

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MINUTES
December 7, 2006

Attendance: Ray Ali for Mark McCann, Andrew Becker, Jan Helge Bøhn, Sarah Burkett (telecon), Jeri Childers, S. K. De Datta, John Dooley, Gene Egger, Ken Eriksson, Devi Gnyawali, Susan Hagen, Osama Marzouk, Jim Pease, Nikki LaNore for Susan Prillaman (telecon), Scott Tate, Nammalwar Sriranganathan for Gerhardt Schurig, Chris Thomas

Absence: Travis Cochran, Eileen Crist, Erin Dolan, Ewen McLean, Kevin Pelzer, Ted Settle

Guest: Susan Felker, Max Stephenson

1. Welcome and Introductions

Gene Egger welcomed everyone to the meeting and there were self introductions. Max Stephenson was welcomed to the meeting.

2. Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes, November 9, 2006

The November 9 Minutes were approved electronically and have been forwarded to University Council for approval.

4. Old Business

At the November Commission meeting, a draft proposal to Create a University Outreach Center, Institute for Policy and Governance was introduced and discussed. The revised proposal was distributed for the first reading, and Dr. Max Stephenson, Chair, Center for Public Administration and Policy and Director, Institute for Policy and Governance, lead the discussion. Additional edits should be forwarded to Dr. Stephenson.

5. Chairman's Report

Dr. Egger reported on the November 28 Outreach Council meeting and the December 7 UCIA meeting.

6. Vice Chairman's Report

University Council – Ken Eriksson reported from the November 13 and December 4 University Council meetings.

COIA Awards Document – Dr. Eriksson distributed a revised COIA awards guidelines document. The final nominations document will be sent to deans, directors and department heads in December with a reminder in January. There was discussion about inclusion of retired faculty for this award. A motion to make emeritus faculty eligible for the outreach awards was defeated.

There was a motion to accept the following language:

“The alumni awards recognize sustained outstanding contributions of university employees who are engaged in strategic partnerships that enhance the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, businesses, and communities around the commonwealth, the nation, and the world, and enrich and strengthen the university’s discovery and learning missions.

Successful nominees should demonstrate their success with implementing relationships with communities and partners that are: (1) bi-directional and reciprocal; (2) partnership-based (i.e., both parties make investments in and receive benefits from specific projects); and (3) mutually respectful of the strengths and needs of all parties and involved in a regular, exchange of ideas.”

A question was raised concerning the difference between (1) and (2) in the above paragraph. Ted Settle informed Eriksson that he took these items as well as item (3) from the engagement scholarship domain of the university's strategic plan.

The Academy for Outreach Excellence will be discussed at the next COIA meeting.

7. Information Items

Outreach NOW – 2006 Conference Assessment – Pre-Conference Workshop on Promotion and Tenure – Jeri Childers shared a handout and discussed the Outreach NOW 2006 conference assessment and pre-conference workshop on promotion and tenure. The themes emerging for this years Outreach NOW 2007 conference are economic vitality and the connectivity with the university’s strategic plan, and the commitment of engagement. There is an interest to invite Mark Warner to talk about the role of a research university as it relates to economic vitality of the state. Additional comments or suggestions for themes and speakers should be forwarded to Dr. Childers.

Outreach Council

Dr. Egger reported that Outreach Council met on November 28. Minutes will be forwarded to the Commission as part of the December COIA minutes. Approved Outreach Council minutes will be posted at the Outreach and International Affairs web site at <http://www.outreach.vt.edu/council/index.html>

University Council on International Affairs

S. K. De Datta reported from the December 7 UCIA meeting. Approved UCIA minutes will be posted at the Outreach and International Affairs web site at http://www.outreach.vt.edu/ucip/min_index.html.

Extension Report

Ray Ali reported that VCE is continuing to promote diversity and pluralism in programming and staff development. Cultural competency workshops were conducted in the northwest district. Faculty participation will be promoted in a Spanish education program. They are continuing to work with the citizens in the commonwealth and are offering diversity training for selection committees for new faculty.

John Dooley distributed and discussed a handout on “Carnegie Selects Colleges and Universities for New Elective Community Engagement Classification.” Notification was

received last week from the Carnegie Foundation that Virginia Tech is one of 62 institutions nationally that received the highest ranking as it relates to three different levels of community engagement. Susan Felker is working on the press release.

The next meeting is scheduled on January 25.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Price
Recording Secretary