

**COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MINUTES
October 12, 2006**

Attendance: Andrew Becker, Sarah Burkett, Jeri Childers, Travis Cochran, S. K. De Datta, Erin Dolan, John Dooley, Gene Egger, Ken Eriksson, Devi Gnyawali, Susan Hagen, Osama Marzouk, Jim Pease, Ellen Smith for Susan Prillaman, Ted Settle, Scott Tate, Chris Thomas

Absence: Jan Helge Bøhn, Eileen Crist, Mark McCann, Ewen McLean, Kevin Pelzer, Gerhardt Schurig

1. Welcome and Introductions

Gene Egger welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ellen Smith was welcomed as representing Susan Prillaman.

2. Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes, September 14, 2006

The September 14 Minutes were approved electronically and have been forwarded to University Council for approval.

4. Chairman's Report

University Council – October 2 meeting

Gene Egger reported on the October 2 University Council meeting and reviewed the resolutions that were presented. He would like the COIA to stay informed about approved university actions going through the University Council.

John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs, Discussion of the Engagement Domain

Dr. Dooley provided a PowerPoint presentation and discussed his view of scholarship in the domain of engagement with respect to Outreach and International Affairs. The four major strategies of the engagement domain are 1) PK-12 Enhancements in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), 2) Student Engagement, 3) Economic Vitality, and 4) International Education and Research. He discussed how engagement will factor into all the domain thrusts. Dr. Dooley described upcoming initiatives:

- Dr. Dooley is putting together a task group that will be charged with leading the university through a discussion and a planning process to enhance the language capabilities of faculty, staff and students. There will be credit and non-credit program opportunities.
- There is a major opportunity forthcoming to develop and implement dual/double degrees with international academic partners such as Egypt, and proposals in process with TU Darmstadt, Politecnico Di Milano, University in Switzerland, and others.

- There was a discussion this past week at Virginia Tech with faculty from Monterrey Tech, Mexico about developing an international honors learning community. As a pilot project, six institutions will be identified internationally, including Virginia Tech. A curriculum would be developed so honors students at Virginia Tech could take courses at different institutions and then receive a degree from Virginia Tech.

A question and answer session followed.

- When students return from an education abroad experience, there needs to be a continuation at the end of this experience. The international strategic plan suggests the development of an international competency certificate as a part of the undergraduate experience of which education abroad would be only one component. Dr. Dooley has requested Mr. Ron Daniel, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, to work with those who are involved in discussions on pathways in the core curriculum to define what competencies will be recognized as a part of their learning experience at Virginia Tech.
- When students return from study abroad experiences, follow-up sessions need to be held to mentor new students who will be coming into the study abroad.
- The UCIA will follow-up with recommendations and bring this back to the COIA.

Promotion and Tenure Discussions for Outreach and International Affairs

An excerpt of the Promotion and Tenure Guidelines for 2006-2007, was distributed and discussed. Through the leadership of the COIA, the P&T guidelines were re-designed to increase the awareness of OIA and it reflects the importance of engagement. Dr. Dooley referred to the following:

- Page 6, Item *B* – *A chronological list of non-credit courses, workshops, and other related outreach and/or extension teaching since the last promotion or the date of appointment to Virginia Tech: Activities related to non-credit related teaching.*
- Page 6, Item *I* – *Student evaluations of instruction.*
- Page 7, Item *J* – *Peer evaluations of instruction: Identify peers who can evaluate teaching for non-credit related activities*

There is a relationship to these items in the P&T documents, consistent with the Strategic Plan. Need to bring value to this to determine potential impact to the educational program. The impact should address: Did it add or contribute to the commitment to the Strategic Plan? As part of the COIA discussions this year, there needs to be a discussion about how this can be better articulated and offered as additional amendments to these directions. As a part of the introduction of the P&T document, faculty can incorporate impact of activity in context of the VT Strategic Plan into their annual reports. Faculty have had a difficult time in the past finding a place for their outreach and engagement activities, and this is helpful.

- Page 9, Item *D* – *Invited keynote presentations or lectures: Allows faculty to demonstrate their significant importance as experts within certain fields with presentations. Besides providing a listing, bring to the forefront the significance of that keynote presentation as it relates to the application of the topic.*
- Page 10, Item *F* – *Evidence of economic contribution to the Commonwealth of Virginia: Raises the point of contributions of faculty member to economic vitality.*

May want to consider this year a recommendation that this be expanded to consider ways in which research contributed to economic development.

- Page 10, Item *G* – *Intellectual properties*: Consistent with economic vitality component of the engagement strategy.
- Page 10, Item *VI* – *International and Professional Service and Additional Outreach and Extension Activities*: International and professional service is a part of an outreach and extension strategy. International and professional service was separated from university service.

Commission on Faculty Affairs Survey – Valerie Hardcastle (<http://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1159819557879>) about P&T Questions

This survey of Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Concerning Promotion and Tenure Procedures dated October 2006 from the Commission on Faculty Affairs is due today. Gene Egger encouraged everyone to complete the survey today. The survey should provide information regarding how many levels a single participant can be permitted to serve on, vote on, or chair tenure and promotion committees. The CFA will be discussing the results of the survey at their October 13 meeting.

5. Vice Chairman's Report

COIA Awards Committee Update

Ken Eriksson reported that the awards committee consisting of Ken Eriksson, Sarah Burkett, Erin Dolan, Ted Settle and Doris Zallen is in place. A draft awards handout containing feedback for changes was shared and discussed. Dr. Eriksson asked the COIA to review the suggestions and he will share the revised draft at the next meeting. He will also send this out electronically. At the next meeting there will be a discussion about creating a functioning academy, and, in particular what would be the value of having the academy and how could that be put into operation. It was requested that awardee citation statements be shared with the COIA, and it needs to be decided how this information will be shared.

Faculty Senate Resolution 2006-VTSET, Virginia Tech Student Evaluation of Teaching (VTSET), second reading by Senate was September 22

Ken Eriksson reported from the September 22 Faculty Senate meeting on the second reading of the resolution for the VT Student evaluation of teaching. The student evaluation of teaching has been in place for 40 years. The next system would be a course specific approach by faculty using the web and creating a template for the student evaluations, thus giving faculty on-going feedback that could be viewed anytime during the semester. One of the concerns is that students may be less inclined to complete an on-line evaluation. Another question is the uniformity of the system for P&T purposes. Now every course gets an overall rating, and if faculty members are responsible for their own questions, how is one faculty compared to another?

There will be a discussion at the next CFA meeting about the evaluations and whether they should remain anonymous or if this should be an opportunity for department heads to view evaluations on a non-anonymous basis. It is anticipated that this proposal will be brought to University Council in the spring.

6. Information Items

Reports:

- **Outreach NOW 2006 & Pre-conference Workshop Planning Subcommittee**
Due to the meeting time constraints, this item will be deferred to the next meeting.
- **Outreach Council**
There was no report. Approved Outreach Council minutes will be posted at the Outreach and International Affairs web site at <http://www.outreach.vt.edu/council/index.html>.
- **University Council on International Affairs**
Due to the meeting time constraints, Andrew Becker will share the UCIA report electronically with the minutes. Approved UCIA minutes will be posted at the Outreach and International Affairs web site at http://www.outreach.vt.edu/ucip/min_index.html.
- **Extension**
There was no report.

7. **Other Business**

Training for P&T committees with the respect to the changes for outreach scholarship will be discussed at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Price
Recording Secretary