

**University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA)**  
**September 25, 2023**  
**526 Prices Fork Road/Zoom**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Jennifer Nardine (Presiding), Tom Archibald, Amanda Broome, Robert Emmett, Rachel Fitzgerald, Guru Ghosh, Kathy Hager, Khaled Hassouna, Farida Jalalzai, Theresa Johansson, Kimberly Rhodes, Lauren Surface, Jeffrey Van Doren, Janell Watson

**Zoom Attendance:** Brian Bond, Jennifer Clevenger, Charles Lowery, Rich Mathieson, James McGrath, Kim McKinnie, Elsie Paredes, Cassidy Rist, Nicole Sanderlin, Sara Steinert Borella, John Talerico, Judy Taylor, Tom Thompson

Jennifer Nardine welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

1. **Agenda Approval:** Jennifer N. 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. **UCIA Charge:** Guru Ghosh expressed his appreciation for participation of members on UCIA; as well as work being done to bring activity and policy recommendations over the years. The suggestions for change have been transformative as they have made their way through the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA) up to University Governance throughout the years. Priorities for UCIA are important for the University and the advisory and policy role that UCIA holds to work collectively will impact the overall good of the University.
3. **Membership Introductions (Name and area of representation):** Self-Introductions were made.
4. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, April 24, 2023:** The minutes from the April 24, 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**).
5. **Election of Vice Chair:** Jennifer N. opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of UCIA. Kimberly Rhodes described the limited time devotion that the Vice Chair for the Awards process; and that she will serve as support and a resource in carry out the duties of the position. The Vice Chair will become the Chair of UCIA for next year. Tom Archibald volunteered to be Vice Chair. Tom A. was thanked for volunteering for this most important role.
6. **Alumni Awards for International Education, Outreach and Research Selection Committee:** The following members have volunteered to serve on the awards selection committee: Farida Jalalzai, Jeff Van Doren, Khaled Hassouna volunteered to serve, with Tom A. leading the selection committee.
7. **Updates:**
  - a. **International Education Week**
    1. The committee did not meet over the summer; future planning is uncertain. Robert Emmett discussed that he would like to see International Education Week (IEW) to happen this year; the plan is to have it occur November 13-17, 2023. The call for volunteers went out: Amanda Broome; Farida Jalalzai; Rachel Fitzgerald; Theresa Johansson; Jennifer Clevenger; Elsie Parades and Tom Hammond have volunteered to assist Robert in securing activities for IEW. Nicole Sanderlin indicated she could help with the Fulbright program. The suggestion was made for Janell Watson to take information back to Modern and Classical Languages and Literature department to gauge interest. Farida suggested looking at the feedback surveys from last year.

**b. Working Group Updates**

1. **MOU Process/Database Working Group:** The working group has not met recently; there is no update. Guru offered that the MOU process that was housed in Global Strategic Services (formerly International Support Services) has been moved to the Vice President's Office for process review. There are several bottle necks in the approval process that are being examined; conversations with Outreach Information Services as well as looking at other systems such as Terra Dots (Studio Abroad) and the QS Group to explore technology possibilities. For now, the working group will be on hold. Robert asked about strategies of integration and the underlying security need and multiple database sharing. He suggested a requirements document that could be a one-page that gathers information such as Alumni connections; VT faculty and whether an MOU is already established. Jennifer N. indicated that the Library has a Data Service system, VT Data Works that stores data forever (<https://data.lib.vt.edu/>). Anyone that wants to share information or suggestions can get in touch with Kim R. or Guru.
2. **Global Advancement and Alumni Engagement:** Theresa indicated that Debbie Day in Advancement contacted her asking how Advancement could tie into the Presidential priorities with regard to affordability and international engagement. The working group has not met; several members have left this group; the working group will currently be put on hold.
3. **Internationalization at Home:** Rachel indicated that the working group has been making great strides toward the Global Learning Badge Pathway and has been meeting regularly to discuss concepts for globalizing student experiences.
4. **Global at Home Central Website:** Discussions will continue on this item.
5. **Global Newsletter:** Amanda Broome has reached out to the campus community; articles are due by this Wednesday to uplift global presence. Amanda is to forward the announcement to Kim R. to send out to members of UCIA. The email address for articles is [globalnews@vt.edu](mailto:globalnews@vt.edu).

