

# COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

## Minutes

December 11, 2014

3:30-4:30 p.m.

325 Burruss Hall

**Attendance:** Kathy Alexander, Don Back, Jan Helge Bøhn, Andrea Brunais, Howard Chung, Guru Ghosh, Bobby Grisso (for Ed Jones), Reed Kennedy, Michael Schwarz (via phone), Llyn Sharp, Elankumaran Subbiah, Ian Van Pelt, Eric Vance, Scott Farmer (guest)

**Absent:** Montasir, Abbas, Kirsten Buhls, Lee Cooper, Christine Fiori, Brian Hairston, Shannon Jarrott, Ed Jones, Andrew Overbay, Susan Short, Elizabeth Spiller

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Reed Kennedy welcomed the group and self-introductions were made.

### 2. Agenda Approval

Reed made a call for the approval of the agenda and any changes; the agenda was motioned to approve as is; was seconded and was approved.

### 3. Announcements

Reed made the call for announcements.

Guru Ghosh announced that Keith Moore will be the interim executive director for the Office of International Research, Education and Development; and we should know by either Friday or Monday the status of the one of the candidate for the director of the Global Education Office.

Eric Vance announced that the second stat lab in the LISA 2020 network was recently established in Tanzania. LISA 2020 program was set up to create a network of statistical collaboration laboratories in developing countries to enable and accelerate research. The goal is to help create 20 laboratories in developing countries by 2020. A suggestion was made to expand into India. Eric indicated he would send information out to the group after the meeting (**see attached**); and he would be happy to talk or present about this at a future COIA meeting.

### 4. Approval of Minutes, November 20, 2014

The minutes from the November 20, 2014 meeting were sent out electronically for updates; are still in the review/edit process and will be updated accordingly and sent onto University Council and to the University Governance website.

### 5. Chairman's Report

Reed reported on the December 1, 2014 University Council meeting. The old business included the Commission on Faculty Affairs' second reading of the Resolution to Approve the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics, and was approved.

The new business and first reading included the following: Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs' Resolution to Approve Revision to Faculty Handbook Section 7.7: Grievance Policy and Procedures for Administrative and Professional Faculty; the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies' Resolution to Discontinue the Master's in Dairy Science; and Resolution to Discontinue the Master's in Horticulture. Minutes can be found at: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/>.

Reed reported on the Engagement Leadership Council from December 4, 2014. Discussions included the Lifelong Learning Institute, where Virginia Tech will offer courses for retirees to take; and Cathy Sutphin and Andy Seibel presented on the 4-H Youth Development program.

## 6. Vice-Chair's Report

In relation to the Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence, Shannon Jarrott was not present, but the commission had a discussion about which groups of previous nominees to include. The question posed was to invite either just last year's nominees, or last year's and the previous year's nominees. The commission decided to go back two (2) years, but all nominees must submit new packets.

## 7. Reports

### a. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

Bobby Grisso offered to forward the VCE Award of Extension Excellence criteria in light of our discussions for the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence as detailed above (**see attached**). Also, the Agribusiness Council gives a Land Grant Award annually, and Ed Jones has won that award this year. The announcement will come January 15<sup>th</sup>; and the award ceremony will be March 3-5. The winter conference will be at The Inn March 3-5; the members of COIA are invited to attend.

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

The UCIA has not yet met this month, so there was no report.

Don Back, however, reported on an initiative being proposed to the Inclusion and Diversity committee which will provide services to the spouses/partners of graduate students and offer free or reduced rates for English Language courses. The hope is to get the program started by spring semester. The classes will be fully integrated; meeting 4-5 days a week for half days. The rollout will occur through the Graduate School, Cranwell; Facebook pages; and a suggestion was made to put it on the agenda for the next GSA meeting.

## 8. Database and Mapping International Activity at the Institutional Level

Guru invited the group to share their vision with what ideas they have for a database and mapping for International Activities that could be shared with colleagues. Scott Farmer was present to see what vision folks had and to see what resources might be able to be utilized in order to create such a structure.

Kathy Alexander shared her vision along with others to see how people could be connected in relation to their work internationally and how contacts could be made and collaborations could be formed. This would be especially helpful when working with disaster response, and who could we reach out to. Discussion included obtaining travel destinations and dates for those traveling abroad for various business purposes.

Maintenance was one of the biggest factors in keeping such a system successful. A suggestion was made to have some sort of control in the database where information must be updated annually to include past two (2) year's experiences and the information on the person will expire, or drop off after three (3) years. Mention was made to include David Brady and his office.

Mike Schwarz offered that the area of specialty and geographic locations were good points. The idea was raised to tag and or query to that location and send a message to those on the database.

Elankumaran Subbiah offered that with regard to the International Policy 288; that international travel should be captured and a LinkedIn type group could be created to share international projects.

The idea was compared to the similar expertise database.

Eric Vance suggested a Faculty of International Engagement be created similar to the current Faculty of Health Sciences. Members of this new faculty would have incentive to update their international research profiles.

Scott Farmer offered that the maintenance would be the biggest challenge; similarly to the interactive international map that is currently on the OIA page (VT Navigate). A variety of reports currently gather some of the information being sought; the faculty activity report; EFAR.

The group suggested inviting Scott back in early spring; in the meantime setting up a sub-committee to provide input. Volunteers included Scott, Elankumaran, Kathy, Jan Helge, Eric Vance and Don Back.

**9. Commission Board Member Comments**

Guru announced that the Associate Vice President for International Affairs search will hopefully start next week.

Mike announced that the inaugural Forever Oceans/Virginia Tech International Aquaculture Academy training has been completed at the VSAREC in Hampton, Virginia. Trainees were from the Ministry of Fisheries Wealth in Oman.

Kathy announced that the minister of health invited her to Botswana to address Ebola issues.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, all in favor; adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rhodes  
Recording Secretary