

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

May 8, 2008

3:30-4:30 p.m.

325 Burruss Hall

Attendance: Ray Ali, Andrew Becker, Jan Helge Bøhn, John Dooley, Devi Gnyawali, Osama Marzouk, Kevin Pelzer, Max Stephenson, Scott Tate, Chris Thomas, Jane Wemhoener

Absence: Sarah Burkett, Jeri Childers, Terry Clements, S. K. De Datta, Erin Dolan, Billie Jean Elmer, Susan Felker, Susan Hagen, Traijan Ilescu, Alyssa Katz, Mark McCann, Ewen McLean, Gerhardt Schurig, Ted Settle

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jan Helge Bøhn chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Self-introductions were made.

2. Agenda Approval

A call was made for suggestions and modifications to the agenda. The agenda was approved by acclamation as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes, April 10, 2008

The April 10, 2008 Minutes were approved electronically and have been forwarded to University Council for approval.

4. Chairman's Report

Jan Helge Bøhn reported from the April 7 University Council meeting. There were six motions approved:

- a. Administrative/Professional Faculty need for autonomy. Currently there is an agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia regarding the need for some level of autonomy and the need to make adjustments; one being to modify how people are evaluated. Our performance-based ranking system has gone from a three point system to a four point system.
- b. Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) & Creative Technologies for the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. We have created a new MFA in Creative Technologies in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. The question arose as to whether the degree was an MFA or just an MA. It was confirmed that it was an MFA, which would indicate a terminal degree.
- c. Policies Derivative-evaluation of A/P faculty and staff. Currently there are some regular policies regarding the evaluation of Professional Faculty and staff. The Council will be coming back in about a year or two and see how people are being rated in order to decide if the rating system makes sense. There was discussion over word choices for the classification of people who are either slipping in performance or who are new and are improving. The possibility of having one classification for two performances on the same level was discussed.
- d. Policy on Dismissal of a Patient from Care at the Health Center: Part of the accreditation is having a policy on how to dismiss patients from the health center. Previously, there was not a formal policy. Now there is a policy on how to dismiss a student who refuses to participate in his or her own care. It was discussed that if the policy referred to mental health, primarily designed to cut down on our liability.
- e. Undecided Motion Regarding Weapons Policy. The Council did not decide on anything with regards to expanding the weapons policy for students. The issue was whether or not to expand

the policy and how to include a ban on ammunition storage in dorm rooms. Although the group was determining how to proceed, there were a lot of unresolved cases that were tabled and will need to be reintroduced.

- f. **Energy and Sustainability Committee.** Recommended the adjustment of the membership in the Energy and Sustainability Committee. Primarily, the issue was to move the responsibility for nominating the two student members to the SGA and GSA.

(Approved minutes can be found at: <http://www.governance.vt.edu/minutes.php>.)

5. **Nominating Committee Report-Chair and Vice Chair for COIA Announced**

Andy Becker spoke on the Nominating Committee Report and Election of the 2008-2009 chair and vice chair. It was established that the COIA meeting had a quorum. Andy said the nominating committee had met to discuss officers for next year. Jane Wemhoener was nominated as chair and Terri Clements as vice chair, and both Jane and Terri accepted their nominations. The motion was seconded and on the table. It was asked if there were any other nominations, and there were not. It was moved to close nominations and nominations were closed. All were in favor of closing nominations, with none opposed. Nominations were closed. Jane opted not to make a speech. There was a call for further discussion, and no one responded. Then a call for votes was made, and the election was unanimous.

6. **Understanding Engagement and Engaged Scholarship**

Ray Ali and Jane Wemhoener spoke regarding Engagement and Engaged Scholarship. Ray and Jane met about a week ago. They visited the current status of the Outreach NOW pre-conference sessions with regard to engagement and engaged scholarship, extending invitations to those who have already participated in the conversation and those who are close to presentations for the Outreach NOW conference. Jane indicated that the group is opening it up to participants, because they seem likely candidates for this conversation. Ray indicated it was his understanding that would be a re-draft, or another look at the White Paper for engaged scholarship and then review the conversation. Jane said one of things she'll be working on over the summer is taking her notes from the conversations she has had, categorizing them and pull them all together, since there are different themes and they're quite distinct. Some conversations may include promotion and tenure, hiring with encouragement to serve, and encouragement to engage. There are a lot of different questions from a department level, college level and individual level to sort through and share with the committee. The White Paper will come out and need to be closed hopefully after September. John Dooley asked if there would be any items for the commission to take up next year that are related to policy change. Jane indicated that she does anticipate this. Ray indicated there is a consistent interpretation of engagement flowing across A/P faculty and staff. Scott Tate was interested in attending the meeting for the Outreach NOW conference with the commission members. Jane indicated that she will make sure that something official goes out to invite commission members and that they would be important in helping people articulate, organize and participate in workshops.

7. **Outreach NOW 2008**

Since Jeri is on leave, John Dooley spoke on Outreach NOW. The response to the RFP for sessions as well as for posters has been overwhelming. There were 14 or 18 different proposals for the full workshops as well as a lot of activity and different proposals this year. The poster sessions suggest how we should make decisions with consideration to the space we have. An invitation was sent to the Governor's office to attend Outreach NOW and he tentatively plans to attend. Encourage your colleagues to come.

8. Reports

a. University Council on International Affairs (UCIA)

Andy Becker spoke on the reports from UCIA. A subcommittee met and awarded the Excellence in International Education award to Devi Gnyawali, the Excellence in International Outreach award to Glenda Snider, and the Excellence in International Research award to John Browder. The UCIA has been dealing with several issues, one being a change in the paperwork students must complete before Study Abroad trips. There are certain items concerning health issues that they cannot be asked to disclose. A voluntary disclosure form was developed and Steven Duke worked to find out what other universities were doing and then ran it by the legal department. Steve is going to write a final draft and run it by legal for a final time. The proposal to link tuition, faculty salaries and summer study abroad programs is moving forward. The idea is that some or all of the tuition money for summer study abroad programs goes back into the program, whereas in the model we have now, each department gets a summer budget for their summer teaching and if they have any left to support a study abroad program, they can do it. If not, then there is nothing they can do. The proposal that is going forward would eventually lead to sort of an enhanced revenue. Have more people study abroad and some of the money would come back into the program to allow programs to run in the summer. The plan is currently being developed. For next fall, a couple of issues are set to come back. One of them was revisiting the university's strategic plan, the international strategic plan. The other is to discuss if there is anything we can do to help support the regional centers in various spots. They're all moving along at different rates.

b. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

Ray Ali spoke on the reports from the VCE. There were two items to discuss. First, summer interns were selected. They are usually juniors or seniors who are brought on board to work for the summer in Cooperative Extension. There are about 27, which is roughly one for every 10 extension agents. This provides a good resource for professional development of the intern. Second, a 4H camping season is now beginning throughout the commonwealth.

Meeting Dates for Next Year

September 11, 2008

October 9, 2008

November 13, 2008

December 11, 2008

February 5, 2009

March 12, 2009

April 9, 2009

May 14, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Rhodes
Recording Secretary