

**University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA)**

**September 23, 2024**

**526 Prices Fork Road/Zoom**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Tom Archibald (Presiding), Rachel Fitzgerald, Jessica Folkart, Guru Ghosh, Farida Jalalzai, Theresa Johansson, John Talerico

**Zoom Attendance:** Jennifer Clevenger, Jamie McGrath, Kim McKinnie, Jennifer Nardine, Lauren Oliver, Courtney Powell, Cassidy Rist, Nicole Sanderlin, Pamela Smart-Smith, Sara Steinert Borella, Lauren Surface, Jen Tkacz

**Guests:** Amanda Broome, Kathy Hager, Rich Mathieson, Susan Short

Tom Archibald welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Visual attendance was taken; quorum was established. Tom A. asked for self-introductions.

1. **Agenda Approval:** Tom A. 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.
2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, April 22, 2024:** The minutes from the April 22, 2024 meeting had been previously distributed electronically, and were approved electronically (**ATTACHMENT A**).
3. **Nominations for Vice Chair for UCIA:** Tom A. addressed the members to seek nominations for the Vice Chair for UCIA. He indicated that position descriptions for both the Vice Chair and Chair have been sent out (**ATTACHMENT B**). The Vice Chair no longer has the responsibility of the Alumni Awards, as two out of the three awards went away and the research award was folded into other University Research awards. The main duty of the Vice Chair will be to lead UCIA meetings when the Chair is unable and attend the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA) and Engagement Leadership Council (ELC) meetings when the Chair is unable. Additionally, the Vice Chair becomes the Chair for next year. Members are invited to contact Tom A. and Kimberly Rhodes off line if there are questions. The hope is to have a Vice Chair named at the next UCIA meeting.
4. **Agenda/Approach for 2024-2025:** Tom A. indicated that all members should have received the meeting dates for this year along with the calendar meeting invitations. He is open to ideas for meeting discussions beyond updates and to get the best use of our time together. Suggested topics could include: to continue increasing student participation in Study Abroad; increase student enrollment; celebrate student experiences; celebrate grass roots opportunities; global research; global distinction; international research and global research agenda. Tom A. also encouraged in-person attendance at the meetings. Suggestions included members recommending guest speakers; perhaps the new Dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; the new Dean for Architecture, Arts and Design. Lauren Oliver volunteered to give a presentation on updates to the Cranwell Center and speak about their new team; the suggestion was made for the October 28, 2024 meeting. Suggestions also included Jill Sible to speak on the Academy for Experiential Learning; as well as having an update on the policy for global travel for one of the spring meetings.
5. **Updates:**
  - a. **International Education Week:** Rachel Fitzgerald thanked the Cranwell Center and Rob Emmett for their work with International Education week. She indicated there was a robust steering committee that has been planning over the summer to provide various opportunities to engage in International Education week. Some of the highlights included introducing the theme of Global Dialogues: Connecting Across Cultural Differences; sustainability and intercultural understanding; promoting alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG); bringing international programs to those that are unable to travel abroad. Rachel gave a shout out to Amanda Broome for marketing and getting stories together to highlight activities. Theresa Johansson gave a shoutout to Rachel for her work in this steering committee.

- Discussion also included the event occurring right after elections, and the sensitivity in connecting with the community across all cultures. Ginny Ford in the Global Education Office (GEO) is lead on the planning of a Hokie Cultural Crawl to visit venues across campus that have international activity and ending up at the library for the final activity. The suggestion was made for members to ask leadership in their areas if they are able to assist with funding. There is a fund set up where payments can be made through an ISR in HokieMart; Rachel is to get the information to Kim R. There were a couple of representatives in the room that offered resources from their areas. The website that is currently in production and is being updated has a variety of activities in production: <https://www.outreach.vt.edu/iew.html>. Check back frequently for the latest information.
- b. Internationalization at Home Working Group Update:** Rachel provided an update of the Global Learning badge. She made a presentation to COIA last week and received broad support. Initial feedback from the COIA meeting included language requirements and convening a robust course list. She will follow up with COIA; as well as meeting with the Student Affairs team. The working group invites new members that are interested in joining; there are badge advisory groups and the hope is to have a pilot program in the spring to approach digital badges. Guru Ghosh asked if the program was co-curricular; and discussion included foreign language courses didn't need to be required. Lauren Oliver indicated credit bearing can be difficult with the current PIBB model and having students graduate within the four (4) year time frame. The questions regarding the background of the discussion at COIA; explanations included members of COIA asking that language be a requirement as not many students are signing up for foreign languages once they get to the college level. If the program is co-curricular, the language requirement would need to be re-addressed. Rachel indicated the levels are the badges are three-part: Awareness, Activity and Engagement; in which some students may be able to convert to earning a minor.
  - c. Global Website Update:** Amanda Broome updated the group regarding the global website in which a landing page with everything global can reside including travel abroad and international activity. The site in production is <https://global.vt.edu>. John Talerico added that the International Best Practices working group had discussions of what needed to get through the travel process. There are several groups that have come together in partnership revising policies and finding paths through Study Abroad and what Virginia Tech is doing; bringing resources together in one place and show partnerships around the globe. The hope is to launch to the campus very soon; feedback and discussions are welcome.
- 6. Member Announcements/Comments:** Farida Jalalzai discussed the announcement that Kim Rhodes sent out regarding Speak up for Ukraine; as well as additional events-see below and attached **(ATTACHMENT C)**.

