

University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA)
April 24, 2023
526 Prices Fork Road/Zoom
Minutes

Attendance: Tom Archibald, Amanda Broome, Jennifer Clevenger, Rachel Fitzgerald, Kathy Hager, Khaled Hassouna, Don Hempson, Theresa Johansson, Jennifer Nardine, Kimberly Rhodes

Zoom Attendance: Don Back, Brian Bond, Iuliia Hoban, Ran Jin, Rich Mathieson, James McGrath, Kim McKinnie, Mallory Miller, Nicole Sanderlin, Sara Steinert Borella, Lauren Surface, John Talerico, Judy Taylor, Janell Watson

Jennifer Nardine welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

1. **Agenda Approval:** Jennifer asked for approval of the Agenda; there were no edits and no opposition to the Agenda as presented; the Agenda was approved as presented by unanimous consent.
2. **Membership Introductions (Name and area of representation):** Self-Introductions were made.
3. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, March 27, 2023:** The minutes from the March 27, 2023 meeting had been previously distributed electronically, with the call for edits and approval. The minutes were approved electronically subsequent to this meeting (**ATTACHMENT A**).
4. **Updates:**
 - a. **Working Group Updates**
 1. **MOU Process/database working group:** Don Hempson reported some of the members of the working group had left; updates to be forthcoming at the next meeting. International Support Services (ISS) has gone through a restructuring phase and is now Global Strategic Services (GSS). Don asked the members to update websites/systems and share with their departments the update. The URL is in the process of being updated from ISS to GSS as well. Currently a search is in process to select a new Director for GSS; the hope is to hire and onboard the new Director over the summer; Theresa Johansson is Chairing the Search Committee.
 2. **Global Advancement and Alumni Engagement:** Christi Lineberry is Chair of this working group, there is a need to add additional members to this working group to be evaluated this fall. Don H. added that the work of the Global Strategic Working Group may be able to intersect with the UCIA working group.
 3. **Internationalization at Home:** Rachel Fitzgerald is Chair of the working group and reported that the group is moving forward with a digital badge/pathway not only for undergraduate, but all students to engage in global and cultural awareness. The system will be multi-tiered to include Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of completion. A questionnaire is to be developed as well as selection of course learning and intercultural themes. The hope is to implement a graduation ceremony for Global learning to include distinction worn with regalia. There will be a data bank of courses; which will include labels and tags for identification. Rachel indicated the hope to have a mock-up of the work in early fall and anticipate roll-out during International Education week. Discussion included sending out a survey to gather information; members agreed that the survey should go out.
 - b. **International Education Week Committee Proposal:** Kimberly Rhodes indicated that there were a few members that did not submit a vote, but the remaining members that did vote were in favor of having a standing committee from UCIA to assist with International Education week. Iuliia Hoban asked what next steps would be; Don H. indicated a committee would need to be formed in order to have the first meeting and charge over the summer. Theresa J. and Lauren Surface indicated they were willing to volunteer. All members should send an email to Don H. or Jennifer N. indicating their availability to serve on the working group and their ability to serve as Chair by **May 12, 2023**.

- c. **Global at Home Central Website:** Jennifer N. indicated at last meeting there was an interest in the Global website, and asked for further information on how the process would work; who the overseer would be; and the method for retrieving data. Rachel indicated that the discussion was couched into a large global database/map and the relationship with the University Data Commons. Discussion included what is the interest; action plan and maintenance. Don H. indicated there should be support from members to move forward; and asked about bringing the suggestion to the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA) as a University-wide effort; to update and structure the process and to solicit support.

Additionally, the Global Newsletter that Amanda Broome is working on is intended to capture international activity from faculty across campus and how can this information provide content for the website. Amanda has sent a spreadsheet (**ATTACHMENT B**) to Kim R. to include in the minutes that will identify points of contacts to gather information. UCIA members are asked to complete and send back to Amanda; to also include suggestions for a Newsletter Name (secondary tab in the spreadsheet). Iulia asked how often should the point of contact send information; Amanda indicated as soon as an event/project may be known; with a possibility of setting up regular meetings to discuss content.

