

**COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 14, 2006**

**Attendance:** Andrew Becker, Sarah Burkett, Travis Cochran, S. K. De Datta, Erin Dolan, Gene Egger, Ken Eriksson, Saul Halfon for Eileen Crist, Osama Marzouk, Jim Pease, Kevin Pelzer, Gerhardt Schurig, Chris Thomas, Richard Wokutch for Devi Gnyawali

**Absence:** Jan Helge Bøhn, Jeri Childers, John Dooley, Susan Hagen, Mark McCann, Ewen McLean, Susan Prillaman, Ted Settle, Scott Tate

**Guest:** David Ford

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Gene Egger welcomed everyone to the meeting. Richard Wokutch introduced himself as representing Devi Gnyawali.

**2. Agenda Approval**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**3. Approval of Minutes, August 24, 2006**

The August 24, 2006 Minutes were approved electronically and have been forwarded to University Council for approval.

**4. Chairman's Report**

**Connecting COIA to Other Commissions and Committees**

The results of the combined list of commissioners serving on university commissions, committees and other related areas were distributed. Commissioners were asked to respond with any changes.

**Connecting COIA to National Associations of Similar Interests**

Commissioners were asked to report on meetings attended at national associations on outreach and international to share best practices and contact information.

**Commission Chairs Meeting with President**

Commission chairs met with President Steger last week to discuss agenda items for the upcoming year. Gene Egger discussed COIA's commitment to study how outreach and international affairs is recognized in the university in terms of promotion and tenure; Outreach NOW 2006 conference, and the scholarship + pedagogy of outreach and international affairs.

**Scholarship + Pedagogy of Outreach and International Affairs**

There was discussion that the word pedagogy should be added when addressing domains. There are new, creative ways in outreach and international programs to deliver and evaluate courses, which are many times different from in traditional classroom settings.

## **Student Preparedness for Education Abroad**

There was more discussion on how to prepare students for study abroad. Students need language skills so they can have a better experience abroad. Short courses could be offered, but there was concern about adding additional prerequisites. If students could do a conversational course in about six weeks, meeting two times a week, it was felt that would be adequate to get started. Students who have been abroad could serve as mentors. Andrew Becker will bring this to the University Council on International Affairs for discussion.

## **5. Vice Chairman's Report**

This year's awards subcommittee was identified as Ken Eriksson, chair; Ted Settle, Erin Dolan and Sarah Burkett. Dr. Eriksson will invite Doris Zallen to be on the committee. She was last year's recipient of the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence. Ken Eriksson requested the committee to review the existing outreach awards guidelines and report back to him with any suggestions for changes. This year, more people need to be encouraged to submit dossiers for these awards.

## **6. Information Items**

Reports:

- **Outreach NOW 2006 & Pre-conference Workshop Planning Subcommittee**  
Gene Egger reported for Jeri Childers that the conference is coming together very well, and there is currently a large enrollment. Commissioners were encouraged to register right away for the conference if they have not already done so.
- **Outreach Council**  
There was no report. The next meeting is scheduled on September 19. 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**  
Andrew Becker gave a report from the September 7 UCIA meeting. Approved UCIA minutes will be posted at the Outreach and International Affairs web site at [http://www.outreach.vt.edu/ucip/min\\_index.html](http://www.outreach.vt.edu/ucip/min_index.html).
- **Extension**  
A first annual state training for nutrition paraprofessionals across the state is being held in Blacksburg this week.

There will be an Education Abroad Fair on the Virginia Tech Drillfield on September 26. It was also reported there will be a new program offered at the fair involving paid international internships in France, which will be 4 months in duration.

On September 25 a consultant from Canada will offer two workshops, one for faculty and one for students, on the life in working abroad/study abroad.

## **7. Action Item**

Dr. David Ford, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, was the invited guest speaker. He distributed handouts and discussed his view of scholarship in the domain of learning with respect to Outreach and International Affairs initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Price  
Recording Secretary