### **Speak Up for Ukraine**

#### **Faculty Conversation Program**

**Wednesdays from 12:00pm-1:00 pm**

**9/28/2024-11/6/2024**

There is still time to sign up for this new online faculty conversation program with VT faculty and faculty from Polissia National University. A wide array of participation options are available. For example, you could offer a short formal research presentation (5-10 minutes) or just engage in academic and casual conversation. Sessions will begin with a couple of short presentations and then faculty will go into different break out rooms based on their discussion interests. You do not have to attend every week and can sign up for sessions based on availability. More details are outlined on the [sign up form](#).

**Contact:** [bondarchnat@ukr.net](mailto:bondarchnat@ukr.net) or [komelski@vt.edu](mailto:komelski@vt.edu).

**Painting Exhibit "Ode from Oman": Student Painting from VT Arabic Abroad: Oman, Summer 2024**

**Viewable from 9/19/2024 – 3/ 28/ 2025**

This exhibit showcases the paintings of Anna Caesar who, while in Oman studying Arabic and immersing herself in the Arabic culture, reflected on her experience through painting. These paintings depict Oman and the study abroad experience in a very personal and unique light.

Newman Library, First Floor

Free

Sponsors: Course Exhibit Initiative, VT University Libraries, and the VT Arabic Program

Contact: Ragheda Nassereddine, [ragheda5@vt.edu](mailto:ragheda5@vt.edu)

**Women in Afghanistan: Three Years Later**

**Wednesday, October 2, 1:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Webinar**

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in 2021 marked a pivotal and troubling turn for women's rights. In this webinar, two experts on women in Afghanistan assess women's status in the country since the Taliban's resurgence. Panelists include Mona Tajali, Stanford University, and Tahmina Sobat, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Farida Jalalzai will moderate. [More information.](#)

Zoom, [registration required](#)

Free and open to the public

Sponsor: College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Contact: Farida Jalalzai, [fjalalzai@vt.edu](mailto:fjalalzai@vt.edu)

John Talerico announced the Protecting Innovation-A Research Security Forum: Research Security at Virginia Tech webinar on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.; based on an earlier email Kim R. sent out. There will be a series of meetings to include updates, John will send updates to the links for the future.

Tom A. announced two (2) social entrepreneur colleagues from Malawi are currently in New York City and are planning information visits with campus partners.

Guru spoke about the University task force on MOUs. A new MOU template is to be launched very soon. The MOU has a new section where partners will indicate proposed activity as well as requiring a champion for both the partner and Virginia Tech in order to follow-up with the activity after two (2) years to gauge activity and determine if the MOU should be active. Theresa indicated that the MOU should serve as the umbrella document for partnership and verbiage that includes legal, monetary, and other language and details of the partnership will be generated as a separate document to be approved.

