

**COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 13, 2007**

**Attendance:** Ray Ali for Mark McCann, Andrew Becker, Jan Helge Bøhn, Sarah Burkett, Terry Clements, S. K. De Datta, Erin Dolan, John Dooley, Lud Eng for Gerhardt Schurig, Kevin Pelzer, Billie Jean Elmer (telecon), Scott Tate, Chris Thomas, Ted Settle, Max Stephenson, Scott Tate, Jane Wemhoener

**Absence:** Jeri Childers, Devi Gnyawali, Susan Hagen, Osama Marzouk, Ewen McLean

**1. Welcome**

Erin Dolan welcomed everyone to the meeting and there were special introductions of new members as well as self introductions of continuing members.

Dr. Dolan read the charge of the COIA. She reminded members that both the Outreach Council and the University Council for University Affairs put forth policy to the COIA for approval. The COIA will forward policy to University Council for approval as needed.

**2. Agenda Approval**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**3. Approval of Minutes, May 10, 2007**

The May 10, 2007 Minutes were approved electronically and have been forwarded to University Council for approval.

**4. Chairman's Report**

A high priority this year is to consider how P&T guidelines are being followed and practiced in the university community. They were revised several years ago with significant input by the COIA. The recipients of the Outreach Excellence award are inducted into an Academy for Outreach Excellence: The COIA needs to consider how to utilize the expertise of this group.

Will need to continue to work through the university for a common understanding of what is engagement. There is a strong component of internationalization with engagement. There needs to be more clarity of how extension and outreach fits into engagement.

The University Council on International Affairs is working on opportunities related to education abroad and will bring recommendations to the COIA.

The University Council on International Affairs went through a university assessment last year as to where the university is on the implementation of the international strategic plan, and whether some level of certification for students should be offered to those who have reached a particular set of standards as part of their undergraduate experience.

A task force, which was appointed last year, has turned in a final report for enhancing the university's position on language. The time has come to address this component of the learning experience. This would be a shared effort between the COIA and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies.

Another task force, also appointed last year, will be submitting a final report to the COIA in early October as it relates to student engagement.

The deans from each college will be invited to the UCIA this year to discuss how the international strategic plan is being incorporated into each of their colleges and how faculty are being recognized for effort in this area.

**5. Outreach NOW 2007**

Copies of the Outreach NOW 2007 flyer were shared. The conference is scheduled on September 24 and is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. Secretary Aneesh Chopra will deliver the keynote, followed by an awards ceremony at 2:00 p.m. and concurrent faculty presentations scheduled at 2:30 p.m. and then repeated again at 3:30 p.m. A networking reception will begin at 4:30 p.m. with Secretary Chopra sharing his concluding remarks.

**6. Understanding Engagement and Engaged Scholarship**

The white paper on “Engagement at Virginia Tech Toward Defining our Future” dated 8/25/07 was distributed and discussion followed. The paper was described as a work in progress. The purpose of the paper is to try to develop language about what is engagement and what is engaged scholarship, and to shape the document as a guideline. The COIA is requested to share this paper with college representatives and to bring input back to the October meeting for discussion. Feedback may be sent to Jeri Childers and Ted Settle.

**7. Reports**

• **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)**

Ray Ali reported that the Office of Civil Rights of the USDA is scheduling reviews for VCE, the Agriculture Experiment Station and the Human Resources area of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Dr. Bob Meadows, associate director and state program leader for 4-H Youth Development is retiring.

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

The UCIA is discussing the Study Abroad program and funding/tuition models for studies in the summer.

A request has been submitted to the Alumni Office to split the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Outreach and Research. Approved UCIA minutes will be posted at the Outreach and International web site at [http://www.outreach.vt.edu/ucip/min\\_index.html](http://www.outreach.vt.edu/ucip/min_index.html).

**8. Other**

The January COIA meeting is canceled. The February meeting has been moved up one week and will be held on February 7.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Price  
Recording Secretary