5. **Discussion of 2023-2024 Meetings:** The meetings for next Academic Year were listed at the bottom of the Agenda; the question was asked if the meeting day and/or time should be changed for next year. There was no opposition for the meeting day/times; the meetings will stand as listed at the bottom of the minutes; with the caveat that they may be moved and/or cancelled depending upon University activity. Different venues for meetings were discussed to include possible Gilbert Street space; Library space or the invitation for other spaces across campus to be directed to Don H. or Jennifer N.
6. **Member Announcements/Comments:** The call for announcements/comments was made. Nicole Sanderlin asked about the Alumni Award winners; Jennifer N. announced the winners. The question was asked when the winners would be publicly announced; Kim R. indicated she had received information earlier in the year that around May 10th the announcement would go out with an awards celebration; but received conflicting information from another department regarding a different date for the awards celebration.

Announcement of Next Meeting: A reminder that the next meeting will be held on **Monday, September 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. (Blacksburg Time)/4:00 p.m. (Swiss Time).** **PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting will be both an in-person and Zoom (hybrid) meeting; for those that are local, please join us at 526 Prices Fork Road, Large Conference Room.

7. **Adjournment:** There being no further business and no objections, a motion to adjourn was made by Theresa; seconded; all were in favor the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

2023-2024 Meeting Dates: *All meetings will take place from 10:00-11:00 a.m. (Blacksburg Time)/4:00-5:00 p.m. (Swiss Time). Those members unable to attend are encouraged to send a proxy/alternate to the meeting.*

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|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ September 25, 2023 | ➤ February 26, 2024 |
| ➤ October 23, 2023 | ➤ March 25, 2024 |
| ➤ November 27, 2023 | ➤ April 22, 2024 |
| ➤ NO DECEMBER MEETING | ➤ NO MAY MEETING |
| ➤ January 22, 2024 | |

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA)

March 27, 2023

All Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Attendance: Tom Archibald, Brian Bond, Amanda Broome, Jennifer Clevenger, Rachel Fitzgerald, Kathy Hager, Khaled Hassouna, Don Hempson, Iuliia Hoban, Farida Jalalzai, Ran Jin, Theresa Johansson, Christi Lineberry, Mallory Miller, Jennifer Nardine, Kimberly Rhodes, Nicole Sanderlin, Pamela Smart-Smith, Lauren Surface, John Talerico, Judy Taylor, Jennifer Tkacz

Farida Jalalzai welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. **Agenda Approval:** Farida asked for approval of the Agenda; there were no edits to the Agenda; the Agenda was approved as presented by unanimous consent.
2. **Membership Introductions (Name and area of representation):** Self-Introductions were made.
3. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, February 27, 2023:** The minutes from the February 27, 2023 meeting had been previously distributed electronically, with the call for edits and approval. The minutes were approved electronically subsequent to this meeting (**ATTACHMENT A**).
4. **International Activities Discussion:**
 - a. **International Education Week Committee Proposal:** The proposal was updated and sent out to members electronically for voting. The voting will end April 5, 2023.
 - b. **Global at Home Central Website:** Discussion included the maintenance of the Global at Home website; Theresa Johansson indicated it may be a group effort. She suggested that Amanda Broome could be a point of contact; with the possibility of sending out a request 2-3 times a year to Deans and Associate Deans requesting updates on programs in their college. Theresa also indicated that Theo Figurasin, Global Education Office's Communicator could also help with this project.

Discussions included audience and mission; the Global Data App which collects the data and what are the gaps in the app and what would this add to the project. In terms of gaps and long-term sustainability, since international activities are reported in other systems; how can the data be brought together into one. Theresa indicated that there needs to be a tool to tell Virginia Tech's international story and it would be helpful to have better story-telling by Virginia Tech overall. The audience should be internal and external audiences. Comments included an outward focus as well as an internal; as well as getting information out better across the board. Ideas raised of where could faculty go and what are the requirements as well as how to engage research and uplift visibility. Nicole indicated that the Data Commons app is only internal facing for data collection due to privacy concerns. The suggestion was to see if a tool could be worked into the Global Strategy Plan. Don Hempson indicated this is a topic that has come up in several of the touch-point groups; and looking at ways to incorporate into the recommendation.

- c. **University Global Rankings:** Mallory Miller gave a presentation on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (**ATTACHMENT B**). There are 17 SDGs that are looked out in the overall ranking of universities. Universities are asked to submit data to at least 4 of the SDGs. The rankings should be out within the next couple of months. There are activities in all areas, but not all areas are comprehensive. For 2022 Virginia Tech is ranked 98 overall; for more information regarding Impact Rankings (<https://www.vt.edu/about/rankings.html>). Mallory

indicated conversations with Rich Mathieson showcasing the land-grant activities and filter through SDGs; research, outreach, teaching and stewardship. Stories could include tags and how they relate to SDGs to enable them to be searchable. There is a team of communicators that includes Lindsey Haugh, Dave Guerin, Rich Mathieson and others that are working to get key terms for tagging.

- d. **Introduction of the Global Newsletter:** Amanda Broome gave a presentation regarding a new Global Newsletter (**ATTACHMENT C**). The project is being proposed to be sent out month and to showcase what Virginia Tech is doing as a whole. The newsletter will be created and disseminated; with the need to have partners to supply content for the newsletter. In making the newsletter a success, the request for UCIA will be to provide feedback, suggestions, content on the Google form (to be created) or by email (intlnewsletter@vt.edu). If members could include questions and points of contact for your respective areas; that would be helpful. The suggestion is to have 2-3 newsletters a semester.

5. **Updates:** Due to time, the updates will be on next month's agenda.

6. **Member Announcements/Comments:** The call for announcements/comments was made. Don Hempson announced that with regard to the MOU Working group, there were a lot of changes. International Support Services is currently changing; and attempts to update websites are currently being made. Faculty members are expected to be the initiators on all MOUS; and all should have access and be able to enter all information and submit for approval. Don requested that members relay this information back to their departments with faculty to continue to be initiators.

Luliia Hoban indicated next week Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Mervi Kaukko will give a public lecture on the "Refugee Education for Uncertain Futures. Analysis of Teachers' Practices in Finland, South Africa and Australia"; as well as a Webinar on "Education for Living Well in a World Worth Living In".

Theresa announced the International Street Fair to take place on April 23 on Alumni Mall; Noon-6:00 p.m.

7. **Announcement of Next Meeting:** A reminder that the next meeting will be held on **Monday, April 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. (Blacksburg Time)/4:00 p.m. (Swiss Time)**. **PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting will be both an in-person and Zoom (hybrid) meeting; for those that are local, please join us at 526 Prices Fork Road, Large Conference Room.

8. **Adjournment:** There being no further business and no objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

2022-2023 Meeting Dates: All meetings will take place from 10:00-11:00 a.m. (Blacksburg Time). Those members unable to attend are encouraged to send a proxy/alternate to the meeting.

- April 24, 2023
- **NO MAY MEETING**

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

From: Broome, Amanda

To move forward with the newsletter, Amanda will need:

1. List of contacts who collectively could keep Amanda abreast of all international happenings/updates/news across the University
 - It would be ideal if each UCIA member would [use this spreadsheet](#) to recommend connections around the university who could provide insight into the international-related happenings within their departments/units/etc. *(Use the Content Adviser's tab)*
 - Amanda will reach out to the people you recommend to form a group which will provide content recommendations for the newsletter by regularly forwarding events/news happenings to Amanda and by meeting two-three times a semester to discuss the content of the newsletter.
2. Suggestions for building listserv (What ways could Amanda tap into your existing audiences to build the audience for this new newsletter). Please email Amanda with your thoughts.
3. Recommendations for newsletter name. Please use [this spreadsheet](#) to add suggestions and vote on your favorites. *(Use the newsletter tab)*

Amanda Broome

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