

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

December 9, 2021; 3:30-4:30 p.m.
120 Gateway Center and Zoom

Attendance in person: Robert Weiss-Presiding, Jan Helge Bøhn, Guru Ghosh, Theresa Johansson, Angela Scarpa

Attendance via Zoom: Tara Brent, Farida Jalalzai (for Laura Belmonte), Ed Jones, Penny Muelenaer, Robert Oliver, Cassidy Rist, Peter Schmitthenner, Megan Seibel, Jane Wemhoener, Yang Zhang (for Ralph Hall)

Absent with Notice: Laura Belmonte, David Brinberg, Nick Copeland, John Galbraith, Ralph Hall, Don Hempson, Aimane Najmeddine, Susan Short

Absent: Kenner Love

Guests: April Myers

Welcome: After a delay due to audio/visual issues, Robert Weiss called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and welcomed the group. Self-introductions were made; attendees signed the attendance sheet; those participating by Zoom signed into the chat; visual attendance was also taken; a quorum was established.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:**

Robert Weiss called for a motion to approve the agenda; a motion was made; seconded; no discussion; all were in favor; the agenda was approved.

2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, November 18, 2021:**

Minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting were sent out electronically for edits and were approved electronically. Minutes were sent to the Governance Information System; and can be found on the web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu/>).

3. **Presentation: Study Abroad Programs:** Theresa Johansson gave a presentation on Study Abroad Programs (**see attached**). The presentation included information about students receiving credit while abroad; and fees collected to pay for lodging while abroad in addition to regular Virginia Tech tuition and fees students must pay. The pandemic has effected the numbers for Study Abroad, much work is being done to get the numbers back to pre-COVID numbers. There are not any incentives to encourage Study Abroad; the PIBB model does not encourage Study Abroad; the majority of students will not participate in Study Abroad. The goal is to get to 30% of students on a Study Abroad program. COIA was instrumental in getting GEO scholarship money to have students participate; a couple of major gifts also helped in scholarships; but there is no system for dedicated money to provide for scholarships. The goal for the future is to offer courses in inter-culture competencies as a career bridge. Theresa spoke about the Passport Program (<https://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/Homepage.html>); that enables students to obtain a U.S. Passport at no cost; with a grant paying for 25 student passports and the Global Education Office (GEO) matching an additional 25.

Guru Ghosh commented that we need to be proactive about experiential experiences long before students' Junior Year. Discussion included getting administration focused on global experiential experiences; as well as fitting it into their required course schedules. Robert Weiss offered that members could email additional thoughts and questions to him and we could devise an agenda including conversations around experiential learning.

4. Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes:

A. Chairman's Report: Robert Weiss indicated that the December 6, 2021 University Council did not include any resolutions that were impacting COIA, there was a presentation from TLOS; approved University Council meeting minutes can be found at: <https://governance.vt.edu/meeting-materials.php>.

B. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE): Ed Jones spoke about a civil rights compliance review coming up in February; which they are prepared for. Guru spoke about Ed's upcoming retirement and his willingness to stay on until a new administrator could be named.

C. Engagement Leadership Council: Kimberly Rhodes read the report from Susan Short regarding the Engagement Leadership Council meeting of December 2, 2021. An announcement from the Center for Economic and Community Engagement related to an upcoming op-ed in the Richmond Times Dispatch written by Margaret Cowell and Sarah Lyon-Hill entitled: As election dust settles in Virginia, don't forget the urban-rural ties that binds us; presentation from Scott Weimer, executive director of Roanoke Regional Initiatives, focused on current and emerging programs and partnerships. In addition, Scott shared with the group a feature in the Roanoke Higher Education Center annual report highlighting Virginia Tech's Counselor Education master's degree program. He also announced that Virginia State University will become a member institution at the Roanoke Higher Education Center beginning in January, 2022. Announcements related to upcoming OIA Sesquicentennial Commonwealth tours scheduled for March and June and the potential development of a graduate certificate focused on the scholarship of engagement. Guru announced that the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center is transitioning from the leadership team of Benchmark to Crestline Hotels and Resorts. In addition, he shared that leadership for the Inn will transfer from Outreach and International Affairs to the Business Affairs division. The next quarterly meeting of the Council is scheduled for March 3, 2022.

D. University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA): Theresa Johansson reported on the November 22, 2021 UCIA meeting. The meeting included an update to the UCIA Bylaws and membership roster; the working groups have not yet met and there was no update for those groups.