**8. Member Announcements/Comments:** The call for announcements/comments was made.

Robert indicated that the NAFSA Region 8 conference will be held in Roanoke November 7-10. Registration is due by October 9.

Theresa announced Study Abroad Week is occurring this week with several activities including the Study Abroad Fair on Tuesday, September 26 on the Drillfield. Theresa announced that Khaled, Tom A. and several faculty members across campus were awarded a Faculty Innovation Group (FIG) grant to explore the use of technology to enhance international experiences (with a focus on travel abroad involving community engagement and embedded in a spring or fall course) and to make the experience accessible in real time to students unable to travel. The group is working with TLOS to create a compact travel kit with the equipment needed for live streaming, AI translation, and Zoom communications. The project is noteworthy in the breadth of involvement, as the group includes representation from CIRED, GEO, Pathways, TLOS, Undergraduate Education, Engineering Education and Computer Science, and will be consulting regularly with faculty program leaders, VT Engage, CETL and University Libraries. Theresa also announced that the first two (2) weeks of April Varkey George from Cape Town will be visiting campus as a Mozaiko Global Fellow in Residence and will be discussing global citizenship, social entrepreneurship and sustainable/ethical community engagement through classrooms and presentations. If there is an opportunity that members would like to engage with Mr. George, please let Theresa know. Mr. George is working with sustainable biomaterials faculty to make female supplies available and affordable.

John Talerico announced that on Thursday at noon; there will be a panel discussion on research security and open science. There is an awareness surrounding research security and decisions and discussions between the Controller and Sponsored Programs have taken place to understand international decisions and hiring; with an effort to create better website information.

Tom A. uplifted the Annual GAP Report release to occur on October 3 both in D.C. and on-line. Tom T. described the GAP Report which is presented every October and includes tracking trends in agriculture; the event will occur from 8:00-11:00 a.m. and all are welcome; register at: <https://globalagriculturalproductivity.org/gap-initiative-at-virginia-tech/2023-gap-launch/>.

Guru indicated that Ian Leuschner was instrumental in bringing NAFSA to Roanoke. Updates included Guru's travel to India and discussion of the NMIMS 3+1+1 partnership in Mumbai; with Pamplin replicating other partnerships in various countries with the hope to double enrollment next fiscal year. Discussion included the Department of Hospitality and Tourism 3+1+1 program as well as the Department of Economics 1+1 Master's program with NMIMS. Guru traveled to Bangladesh to meet with IPM partners and discussed establishment of a Virginia Tech office in Dhaka for the IPM program. World Bank is looking to invest \$500 million to elevate capital capacity; Guru to connect with Tom Thompson and Alan Grant. Discussions also included work in Botswana and an upcoming visit to discuss partnerships between the Botswana Government, Virginia Tech and CARACAL. Export Control, OIA and CNRE are working together to discuss moving forward. The Ferrari Foundation associated with the Steger Center is dissolving; with a new entity, VT Swiss will be created with Sara Steinert Borella in a lead role. Sara announced there are five (5) programs from five (5) colleges that are at the Steger Center this fall. Guru announced that Gerhardt Schurig and faculty from the College of Science will be traveling to Valdivia and Patagonia early in December for collaborations and research programs. The Global Strategy Working Group is currently in the writing phase and hope to submit their recommendations to the Provost and President confidentially in November. Guru thanked the members of UCIA including Janell for input. Guru thanked Jeff Van Doren for his work in the Office of Global Strategic Services over the summer. Jeff thanked everyone for their support and patience as the team that includes new employees work to get work status for employees moving along.

9. **Announcement of Next Meeting:** A reminder that the next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 23, 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.

10. **Adjournment:** There being no further business and no objections, a motion to adjourn was made by Robert; seconded; all were in favor the meeting adjourned at 11:01 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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|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ October 23, 2023           | ➤ February 26, 2024     |
| ➤ November 27, 2023          | ➤ March 25, 2024        |
| ➤ <b>NO DECEMBER MEETING</b> | ➤ April 22, 2024        |
| ➤ January 22, 2024           | ➤ <b>NO MAY MEETING</b> |

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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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