7. **Announcement of Next Meeting:** Tom A. thanked the members for their service; and announced the next meeting, October 28, 2024 (10:00 a.m. Blacksburg/3:00 p.m. Switzerland). **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.
8. **Adjournment:** There being no further business and no objections, a motion to adjourn was made; all were in favor the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

**PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2024-2025**

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| ➤ October 28, 2024 (3:00-4:00 p.m. Swiss*)   | ➤ February 24, 2025                      |
| ➤ November 18, 2024 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday) | ➤ March 24, 2025 (3:00-4:00 p.m. Swiss*) |
| ➤ <b>NO DECEMBER MEETING</b>                 | ➤ April 28, 2025                         |
| ➤ January 27, 2025                           | ➤ <b>NO MAY MEETING</b>                  |

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA)  
April 22, 2024  
526 Prices Fork Road/Zoom  
Minutes

**Attendance:** Jennifer Nardine (Presiding), Tom Archibald, Amanda Broome, Jennifer Clevenger, Rachel Fitzgerald, Khaled Hassouna, Elsie Paredes, Kimberly Rhodes, Nicole Sanderlin, John Talerico, Jeffrey Van Doren, Janell Watson

**Zoom Attendance:** Rob Emmett, Kathy Hager, Farida Jalalzai, Christie Lineberry, Jamie McGrath, Mallory Miller, Lauren Oliver, Sara Steinert Borella, Lauren Surface, Judy Taylor, Tom Thompson, Jen Tkacz

Jennifer Nardine welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Visual attendance was taken; quorum was established.

1. **Agenda Approval:** Jennifer N. asked for a motion to approve the Agenda; motion was made; there were no edits and no opposition to the Agenda as presented; the Agenda was approved.
2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, March 25, 2024:** The minutes from the March 25, 2024 meeting had been previously distributed electronically, and were approved electronically (**ATTACHMENT A**).

**Self Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves and their area of representation.

3. **Updates:**

- a. **International Education Week:** Rob Emmett indicated the planning group is still looking for a chair, Rachel Fitzgerald volunteered to be chair.
- b. **Internationalization at Home Working Group Update:** Rachel provided an update and presented slides (**ATTACHMENT B**) describing the work of the group. The hope is to bring the initiative to the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA) for University governance approval. Updates included infusing global into all that we do at home; uplifting the purpose and core values and creating a micro/digital credential badge through Canvas credentials. The purpose is to advance United Nations Sustainable Goals; recognizing that the initiative is not connected to just one college, but a shared vision of the University. At the end of the process, a leadership Capstone project/activity will be evaluated. There is a tool for tracking engagement with ties to International Education Week. An advisory board is to be formed, similar to other University initiatives; which the Global Education Office will coordinate. The advisory board will answer question and monitor progress. The cost per student will be between \$75-\$100 with an end celebration; graduation cords and a global badge. The pilot program will include 15-20 students that will give feedback for the program. Lauren Oliver asked about sharing and including in Presidential discussions with student; Rob commented on working on alignment and University dialogue and the aspect of the initiative as co-curricular. Jamie McGrath commented on the significant element for global leadership; Nicole Sanderlin asked how this initiative might overlap with the initiative for Experiential Learning. Rachel responded that students in the core would partner with Jamie; international students would work with Cranwell; and Jenny Gallagher would work with the bridge/pathways students. The suggestion was made to reach out to stakeholders and see with organizations are already conducting reviews of capstone/activities. Rachel asked for a motion to take the initiative forward to COIA; Jennifer N. made the motion; Janell Watson seconded; there was no objection.
- c. **Global Website Update:** Amanda Broome displayed a mock-up of the global website she and others have been working on; and asked UCIA members to provide information regarding several components that need include valid data and links. Amanda indicated she



## **UCIA CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITION DESCRIPTIONS**

**Chair:** Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to: representing UCIA as well as attend and give monthly reports to the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA) (September-May); attending the Engagement Leadership Council (ELC) meetings; coordinating and developing the monthly UCIA AGENDA with UCIA support staff; chairing UCIA meetings; coordinating with UCIA support staff communications to the committee; communicating and assisting with working groups; reviewing meeting minutes for accuracy; organizing speakers.

**Vice Chair:** This position will represent the Chair when the Chair is unavailable to attend meetings. This may include, but is not limited to attending the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA) meetings; attending the Engagement Leadership Council (ELC) meetings; or Chairing the UCIA meeting in the Chair's absence. The Vice Chair typically becomes the Chair of UCIA for the following year.

# Women in Afghanistan: Three Years Later

Wednesday, October 2, 2024  
1:00 pm Eastern Time

ATTACHMENT C



**Dr. Mona Tajali**

Visiting Scholar, Center on  
Democracy, Development and  
the Rule of Law at Stanford  
University



**Tahmina Sobat**

Gender, Women & Sexuality  
Studies Department  
University of  
Minnesota-Twin Cities



Open to the public. Zoom registration is required.  
Sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Contact Farida  
Jalalzai with questions.