

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MINUTES
November 8, 2007

Attendance: Andrew Becker, Jan Helge Bøhn, Erin Dolan, John Dooley, Roger Avery for Gerhardt Schurig, Devi Gnyawali, Billie Jean Elmer (telecon), Francois Elvinger for Kevin Pelzer, Traian Iliescu, Osama Marzouk, Scott Tate

Absence: Sarah Burkett, Jeri Childers, Terry Clements, S. K. De Datta, Susan Hagen, Alyssa Katz, Mark McCann, Ewen McLean, Chris Thomas, Ted Settle, Max Stephenson, Jane Wemhoener

1. Welcome

Erin Dolan welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were self introductions.

2. Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved as presented with a minor change of Erin Dolan reporting for Jeri Childers on Outreach NOW 2008.

3. Approval of Minutes, October 11, 2007

The October 11, 2007 Minutes were approved electronically and have been forwarded to University Council for approval.

**4. Chairman's Report
University Council**

There was no report from the November 5 University Council due to the cancelation of the meeting.

Academy for Outreach

The Academy for Outreach consists of past recipients of the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence. A report is being compiled of those recipients showing a distribution across colleges to get a sense of how this group can be utilized in a way that is productive with respect to Commission business, i.e. poster awards for Outreach NOW conference, assisting with selection of award winners, etc. A question was raised if an academy for international scholars should be established if there could be a function for the winners of the alumni awards for international. It was proposed that the Academy for Outreach could be expanded to include international, such as the Academy for Outreach and International Affairs. Andrew Becker will take this proposal to the UCIA for discussion. To aid with setting up the new academy, information will be gathered about the existing Teaching Academy at Virginia Tech.

Understanding Engagement and Engaged Scholarship

The committee, Jeri Childers, Terry Clements and Jane Wemhoener are working to revise the white paper on engagement. The revised report will be shared prior to the December meeting, allowing the committee more time to collate feedback.

5. Outreach NOW 2008

Outreach NOW 2008 is scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2008.

Choices of Themes

The theme for last year's conference was on economic vitality, following the engagement thrust of the VT Strategic Plan. It was suggested that the theme for this year's conference also be taken from

the engagement scholarship area of the strategic plan on either student engagement or international education and research.

Discussion for student engagement theme:

- Cooperative Extension provides a platform to advance student engagement – workshops at Outreach NOW and potential for students to be connected through local extension offices during their college breaks in their home regions.
- Student engagement and student learning can combine both domestic and international.
- VT-ENGAGE abroad.

More in-depth discussion will follow at the next meeting.

Suggestions for keynote speaker:

- Governor Tim Kaine
- Secretary General of the World Health Organization
- Jimmy Carter

Suggestions for workshop leaders:

- Allison L. Dunn, Coordinator of Leadership Development Officer, University Unions and Student Activities at Virginia Tech

Program Design

- Program design this past year was better than previous years.
- Include workshop that continues the conversation with keynote.
- Offer a fewer number of workshops. There were eight workshops at the 2007 conference.
- Continuation/long-term networking/discussion group to follow up with issues of interest that come up during the event. Jane Wemhoener contacted the CEUT as facilitators, and can also look at Service-Learning as facilitators for the long-term group.
- The faculty recognition part of the program will be a printed brief description of the award winners and then recognize each to downsize this part of the program.
- The purpose of Outreach NOW is to raise the profile of outreach within the university and better equip faculty in how they can become involved in outreach-related activities and to see engagement differently. This is not a faculty/student program.
- Look at those graduate students who participate in the Citizens Scholar Program to be appropriate participants in the educational program because they are future academics.
- Bring in a student to talk about the value of student engagement or have a brief slide show or video presentation that captures the theme of VT-ENGAGE, displaying students and faculty working together in context of learning
- Should model and include in the workshops the involvement of students for the presentations, undergraduate research, international student engagement
- Workshop led by Jack Dudley with an honor student to showcase student engagement

6. Language Competency

In January 2007 in response to one of the leading strategies of the international strategic plan of the university, which speaks to the need for greater opportunities for building language competencies of faculty, staff and students, a task force of 14 members was charged with ways to proceed with this plan. The report raised critical issues for entering students at Virginia Tech and graduate student language competency. The major theme of the report is how under-funded Virginia Tech is as it relates to language as compared to other peer groups. The team met earlier in the week with the Provost and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences regarding their

recommendations. The Provost committed \$250,000 of new base resource to provide new faculty lines in Foreign Language and Literatures. The task force report will be available on the web for further perusal.

7. **Reports**

- **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)**

No report.

- **University Council on International Affairs (UCIA)**

Andy Becker reported from the November 1 UCIA meeting. Approved UCIA minutes will be posted at the Outreach and International web site at

http://www.outreach.vt.edu/ucip/min_index.html.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Price

Recording Secretary