

Committee Minutes

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

November 19, 2024

Committee Members Present: Nancy Dye (chair), Sandy Davis*, William Holtzman, Donald Horsley, J. Pearson, Jeanne Stosser

**One Board member participated remotely from her home for medical reasons in accordance with Code of Virginia §2.2-3708.3(B). A quorum was physically present.*

Board Members Present: Ed Baine (rector)

Constituent Representatives Present: Janice Austin (A/P faculty representative), Leslie Orellana (undergraduate student representative), William Poland (graduate and professional student representative).

Guests: Lauren Augustine, Eric Brooks, Cyril Clarke, Lance Collins, Al Cooper, Debbie Day, Juan Espinoza, Mario Ferruzzi, Ron Fricker, Rachel Gabriele, Ellington Graves, Chelsea Haines, Dee Harris, Kay Heidbreder, Bill Huckle, Cyndi Hutchison, France Keene, Gerard Lawson, Lu Liu, Kevin McGuire, Mallory Miller, April Myers, Justin Noble, Mark Owczarski, Sharon Pitt, Karen Roberto, Tina Savla, Tim Sands, Stephen Schoenholtz, Mark Sikes, Dee Dee Somervell, Rick Sparks, Dan Sui, Aimee Surprenant, Don Taylor, Jon Clark Teglas, Mary Trigani, Peggy Vilardo

OPEN SESSION

Report of Closed Session Items. In Closed Session, the committee considered 22 appointments to emerita or emeritus status, one appointment to an endowed chair, professorship, or fellowship, five reappointments to endowed chairs, professorships, or fellowships, five appointments with tenure, and reviewed individual salaries and personnel changes.

1. Welcome. N. Dye, chair of the committee, welcomed attendees to the meeting and acknowledged the new members to the Board.

2. Review and Approval of Open Session Agenda.

3. Consent Agenda Items. Approval of August 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes, a Resolution to Approve Appointments and Reappointments to the Virginia Coal Research and Development Advisory Board, and Resolution to Discontinue Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Systems Biology.

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

4. Resolution to Approve a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Water Resources. K. McGuire, professor and director of the Virginia Water Resources

Research Center, presented a proposal for a new degree program in Water Resources. This degree program will prepare students to protect, analyze, and improve water quality, watershed ecosystems, and water resources. The Graduate School will administer this degree program, however, faculty across three colleges will collaborate and teach in the program: College of Natural Resources and Environment (Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation and Department of Geography), College of Science (Department of Geosciences), and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (School of Plant and Environmental Science).

The committee voted unanimously to approve the Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Water Resources.

5. Resolution to Approve a Master of Arts in Education (M.A.Ed.) degree program in Reading and Literacy Education. G. Lawson, professor and interim director of the School of Education, presented a proposal for a new degree program in Reading and Literacy Education. The establishment of the Master of Arts in Education (MAED) Reading and Literacy Education will prepare students to assess students' reading ability and apply evidence-based instructional interventions to improve reading proficiency to diverse populations of students in grades K-8. This degree program will also address the teacher shortage in Virginia as it is designed to meet the Virginia Department of Education requirements for the reading specialist endorsement area.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the Master of Arts in Education (M.A.Ed.) degree program in Reading and Literacy Education.

Committee member Jeanne Stosser joined the meeting.

6. Provost's Update. C. Clarke, executive vice president and provost, provided updates to the committee on several senior searches. The search for the new dean of the Honors College is underway, with three finalists expected to come to campus in the next few weeks. With the announcement of Paul Winistorfer's retirement at the end of the academic year, a search for a new dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment has just launched. Current practice is to include external members in search committees in collaboration with Alumni Relations. Dr. Clarke also introduced Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, the new dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Academic Resource Alignment

Dr. Clarke provided the committee with an update on this President's Council project related to reinvestment. The project is designed to assess the degree to which programs of study are currently aligned with student needs and demand as well as industry and employer needs and expectations. Expected outcomes include the identification of courses and programs that may need to be reshaped or discontinued because they no longer meet the strategic interests of the university or its stakeholders. A committee has been appointed and charged to work with academic colleges to conduct a review of every course and degree program in both the undergraduate and graduate curricula, to include analyses of outcomes such as:

- Enrollment per FTE

- Graduation success (4 year/6 year)
- Annual degrees awarded
- Post-graduation placement
- Evidence of engagement in best practices in teaching and learning
- Strategic importance—university and stakeholder input

The project is being supported by the Organizational Excellence unit in the President's Office. A report, including recommendations will be submitted by the end of the 2024-25 academic year.

Virginia Tech Global Distinction Steering Committee

Virginia Tech has two high-level goals: Virginia Tech Advantage and Global Distinction. The latter is very focused on attracting and retaining top talent. After completing its first phase of review and analysis in support of advancing the university's global distinction, the committee has been charged to complete its work specifically to:

- review and, as necessary, update the Global Distinction goal, currently expressed as commitment to "build on faculty strengths and advance the university's reputational standing by investing in and growing high-impact research and creative expression";
- identify a prioritized portfolio of programs and initiatives that have the highest potential for establishing areas of eminence;
- draft detailed investment and growth strategies for each recommended area from both university and philanthropic sources; and
- recommend long-term strategies to support sustainable growth and global recognition of Virginia Tech's areas of eminence.

Examples of current programs and areas recognized to meet this goal include the following:

- Thematic and investment institutes
- Destination 2.0 program
- Resourcing of research-based doctoral programs
- Research infrastructure, such as facilities (laboratory, animal care, etc.), grant management, compliance, resourcing of center grant applications, etc.

Faculty and other university constituent groups engaged include a University Mission Initiative (these are defined as major initiatives that involve every part of the university) focused of resourcing research-based doctoral education, and the Global Distinction Feedback and Implementation Subcommittee, chaired by the president of the Faculty Senate and comprised as that body sees fit to support next steps.

A report, including recommendations, will be submitted by May 1, 2025.

Dr. Clarke closed with two uplifting examples of *Ut Prosim* after Hurricane Helene:

The Center for Leadership and Service Learning – facilitate by VT Engage:

- Twenty-one Virginia Tech students, faculty, and staff provided assistance to a flood-affected community in Giles County, specifically at Eggleston Springs Campground. They helped residents and business owners recover by clearing debris, moving furniture, clearing collapsed structures, and more.

Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets

- Senior cadet leaders canceled the fall half of the Caldwell March, a rite of passage for first-year cadets, just three days before the event in favor of helping neighboring communities with hurricane cleanup efforts. Approximately 540 cadets, along with approximately one dozen staff from the Corps and ROTC, served Giles County residents collectively and individually. Volunteers provided debris pick-up with a concentration along roadways and public property in the floodplain, loaded emergency supplies for distribution by emergency services workers, moved displaced porches/decks to their original locations, and demolished ruined decks/porches.

7. Global Distinction: Whole Health Consortium. K. Roberto, University Distinguished Professor and executive director of the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment and T. Savla, professor in Human Development & Family Sciences will provide an overview of the Whole Health Consortium, a transdisciplinary approach to investigating equitable health and wellness solutions that supports people and their communities to pursue meaningful lives.

The Whole Health Consortium at Virginia Tech was established in 2023 with support from the Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment (ISCE) and the Office of Research and Innovation (ORI). It aims to pioneer a comprehensive approach to health and well-being that integrates molecular, behavioral, social, environmental, and societal influences. The consortium focuses on proactive disease prevention and enhancing the well-being of people and their communities through cutting-edge, transdisciplinary, community-engaged research. The consortium now has 130 members working together towards a common goal.

In the last year with the support of ISCE and the Office of Research and Innovation, the consortium has had several notable achievements. They hosted the inaugural annual conference with 125 attendees including faculty, healthcare leaders from Carilion and the Salem Veterans Administration, and community partners from a wide array of organizations. The consortium funded four innovative projects focused on mental health through their Transdisciplinary Team Seed Grants. They plan to support six additional teams in the coming year with support from Carilion Clinic. The consortium has also organized networking events including two Think Tank Meetings with researchers from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and USDA-funded researchers at Virginia Tech.

Going forward, and benefitting from a recently awarded Destination Areas (DA) 2.0 Phase I Planning Grant, the consortium plans to establish infrastructure to support their continued work, including:

- the establishment of a research operations support team to help remove administrative hurdles to grant applications and management.

- The appointment of a research-community liaison to strengthen connections with grassroots organizations and communities in collaboration with Extension colleagues.
- Collaboration with the Sanghani Center to bring on a health analytics data scientist to focus on collecting and curating data across consortium projects and provide a data reservoir for consortium members.

Dr. Savla highlighted the diverse learning opportunities the consortium has begun offering, among other initiatives, campus-based opportunities for undergraduate students through the Integrative Health and Wellness minor, and collaboration with graduate students in the Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health (TBMH) program.

8. Closing Remarks and Adjourn. N. Dye offered brief remarks. The meeting concluded at 9:43 am.

Closed Session Agenda
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
November 19, 2024

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Reporting Responsibility</u>
1. Motion to Begin Closed Session	N. Dye
* 2. Resolution to Approve Appointments to Emeritus/a Status (22)	R. Fricker
* 3. Resolution to Approve Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (1)	R. Fricker
* 4. Resolution to Approve Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (5)	R. Fricker
* 5. Resolution to Approve Appointments with Tenure (5)	R. Fricker
6. Personnel Changes Report <i>(voted on by Finance and Resource Management Committee)</i>	R. Fricker
7. Motion to End Closed Session	N. Dye
8. Report of Closed Session Action Items	N. Dye

*Requires Full Board Approval

Open Session Agenda

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

November 19, 2024

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Reporting Responsibility</u>
1. Welcome	N. Dye
2. Review and Approve Open Session Agenda	N. Dye
3. Consent Agenda	N. Dye
a. Approval of August 27, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes	
* b. Resolution to Approve Appointments and Reappointments to the Virginia Coal Research and Development Advisory Board	
* c. Resolution to Discontinue Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Systems Biology	
* 4. Resolution to Approve a Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Water Resources	K. McGuire
* 5. Resolution to Approve a Master of Arts in Education (M.A.Ed.) degree program in Reading and Literacy Education	G. Lawson
6. Provost's Update and Discussion	C. Clarke
7. Global Distinction: Whole Health Consortium	K. Roberto, T. Savla
8. Closing Remarks and Adjourn	N. Dye

* Requires Full Board Approval

Discusses Enterprise Risk Management topic(s)

WHOLE HEALTH CONSORTIUM AT VIRGINIA TECH

Karen A. Roberto, Ph.D.

University Distinguished Professor
Executive Director, Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment

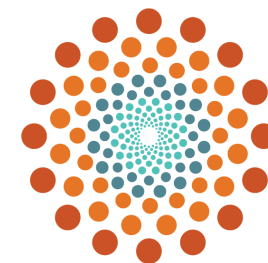
J. Tina Savla, Ph.D.

Professor, Center for Gerontology and Department of Human Development
Director, Whole Health Consortium

Academic Research, and Student Affairs Committee

Board of Visitors

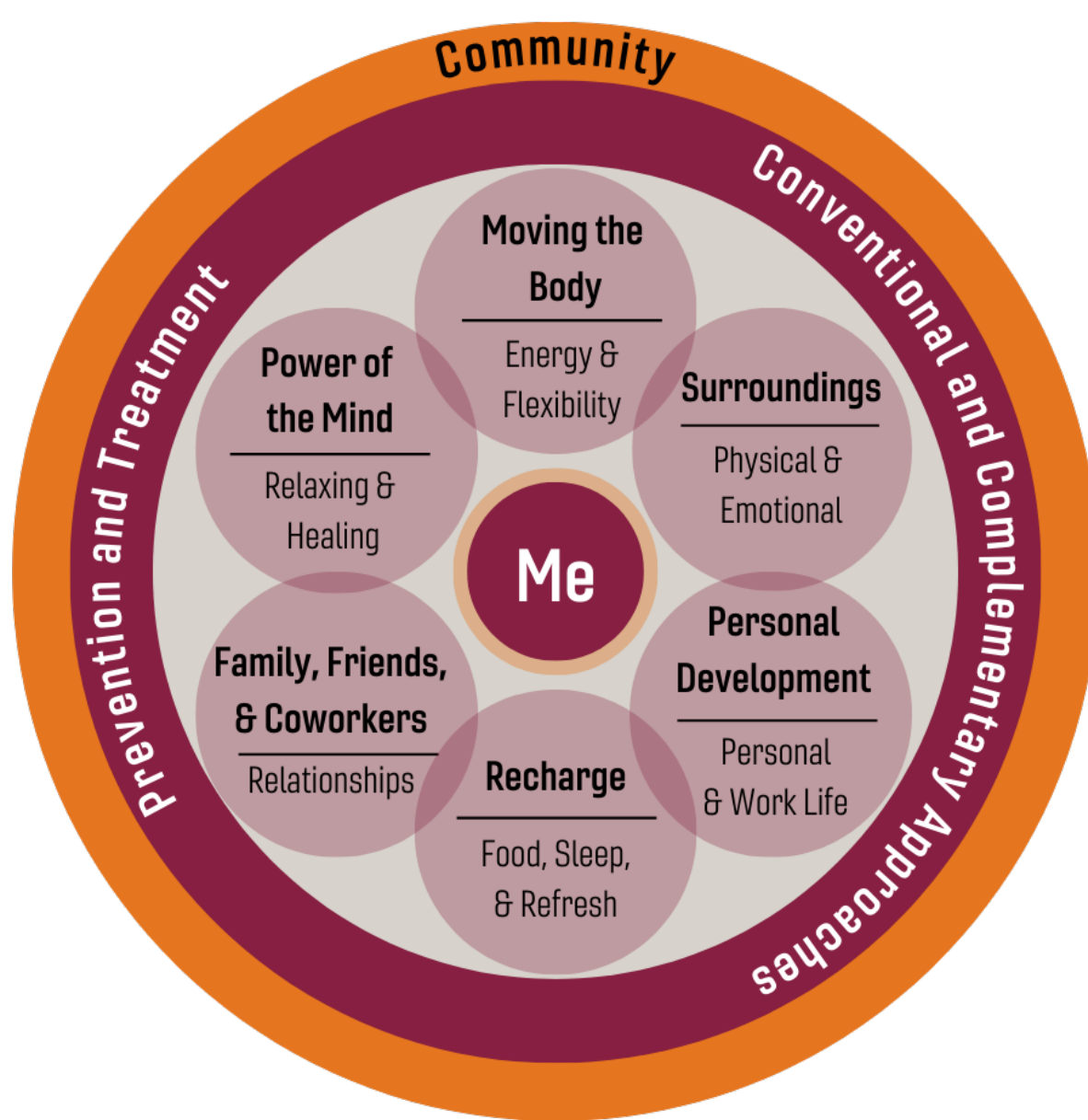
November 19, 2024



**WHOLE
HEALTH
CONSORTIUM**



**INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY, CULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT**



WHOLE HEALTH MODEL FOR PATIENT CARE AND WELL-BEING



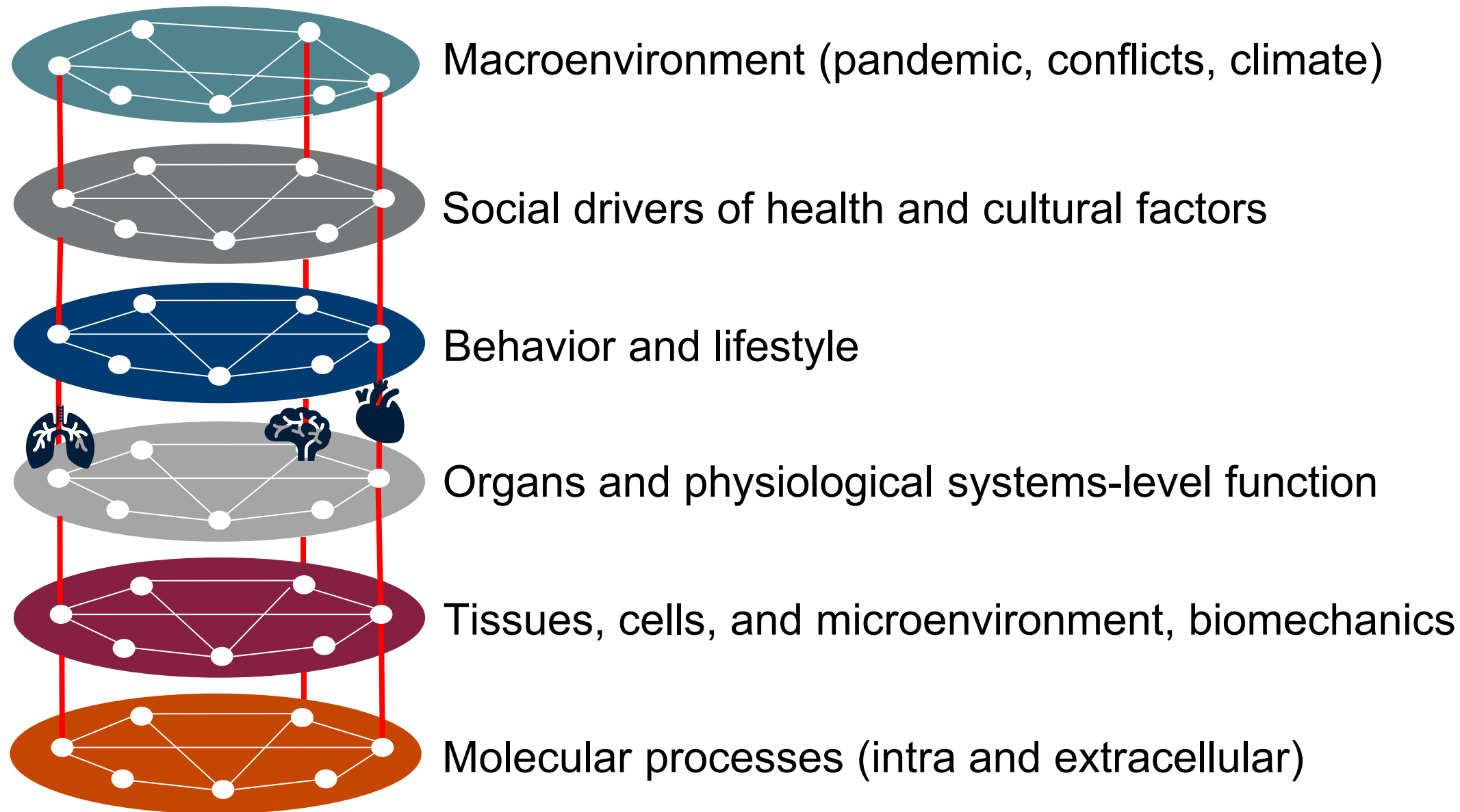
Adapted from <https://www.va.gov/wholehealth/circle-of-health/index.asp>

WHOLE HEALTH FRAMEWORK



THE WHOLE HEALTH CONSORTIUM AT VIRGINIA TECH

Committed to advancing **transdisciplinary research** that brings together expertise across and beyond the university to inform equitable solutions for holistic health and well-being.



VISION

The Whole Health Consortium at Virginia Tech supports people and their communities to pursue meaningful lives through transdisciplinary, solution-oriented research focused on equitable health and well-being.

MISSION

Harness a range of expertise to revolutionize systems, research, practices, and policies that affect holistic health and well-being.

COMPOSITION

A diverse groups of members including researchers, educators, students, practitioners, healthcare providers, community collaborators, and industry partners.