5. Call for Announcements/Commission Board Member Comments:

Robert Weiss made the call for announcements/comments. There was concern about International travel and COVID procedures. Guru suggested that Don Hempson could speak at the next meeting in relation to pro-active guidance on faculty planning for programs abroad and decisions from the Global Travel Oversight Commission (GTOC).

6. Adjournment: There being no further business, Robert Weiss thanked the group for attending; a motion to adjourn the meeting was made; seconded; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

The next meeting will be February 17, 2022 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

PROPOSED DATES FOR 2021-2022 (Meetings 3:30-4:30 p.m. unless indicated otherwise)

• **NO JANUARY MEETING**

• February 17

• March 17

• April 21

• May 5



STUDY ABROAD AT VT: PRESENT & FUTURE

THERESA JOHANSSON





“Studying abroad was just the tip of the iceberg for me. It changed my life. I learned the importance of global connection and cultural exchange. It shaped my overall experience at Virginia Tech.”

CASEY MOLINA

studied abroad on semester
faculty-led to Switzerland &
Rwanda



Benefits of Study Abroad:

- Diversification of perspective
- Personal development
- Networking
- Sense of place



“I’m from a really small town. No one in my family has gone to college or studied abroad. For me, I knew studying abroad was a representation of who I wanted to become, and also a representation of my family.”

ANGEL HAYNES,
studied abroad on semester
exchange in Australia

PROGRAM TYPES	FACULTY-LED	EXCHANGE & ISEP	PROVIDER	AUTONOMOUS STUDY
Terms & Duration	Short-term summer, spring embedded, some semesters	Semester, academic year, some summer	Summer, winter, semester, and academic year	Summer, winter, semester, and academic year
Credits & Enrollment	Enrolled in VT courses and generates credit; letter grades applied and affects GPA	Enrolled at VT but courses at host institution; must receive equivalent of C or better to receive transfer (T) credit	Enrolled at host institution; must receive equivalent of C or better to receive transfer (T) credit	Enrolled at host institution; must receive equivalent of C or better to receive transfer (T) credit
Immersion Level	Limited immersion (travel w/ VT faculty and peers)	High immersion (live w/ local/international students)	Varies by program (often w/ students from other U.S. institutions)	High immersion (live w/ local/international students)
Tuition	VT tuition and fees	VT tuition and fees	Program fees including tuition paid to provider	Tuition and fees paid to host institution
Cost-effective for	Varies by program; good for all students	Best for in-state students	Best for out-of-state students	Varies by program; Good for all students



