

University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA)
October 23, 2023
526 Prices Fork Road/Zoom
Minutes

Attendance: Jennifer Nardine (Presiding), Amanda Broome, Rachel Fitzgerald, Guru Ghosh, Khaled Hassouna, Farida Jalalzai, Theresa Johansson, Elsie Paredes, Kimberly Rhodes, Jeffrey Van Doren

Zoom Attendance: Tom Archibald, Brian Bond, Lindy Cranwell (for Nicole Sanderlin), Robert Emmett, Juan Espinoza, Kathy Hager, Christi Lineberry, Charles Lowery, Rich Mathieson, Kim McKinnie, Mallory Miller, Cassidy Rist, Lauren Surface, Janell Watson

Jennifer Nardine welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. **Agenda Approval:** Jennifer N. asked for a motion to approve the Agenda; motion was made and seconded; there were no edits and no opposition to the Agenda as presented; the Agenda was approved. Visual attendance was taken.
2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, September 25, 2023:** The minutes from the September 25, 2023 meeting had been previously distributed electronically, and were approved electronically (**ATTACHMENT A**).
3. **Updates:**
 - a. **International Education Week**

Robert Emmett gave an update on International Education Week including the Welcome reception on November 13th at 5:30 p.m. in Squires; Fulbright Faculty Session; and many other events. IEW is being advertised on electronic displays and working with Amanda Broome to get the word out. The link for the draft/working document that outlines the events is located at: (<https://virginiatech.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/CranwellInternationalCenterofficeinformationcopy/EciSg-ezd9JFrH2SRkvi3wsB7JCSqi-HnmuAdEVNXdULwA?e=HVDwzW>). Discussions included if the badger program would be available again this year; Rachel Fitzgerald indicated she would reach out to Marc Zaldivar in TLOS to see if this was possible. The suggestion was made for members to bring back to their respective areas to submit activities that could be highlighted on in a comprehensive list during that week. The recommendation was made to start planning for 2024 right after IEW this year; discussions included having a chair of the sub-committee formed earlier this year from UCIA members and other faculty/staff in order to move along planning for next year. The suggestion was also made to seek department and outside partners to assist with funding.
 - b. **Working Group Updates**
 1. **Internationalization at Home:** There is not an update since the last UCIA meeting; we are deferring discussion for next meeting.
 2. **Global at Home Central Website:** Amanda and Rich Mathieson have designed a draft website; a URL has been requested but due to the website not being tied to a program, approval has been delayed.
 3. **Global Newsletter:** Amanda indicated the newsletter is almost ready to go; requests for articles to both UCIA members and content managers are going out soon. The email address for articles is globalnews@vt.edu.
4. **Member Announcements/Comments:** The call for announcements/comments was made. Guru Ghosh announced President Sands and Provost Clarke will be in Botswana to inaugurate One Health Security in partnership with Virginia Tech, CARACAL and the Republic of Botswana. Additionally, Guru and Dan Sui will be attending the THE Conference in China; with Dan presenting. The THE Conference is going to be hosted by Virginia Tech at the Innovation Campus spring 2025.

Guru congratulated Juan Espinoza on being named interim vice provost for enrollment management effective January 2024. Guru will be stepping away as the University representative PDSO; Elsie Paredes and Vivian Yamoah will work together on LCI and Cranwell connections prior to Vivian's departure. The NAFSA Region VIII Conference is being held November 7-10 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center.

Discussions included with the departure of many employees in Cranwell; providing assistance and not overwhelming of employees. Robert announced that an interim director for Cranwell has been named, Lauren Oliver; the search for a director is on-going; with more work to be done within the department, the request for advertising through networks was made. Lindy Cranwell announced the College of Engineering is hosting their annual colloquium on international engineering education November 2-4 in northern Virginia.

5. **Announcement of Next Meeting:** A reminder that the next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 27, 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.
6. **Adjournment:** There being no further business and no objections, a motion to adjourn was made by Robert; seconded by Theresa Johansson; all were in favor the meeting adjourned at 10:37 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.*

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ➤ November 27, 2023 | ➤ March 25, 2024 (*3:00-4:00 p.m. Switzerland) |
| ➤ NO DECEMBER MEETING | ➤ April 22, 2024 |
| ➤ January 22, 2024 | ➤ NO MAY MEETING |
| ➤ February 26, 2024 | |

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

**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 Paredes 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.

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.

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

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary