

Committee Minutes

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 9, 2024

Committee Members Present: Carrie Chenery (chair), Brad Hobbs, Don Horsley.
Additional Board Members Present: Ed Baine, Nancy Dye, Chris Petersen, John Rocovich.

Constituent Representatives Present: Emily Tirrell (graduate and professional student representative), Joe Merola (faculty representative), and LaTawnya Burleson (staff representative).

Guests: Catherine Amelink, Lauren Augustine, Jacob Barney, Cyril Clarke, Lance Collins, Jeff Earley, Juan Espinoza, Ron Fricker, Rachel Gabriele, Rebekah Gunn, Chelsea Haines, Dee Harris, Kay Heidbreder, Rachel Holloway, Frances Keene, Sharon Kurek, Lu Liu, Elizabeth McClanahan, Ken Miller, Laurel Miner, TM Murali, Kim O'Rourke, Sharon Pitt, John Porter, Tim Sands, Kiera Schneiderman, Amy Sebring, Brennan Shepard, Mark Sikes, Micheal Stowe, Aimee Surprenant, Mary Trigiani, Tracy Vosburgh, Chris Wise,

OPEN SESSION

1. Welcome. C. Chenery, chair of the committee, welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Review and Approval of Open Session Agenda.

3. Consent Agenda Items. Approval of November 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes, the Report of Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, and Fellowships, a Resolution to Approve the Appointment of the Interim Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research; a Resolution to Approve Appointment and Reappointments to the Virginia Coal and Energy Research and Development Advisory Board, a Resolution to Discontinue the Current Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and Approve a New Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in the College of Architecture, Art, and Design; a Resolution to Discontinue the Master of Arts in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics, and a Resolution to Update the Title of the Approved Master of Science in Applied Data Science to the Master of Science in Data Science.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the Open Session Agenda as presented including approval of all Consent Agenda items.

4. Provost's Update. C. Clarke, executive vice president and provost, updated the committee on several initiatives. Foundational work has been accomplished over 50 years to establish a Northern Virginia footprint, mostly managed through the Graduate School. Geographic areas of thematic concentration include a national security emphasis at the Virginia Tech Research Center in Arlington (VTRC-A). Additional developments include the innovation campus at Potomac Yard, the National Security Institute (NSI), and

the sunseting of the Northern Virginia Center at Falls Church to be replaced by a coalition for Smart construction. A steering committee, chaired by Dean Julie Ross, reviewed and assessed current positioning, recommended adjustments as necessary, and charted a detailed course for further progress. The committee's scope includes instruction, research, and outreach missions with an emphasis on those that will distinctively position Virginia Tech among land-grant universities and leverage the opportunities afforded by operating in the nation's capital. The steering committee is making progress and plans to provide a detailed report to the BOV in June when the committee's report is finalized. Provost Clarke anticipates that the report will recommend a region-wide administrative structure that optimizes the provision of services to students and employees; a tighter connection with and accountability to university leadership in Blacksburg; and enhanced visibility of the primary disciplinary emphasis undergirding academic programs in the region – computing and related sciences.

Senior-level searches are underway for the dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Commandant of the Corps of Cadets. Three candidates for dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have been invited for on-campus interviews. That search committee includes external voting members Robert Mills and Katie Frazier. Dean Alan Grant was thanked for his years of effective service. The search committee for the Commandant of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets conducted preliminary interviews and presented five candidates for consideration. Provost Clarke will meet with each candidate this week and, in consultation with the search committee, will select three for on-campus interviews.

Provost Clarke shared an update on Virginia Tech's initiatives with Radford University (RU). A range of opportunities are being explored, with initial emphasis placed on guaranteed admission of Radford graduates to select M.S. programs such as computer science and related disciplines. This initiative is a priority because of the benefits to undergraduate and graduate enrollments at both universities.

Two work groups are underway. The first recognizes the potential impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the university's activities. The workgroup is a collaboration between the provost and the chief operating officer. The second work group is focused on the Virginia Tech Global Distinction initiative and is charged with assessing progress, recommending strategies, and estimating funding needs over the next five years.

Virginia Tech had a record number of applications received for undergraduate admission approximately 52,000 versus 47,000 last year. Freshman enrollment is close to the target of 7,085. A waitlist strategy is being used for out-of-state acceptances. Currently, there is a decline in the number of acceptances from underserved populations that include underrepresented minorities (URM) and individuals who are first-generation, Pell-eligible, and Veterans. Acceptances from these populations are at 68% compared to April of 2023. Like other institutions, Virginia Tech was challenged by delays with the federal Student Financial Aid Program (FAFSA - and its associated Institutional Student Information Records) which complicated admissions modeling and impacted the timing of financial aid packaging.

In conclusion, Provost Clarke shared that Virginia Tech is progressing well within the three areas of the academic mission of the university - education, research, and outreach. Education, admissions, post-graduate success, and instructional innovation are anchored in a core commitment to experiential learning. Virginia Tech is expanding rapidly in its research focus, as evidenced by extramural expenditures, priority initiatives, and faculty distinction. The university's outreach mission is achieved through the variety of ways in which quality service is being provided including through Virginia Cooperative Extension and university-level international partnerships.

5. Virginia Tech Global Distinction: Destination Areas Program. Catherine Amelink, associate vice provost, T.M. Murali, professor of computer science, and Jacob Barney, professor of invasive plant ecology provided an update to the Destination Area 2.0 program which is designed and intended to support Virginia Tech's efforts to advance its global distinction.

Destination Area 2.0 projects are submitted by the faculty and go through a rigorous screening and development process that involves competitive selection leading to a Phase I planning and development grant, followed by a gap analysis, and then a more extensive Phase II project award if selected for continued funding. From the first round of Destination Area 2.0 proposals, two were advanced to Phase II for funding: pediatric brain cancer and quantum navigation.

The committee received a briefing on two proposals from the second round of Destination 2.0 proposals that have been advanced to Phase II for funding, Invasive Species: Mitigating a Global Threat, and Pandemic Prediction and Prevention. Professor Barney leads a transdisciplinary team focused on combatting invasive species. Professor Murali's team is focused on global pandemic prediction and intervention.

The invasive species project will integrate invasion science with policy, management, and social demands to confront a global crisis which causes harm to the environment, to the economy, and to human health. The pandemic prediction and prevention project is focused on the accurate prediction of pandemics and the development of methods to proactively minimize their impact. Both projects draw upon talent and expertise from across the university and they position Virginia Tech as a global leader in these areas.

6. Agenda Items for Committee Meeting. Committee members are encouraged to contact the chair with any possible future agenda items.

7. Adjournment.

Closed Session Agenda
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 9, 2024

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Reporting Responsibility</u>
1. Motion to Begin Closed Session	C. Chenery
* 2. Resolutions to Approve Appointments to Emeritus/a Status (36)	C. Clarke
* 3. Resolution to Approve Appointments Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (11)	C. Clarke
* 4. Resolution to Approve Appointments to Alumni Distinguished Professor (3)	C. Clarke
* 5. Resolution to Approve Appointments with Tenure (6)	C. Clarke
* 6. Resolution to Approve Appointments with Tenure-to-Title (2)	C. Clarke
* 7. Resolution to Approve Faculty Research Leaves (84)	C. Clarke
* 8. Resolutions to Approve Exception to the Virginia Conflict of Interests Act (1)	C. Clarke
* 9. Ratification of Personnel Changes Report <i>(shared with Finance and Resource Management Committee)</i>	C. Clarke
10. Motion to End Closed Session	C. Chenery
11. Report of Closed Session Action items	C. Chenery

Open Session Agenda

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Reporting Responsibility</u>
1. Welcome	C. Chenery
2. Review and Approve Open Session Agenda	C. Chenery
3. Consent Agenda	C. Chenery
A. Approval of November 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes	
B. Report of Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, and Fellowships	
*C. Resolution to Approve Appointment of Interim Executive Director of Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research	
*D. Resolution to Approve Appointment and Reappointments to the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research and Development Advisory Board	
*E. Resolution to Discontinue Current Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and Approve New Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design	
*F. Resolution to Discontinue Master of Arts in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics	
*G. Resolution to Update Title of Approved MS in Applied Data Science to MS in Data Science	
4. Provost's Update	C. Clarke
5. Virginia Tech Global Distinction: Destination Areas Program	C. Amelink, T.M. Murali, J. Barney
6. Future Agenda Items	C. Chenery
7. Adjourn	C. Chenery

Open Session Consent Agenda

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 9, 2024

- A. Approval of November 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- B. Report of Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, and Fellowships
- C. Resolution to Approve Appointment of Interim Executive Director of Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research
- D. Resolution to Approve Appointment and Reappointments to the Virginia Coal and Energy Research and Development Advisory Board
- E. Resolution to Discontinue Current Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and Approve New Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design
- F. Resolution to Discontinue Master of Arts in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics
- G. Resolution to Update Title of Approved MS in Applied Data Science to MS in Data Science

REPORT

Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (7)

April 9, 2024

The president and executive vice president and provost have confirmed the reappointment of the following faculty to endowed chair, professorship, or fellowship appointments with a salary and/or operating supplement provided by the endowment.

