote food security by developing human and institutional capacity in agricultural education, training, and research institutions across Senegal, we have identified Positive Youth Development (PYD) modeled after the 4-H program of the Cooperative Extension system as a promising avenue for innovative outreach.

In 2015, ERA spearheaded the establishment of three youth development clubs in and around Toubacouta. The initial groundwork was completed by Bineta Guissé, an ERA staff member who had previously visited with 4-H of VCE as part of a study tour. In March 2015, a training on 4-H and PYD was held in Toubacouta for a diverse set of partners.¹ The training was led by VCE 4-H specialist and professor emerita Kathleen Jamison, current ERA Chief of Party Tom Archibald, and Ms. Guissé. The three clubs serve different age groups and have different foci. Local grassroots youth workers lead the day-to-day operations of the clubs, with direct facilitation support from Peace Corps volunteers and from agricultural experts from ENSA and ISFAR.

Goal

Support the scaling-up of the 4-H Senegal program to two new regions (three new sites) and the strengthening of the program in the pilot site.

Objectives

For the two new regions (the areas of St. Louis and Ziguinchor/Bignona), the objectives are to:

1. Provide an introduction to the theory and practice of PYD and 4-H
2. Establish a roadmap to integrate 4-H into the local context using existing university and grassroots development capacity and structures
3. Plan programs/activities (adapted from U.S. 4-H curricula) to implement with newly formed clubs
4. Observe and participate in practical implementation of programs/activities and provide formative feedback to 4-H educators/volunteers

For the previously established pilot region (the area of Toubacouta), the objectives are to:

1. Facilitate a reflection session on lessons learned from piloting 4-H, including
 - a. Questions of PYD/4-H theory and practice in action
 - b. Practical and logistical needs to meet 4-H goals in the coming year
 - c. Institutional arrangements to render 4-H sustainable
2. Provide an advanced refresher course on the theory and practice of PYD and 4-H
3. Demonstrate and help to adapt advanced programs/activities related to gardening and poultry raising (based on U.S. 4-H curricula)

¹ Peace Corps Senegal, L’École Nationale Supérieure d’Agriculture (ENSA), L’Institut Supérieur de Formation Agricole et Rurale (ISFAR), L’Agence Nationale de Conseil Agricole et Rural (ANCAR), and numerous local partners, such as the primary school of Ndoumbouji, the village of Santama, the *centre d’interprétation de Toubacouta*, and grassroots youth groups.

Itinerary (draft)

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				17 Depart ROA	18 Arrive DKR	19 Drive to St. Louis
20 Prepare	21 Level 1 training		23 Field visit	24 Drive to Touba- couth	25 Level 2 training	26 Field visit (3 clubs/ locations)
27 Drive to Ziguinchor	28 Level 1 training		30 Field visit Zig.	31 Field visit Bignona	1 Fly to DKR	2 Depart DKR

Preparations Needed

- Revision of Level 1 training materials
- Creation of Level 2 training materials
- Selection of appropriate curricula to adapt
- Translation of curricula and training materials
- Meetings to get on the same page about what is needed and how to approach the work
- Planning for follow-up, evaluation, research, and reporting on the work

Estimated budget for Senegal travel per person

\$3,879.00