PARTICIPATION PROFILE



PARTICIPATION PROFILE

VIRGINIA TECH STUDY ABROAD 6 YEAR PARTICIPATION TREND

Academic Year

- 2013-2014
- 2014-2015
- 2015-2016
- 2016-2017
- 2017-2018
- 2018-2019



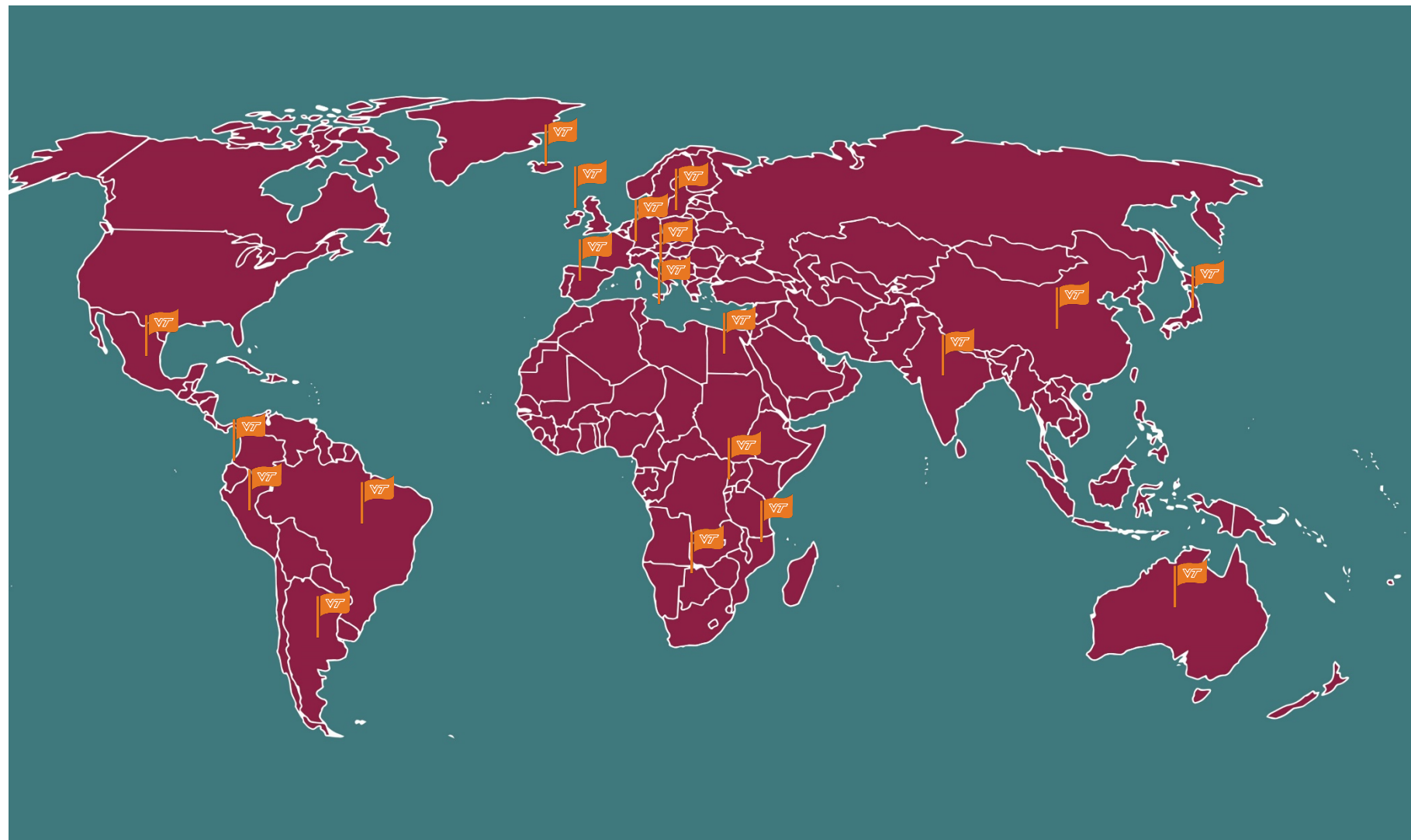
UNDERGRADUATE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPATION COMPARED TO UG ENROLLMENT BY COLLEGE 2018-19

COLLEGE	STUDY ABROAD	UG ENROLLMENT	%
Agriculture and Life Sciences	96	2654	14%
Architecture and Urban Studies	191	1820	42%
Business	270	4565	24%
Science	143	4549	13%
Engineering	326	8411	16%
Interdisciplinary	5	983	2%
Liberal Arts and Human Sciences	275	3837	29%
Natural Resources and Environment	50	992	20%
TOTAL UNIVERSITY UG POPULATION	1356	27811	20%



PARTICIPATION PROFILE

- Switzerland
- Australia
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Czech Republic
- Ecuador
- Mexico
- Botswana
- Vietnam
- India
- South Korea
- And More!



UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS IN STUDY ABROAD 2018-19 *AS REPORTED BY PARTICIPANTS



	SA %	UG ENROLLMENT	UG %
	3%	1791	6.5%
	1.5%	1173	4%
	0.9%	34	0.1%

First Generation data was not tracked in 2018-2019, but is now a target focus for underrepresented student participation in study abroad.

UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS IN STUDY ABROAD 2021-22 *AS REPORTED BY PARTICIPANTS

		STUDY ABROAD	SA %	UG ENROLLMENT
Veterans	60	77	12.5%	20%
Students w/ disabilities	46			
TOTAL UNIVERSITY UG POPULATION	1519	617		

ACCESS

ASPIRATION & GROWTH BY 2033

PRIMARY BARRIERS

- FINANCIAL
- ACADEMIC
- PERCEPTION





“As an immigrant and a first-generation college student from Vietnam, I never thought studying at a university was something feasible, let alone participating in two study abroad programs. Thanks to various scholarships, the financial strain was lifted off of me and my family.”

CAITLIN HUYNH

studied abroad on short-term faculty-led and semester exchange in France



VIRGINIA
TECH.



FINANCIAL

- GEO Scholarships
- National Scholarships Advising
- Financial Aid Support

BEYOND BLACKSBURG



Support
Study Abroad
Scholarships





ACADEMIC:

- Course listing and curriculum mapping
- Full-time Global Education Advisor
- Academic Advising Partnership
- Partnership Programs
- GEO courses



PERCEPTION

- Peer advising
- Campus collaborations and partnerships
- Parent engagement and outreach
- IIE Passport Project
- Faculty engagement



HOKIES GO GLOBAL



THANK YOU!

THERESA
JOHANSSON

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150
years 1872-2022