College of Engineering (1)

Dwight Viehland

Jack E. Cowling Professorship

Pamplin College of Business (6)

France Belanger

Thomas and Daisy Byrd Senior Faculty Fellowship

Jingjing Huang

John F. Carroll Jr. Junior Faculty Fellowship

Jean Lacoste

Darrell D. and Betty R. Martin Junior Faculty Fellowship

John Maher

Thomas M. Wells and Kathy Dargo Professorship

Sarah Stein

Deloitte Foundation Faculty Fellowship

David Townsend

Union Junior Faculty Fellowship in Entrepreneurship



DESTINATION AREA 2.0 UPDATE

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BOARD OF VISITORS MEETING
APRIL 9, 2024





DESTINATION AREA 2.0 PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Implementation of a project focused effort:

- Phase 1 Planning and Development Grants
- Phase I Gap Analysis
- Phase II Project Awards
- Continued facilitation of project teams

INVASIVE SPECIES DESTINATION AREA: CONFRONTING A GLOBAL CRISIS

Attachment G

The Invasive Species Crisis



As costly as natural disasters

\$1B costs to
Virginia



Cause >60% extinctions

Exacerbate wildfire/droughts



Increased disease

Food loss/insecurity



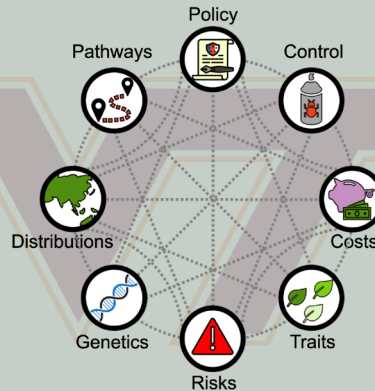
200 new species year⁻¹

Social conflict



Transdisciplinary Excellence

**Broad University coalition:
5 colleges, 3 Institutes,
ARECs, NCR
External partnerships**



**>100 VT people work on IS
(though few faculty focus)
Convergence team science**

Invasive Species Collaborative

**7 new faculty in 4 colleges
Global Center of Excellence
Take “moonshots”**

Center
of Centers



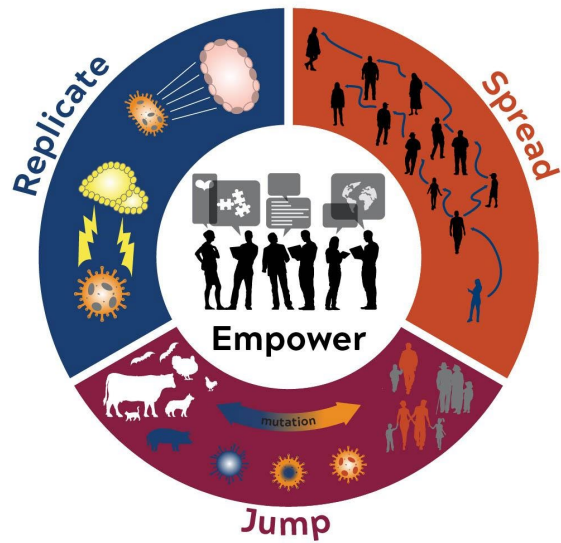
**Grad student/postdoc support
Student experiential learning
‘Living Lab’**

Pandemic Prediction and Prevention Destination Area

A world where we accurately foresee pandemics and proactively minimize their impact

Mission

Uncover the genetic, molecular, cellular, and chemical rules of life underlying virus-host interactions through community based and ethically grounded research



20+
faculty

27
trainees

7
colleges

13
departments

9
external partners

\$37M
in active awards

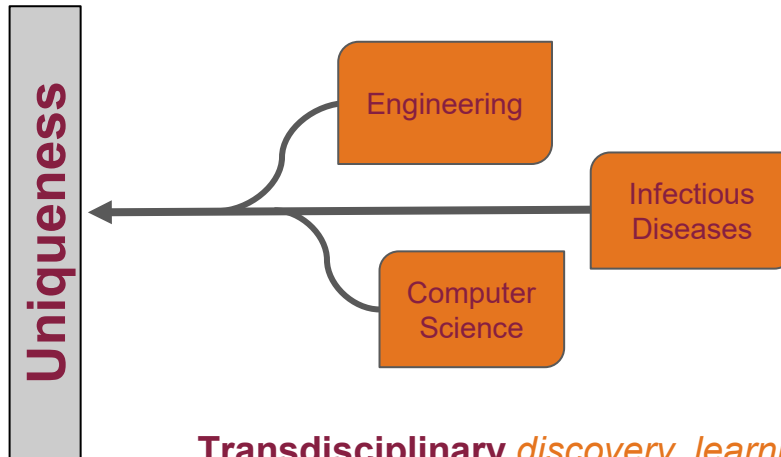
Research and Education Themes

Jump: ML models of viral jump to humans

Replicate: organoids to test human susceptibility to viruses

Spread: models of viral persistence and transmission

Empower: two-way communication with vulnerable communities



Next Steps

- Large-scale proposals (\$21M so far);
- Global, agenda-setting workshop event at the Steger Center (July 2024)
- National Dialogue on Ethics and Community in Pandemic Science (Fall 2024)
- VASEM Summit on "AI and Medicine" (October 2025)
- Award first-generation undergraduate scholarships

Transdisciplinary *discovery, learning, and outreach*