

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

**Attending virtually:** Theresa Johansson (presiding), Don Back, David Clubb, Rachel Fitzgerald, Monika Gibson, Khaled Hassouna, Don Hempson, Farida Jalalzai, Ian Leuschner, Rich Mathieson, Jamie McGrath, Kim McKinnie, Jennifer Nardine, Michel Pleimling, Valerie Ragan, Kimberly Rhodes, Noor Seddiq (for Larry Vaughan), Sara Steinert Borella, Lauren Surface, John Talerico, Judy Taylor, Tom Thompson, Janell Watson

Theresa Johansson welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

1. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, February 28, 2022:** Theresa announced that the minutes from the February 28, 2022 meeting had been previously distributed electronically, with the call for edits and approval. The minutes were approved electronically.
  
2. **Updates:**
  - a. **Working Group updates and chair selections:**
    - i. MOU process/database working group-Don Hempson and Ian Leuschner reported on this group. Ian indicated he was able to meet with Radka Kretinska with regard to the Summit system. Permissions and work regarding build out agreements and customization would need to be completed. There is support, but time constraints and costs will be associated with the project. Theresa recommended that the committee meet with Maureen Deisinger to get her input on the MOU process.
    - ii. Global Advancement and Alumni Engagement-Theresa indicated that Christi Lineberry has offered to chair the committee; the update included setting goals with bringing Hokies Abroad back on a more regular basis and supporting activities around the Sesquicentennial and Steger Center celebrations. The next meeting should include plans for the future.
    - iii. Internationalization at Home-Rachel Fitzgerald reported that the group is working on guidelines and should have a draft for the April UCIA meeting. The guidelines will include language around campus and at home which will be discussed and allow for feedback at the April meeting. Rachel uplifted the discussion that David Clubb began at the February UCIA meeting regarding International Education week and promoting more involvement; and discussion around a digital repository for activities and outcomes.
  
3. **Academic Year 2022-2023 Planning:** Theresa announced a shift in the UCIA meetings, and identified there were some issues regarding conflicts for members. Kimberly Rhodes will send out a Doodle Poll to gauge the members' participation for future meetings and finding a mutual day and time that would work for a majority of members. Discussion included whether to keep the current working groups or add to them; there was general consensus that these three groups are sufficient and that their work will continue through at least the next academic year. In addition, Theresa expressed the desire to optimize the usefulness of the committee as a centralized voice of all things international and to help members not participating in working groups understand the importance of their participation. Valerie Ragan suggested a structured approach to identifying what UCIA should work to accomplish in the future by developing specific goals and objectives that UCIA would like to meet.

Theresa wanted the members to be aware that meetings should bring together voices across campus to discuss international collaborations/issues and to bring awareness of the amazing work that is being done across campus.

**4. Member Announcements/Comments:**

Theresa announced that the Resolution to update the UCIA Bylaws has been passed by the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA). Early next month Theresa will reach out to representative units that have vacancies on UCIA.

Khaled Hassouna asked about the International Caucus that used to be active; Don Hempson indicated he received an inquiry as well and that he and Khaled should discuss off-line.

Don Hempson uplifted the event that offered a space for conversation regarding the war in Ukraine; he commended David Clubb for his work in bringing it together and how successful the event was.

Don Hempson also announced that the search for the next Executive Director for CIRED is underway: (<https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/519503/executive-director-center-for-international-research-education-and-development>); as well as the search for the Director of International Finance and Administration (<https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/519657/director-of-international-finance-and-administration>).

Farida Jalalzai announced the launch for the Center for Refugee, Migrant, and Displacement Studies (<https://liberalarts.vt.edu/news/events/2022/03/center-for-refugee--migrant--and-displacement-studies-launch-eve.html>).

Don Back announced his visit was successful to the UAE, Oman and India and was pleased to see the Future Haus exhibit was well visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors during his stay. He also indicated that although there are still precautions with regard to COVID, the masking is more or less a common-sense approach.

**5. Adjournment:** There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

A reminder that the next meeting will be held on **Monday, April 25, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. (Blacksburg Time)**.

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly Rhodes,  
Recording Secretary