

University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA)
February 28, 2022
Zoom
Minutes

Attending virtually: Theresa Johansson (presiding), Don Back, David Clubb, Juan Espinoza, Rachel Fitzgerald, Monika Gibson, Khaled Hassouna, Don Hempson, Farida Jalalzai, Lara Khansa, Rich Mathieson, Kim McKinnie, Jennifer Nardine, Michel Pleimling, Valerie Ragan, Kimberly Rhodes, Nicole Sanderlin, Sara Steinert Borella, Lauren Surface, John Talerico, Tom Thompson, Dave Trinkle, Janell Watson, Danny White, Larry Vaughan

Theresa Johansson welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

1. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, January 24, 2022:** Theresa announced that the minutes from the January 24, 2022 meeting had been previously distributed electronically, with the call for edits and approval. The minutes were approved electronically.

2. **Updates:**
 - a. **Report on University Data Commons Global Engagement App:** There was no update for this meeting.
 - b. **Alumni Awards for Excellence-International Education, Outreach and Education:** Farida Jalalzai reported on the Alumni Awards for Excellence-International Education, Outreach and Education. She indicated the selection committee has met, winners were announced and notified. Kimberly Rhodes indicated that Special Events asks that winners not be discussed outside of this group, that Special Events and Public Relations makes an announcement with their press release.
 - c. **Working Group updates and chair selections:**
 - i. MOU process/database working group-Don Hempson reported that the working group is receiving documents from some of the colleges regarding their internal MOU processes. The suggestion was made to identify point people in other campus units (e.g., libraries, LCI, etc.) that are likely to collaborate internationally. Once more information is gathered, there will be a document developed to make the process more consistent across all colleges and departments. Additionally, discussion included having an MOU point person for each area. The group is proposing to integrate the MOU approval process into the Summit system as has recently been done for the Conflict of Interest process. Discussions also included pulling data into a dashboard to include MOUs, research contracts, etc. The group would like to send recommendations to the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA). Discussion included identifying the level of signatory that is required for the different documents/agreements.
 - ii. Global Advancement and Alumni Engagement-David Clubb indicated that currently there is nothing to report.
 - iii. Internationalization at Home-Rachel Fitzgerald reported that the group discussed connecting local with global; taking into consideration particular audiences; and where, when and how they come into contact with intercultural learning competencies and global learning. The group touched on alumni engagement; as well as integrating the ideas into the onboarding process for new hires. Comments/feedback was invited for opportunities for employees and students; and exploring a tag to gather metadata. The tag would need to use language that is relevant to GEO, Cranwell, OIA and others in

order to connect; making the tag more specific than just “global”, something like “global@home”.

3. Member Announcements/Comments:

Theresa announced that the Resolution to update the UCIA Bylaws has gone through the first reading at COIA; and the second reading and voting will occur at the March 17, 2022 meeting.

David Clubb began a discussion regarding the lack of participation in International Education week. This year it is to be held November 14-18, 2022. Cranwell is taking the lead to advance activities for that week. Monika Gibson announced that Lauren Surface who was at the meeting will be taking Monika’s place on the committee. Monika also indicated that the Graduate School used to participate in International Education week; but when the events occur the week before Thanksgiving, it proved to be difficult to participate; and participation was low. David indicated that he would talk to Luliia Hoban about moving forward and taking the lead on this planning. Theresa indicated that she would look to GEO for some collaborations, but wasn’t sure if there was a conflict with the AACU leadership meeting. David indicated that there was a need for a large anchoring event to attract more participation. The International Street Fair will take place on April 24, 2022 from Noon-6:00 p.m. at the Alumni Mall and will include food trucks; children’s area.

Discussion included that there are two (2) students (1 undergraduate/1 graduate) that are citizens of Ukraine; 12 students that are citizens of Russian (5 undergraduate/7 graduate). The question was raised if there was going to be something to go out to the community regarding the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Questions were raised as to how the University can address statements and which ones to uplift to be consistent. The suggestion was made for Byron Hughes from the Dean of Students to send something out; and for Rich Mathieson to possibly have a representative from University Relations attend a future UCIA meeting.

Nicole Sanderlin announced that IIE has confirmed her as a Fulbright Scholar Liaison for Virginia Tech. In this role, she will be promoting opportunities for faculty and staff. Applications for the 2023-2024 U.S. Scholar Programs have just opened with a deadline of September 15, 2022. An informational webinar on Fulbright opportunities for VT faculty will be held on Friday, March 11, 2:00 – 3:00pm; Nicole will send out links to share widely within our areas.

Don Hempson announced that Gene Ball’s last day is today; after 40 years of service. Larry Vaughan has been named the Interim Executive Director of CIRED; a search for a full-time Executive Director is being launched. The VT-India satellite office is located at IIT Madras. Rich has refreshed the OIA website and the International Affairs website. OIA will be highlighting the sesquicentennial events for the month of June; June 23 events begin at the Steger Center.

Theresa uplifted the IIE passport grant; there were 43 Pell eligible freshmen recipients.

4. Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

A reminder that the next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 28, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. (Blacksburg Time).**

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary