

**University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA)**  
**Minutes**  
**April 27, 2020, 10:30 AM**  
**526 Prices Fork Road Blacksburg, Room 121 A**

**Attendance:**

Members: Svetlana Filiatreau, Rob Emmett, Nicole Sanderlin, Jennifer Nardine, Patricia Parera, John Talerico, Monica Gibson, Debra Stoudt, Jenene Belcher, Theresa Johansen, Danny White, Don Back, Tom Thompson, Janell Watson, Valerie Ragan, Ian Leuschner, Maureen Deisinger, Latanya Walker, Mallory Miller, Judy Taylor, David Clubb

**UCIA Agenda Items for the April 27, 2020 meeting**

1. Introductions  
Svetlana gave a general welcome to all. Individual introductions were made.
2. The Alumni International Excellence Awards sub-committee report was given by Latanya. The recipients were:
  - a. Alumni Award for Excellence in International Education-David Knight
  - b. Alumni Award for Excellence in International Outreach-Tom Thompson
  - c. Alumni Award for Excellence in International Research-Ignacio MooreEmails were sent to all nominees as well as the recipients.
3. Global Data Working Group report.  
Nicole and Don reported that data was being imported and additional information will be forthcoming.
4. Updates from UCIA
  - a. Janell reported that the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures received a grant in Russian.
  - b. Theresa reported that GEO was wrapping up student recalls and reimbursements, working on academic completion, were working on ways to strengthen the international virtual exchange and scholarship carryover for next year. She thanked the Peer Advisors for doing a wonderful job in trying circumstances.
  - c. Don Back reported that all prep classes are on-line, the Argentine Fulbright Scholars time was cut short, the Fulbright Colombia grant was won, and the Jordan conference is extended until November.
  - d. Svetlana reported that Pamplin was given a gift to VT of 10,000 masks from China from a partner institution.
5. Challenges and opportunities related to the pandemic
  - a. The uncertainty of the Fall as the Commonwealth is still in a state of flux
  - b. GEO is challenged to address the concerns of parents and students, as they do not currently know how programs will function for next year, both inbound and outbound.

- c. Monica raised the issue of the Graduate Students who cannot be paid through their assistantships, unless they are physically in the USA and working on campus. They could join classes virtually but they can't afford to pay the tuition without the in-state tuition rate available to them through the assistantships.
- d. Svetlana said that some students are taking classes from their home countries and the time zones create problems for them. Some are taking classes in the middle of the night. There is also concern about the grading system for classes which cannot be changed.

The group as a whole agreed that a May meeting would be necessary. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27 at 10:30 AM.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Patricia Hughes, Recording Secretary