

University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA)
Minutes
September 27, 2021
Zoom and In-Person

Attendees: Theresa Johansson, Michel Pleimling, Valerie Ragan, Nicole Sanderlin, Farida Jalalzai, Don Back, David Clubb, Monika Gibson, Jennifer Nardine, John Talerico, Latanya Walker, Janell Watson, Rachel Fitzgerald, Judy Taylor, Ben Grove, Rich Mathieson, Courtney Powell, Kim McKinnie

Agenda

1. UCIA Charge

Theresa gave a brief overview of the purpose of this committee, highlighting that we are here to advise the AVP for International Affairs, connect international engagement across the campus, further the university's strategic plan, and elevate concerns, initiatives and policy recommendations to the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA).

2. Call for Vice-Chair

Theresa requested everyone to be thinking of a person to serve as the Vice-Chair for 2021-2022. This person would become Chair for 2022-2021, would be a member of COIA and would chair the Alumni Awards Committee for 2021-2022. Nomination and a vote will be taken at the October meeting. **Members were asked to email Don Hempson and Theresa Johansson before October 18 with their nominations or to volunteer.**

3. Member Introductions

Each member present introduced themselves to the group and highlighted their experience and why they were interested in International Affairs and the work of this committee. Comments provided insights on accomplishments, priorities, and concerns across the constituencies, including:

- COE is working on global curriculum that can be added to all technical classes and focusing on research on intercultural learning and outcomes assessment
- CALS is focusing on increasing study abroad, internship opportunities, and faculty development. Ben mentioned two of the college's significant global efforts: the Global Opportunity Initiative, a faculty development program which includes capstone travel to the East Africa region, as well as producing the Global Agricultural Productivity Report.
- The Graduate School's new dean, Aimée Surprenant, hopes to further international recruitment and create scholarships for international grad students. Monika also noted the Global Perspectives Program is celebrating its 15th anniversary.
- LCI is actively engaged in recruitment events abroad and hopes to double enrollment (which is currently at only one fourth of pre-pandemic levels) in the coming year.
- University Libraries' Coordinator of International Outreach, Jennifer Nardine, is looking for international connections and events to showcase.
- GEO engaged more than 800 students in Study Abroad Week. Rachel mentioned two grants received: IIE's Passport project, through which 50 Pell-eligible students will

receive passports, and a Fulbright-Hays to host an East Africa Institute for Educators in summer 2022 (which will be led by Jane Wemhoener).

- CLAHS has been focused on global outreach collaborations and has used the pandemic as an opportunity to connect with global scholars in new ways. Farida raised the concern that recent progress in international engagement has been lost or is at risk, citing OVPRI's discontinuation of the International Travel Supplemental Grants for global conference participation as an example. She encouraged the committee to work together across the university to build synergy and consider what we can do (regarding, e.g., funding, budget allocations, and the tenure process) to make sure faculty and students are not left behind.

4. UCIA awards for International Outreach, Education, and Research

Theresa explained that the deadline for the awards has been moved back to the end of January. An exact date will be announced later. The call for nominations will be issued in November, with submission deadline in January and awards decisions in late February; there will be three postings on the VT Daily news.

Theresa outlined that as soon as the vice chair has been selected, they will form an awards committee comprising three UCIA members; this group will determine whether to add a previous award winner to the review team, as is done for the Alumni Awards in Outreach Excellence. There was a suggestion that the language of the award criteria needs to be reviewed and possibly updated to make it easier for those interested to determine which category best fits their experience.

5. Work of the committee for 2021-2022 Theresa made a call for ideas concerning the direction of the committee for the upcoming year. She suggested it might be a good idea to focus on two or three primary goals. Some examples might include a working group looking at how to highlight international engagement campus-wide as part of the sesquicentennial celebrations (June 2022 is OIA's designated month) or at improvements to the international MOU database, but the committee is encouraged to think broadly about how best to direct our energy. More discussion will take place at the October meeting. In the meantime, **committee members are asked to communicate their thoughts on the UCIA's work for this year to Don Hempson and Theresa Johansson no later than October 18.**

6. Closing comments and announcements

Nicole will provide an update on the University Data Commons Global Engagement App at the next meeting.

Theresa requested that anyone with knowledge or updates on Fulbright scholar activity notify her as GEO is creating programming and networks to support Fulbright scholars on campus.

7. Adjournment-There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 11:00 AM.

Patricia S. Hughes
Recording Secretary