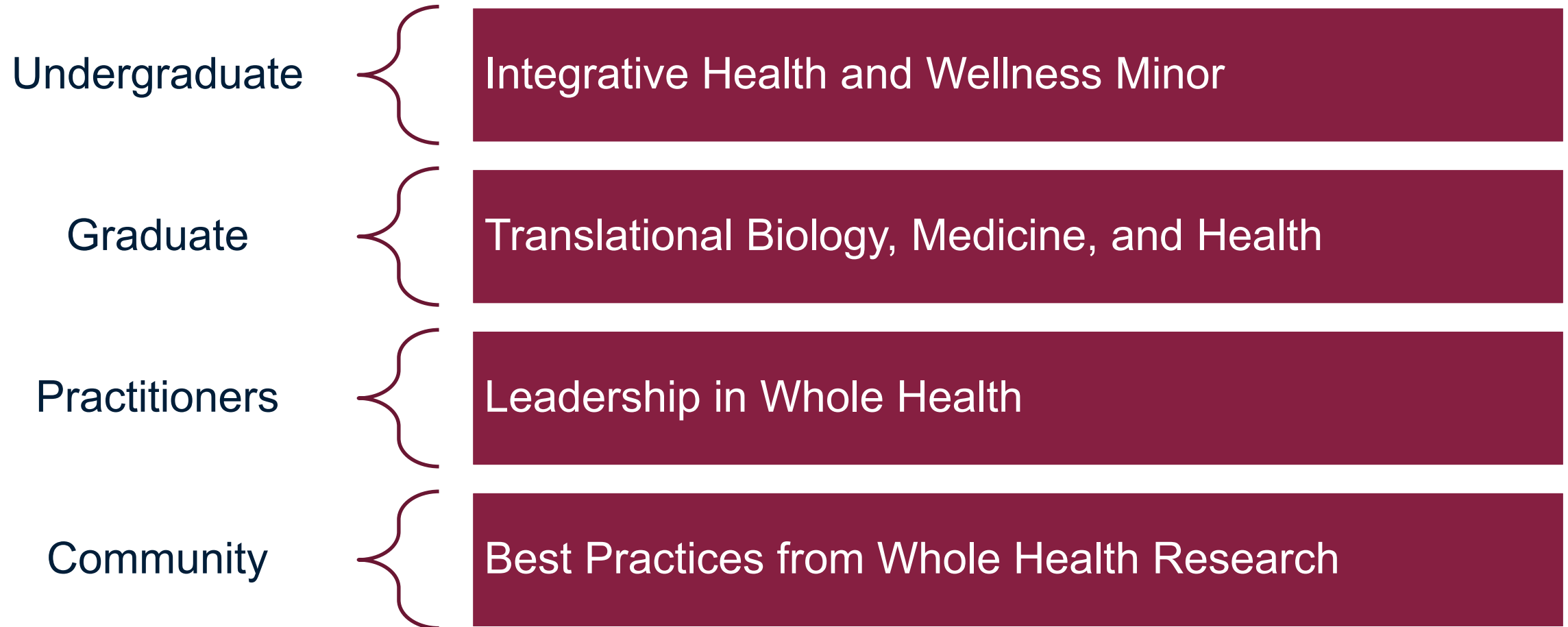
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Annual Conference
- Multidisciplinary Team Seed Grants
- Networking Opportunities
- Member of National Institutes of Health-National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NIH-NCCIH) Whole Person Health Coalition
- Destination Areas (DA) 2.0 Phase I Planning Grant

FUTURE PLANS: ADVANCING GLOBAL DISTINCTION

- Research Operations Support Team
- Research-Community Liaison
- Health Analytics and Data Scientist
- Team Building Seed Grant Opportunities
- Conference Grant Funding
- Program and Center Grants

LEARNING COMPONENTS



QUESTIONS?

relaxation EMPLOYMENT resilience
 SLEEP nutrition YOGA Interests Safety
 exercise resilience Diagnosis Perseverance
 Education Meaning UNDERSTANDING space
 EMOTIONS Awareness therapy
 balance holistic **Whole Health**
 SELF-ESTEEM
 respect relationships
 friends family intersections STABILITY
 Empower empathy RESEARCH voice
 HEALING PLAN purpose community HOPE



www.wholehealth.isce.vt.edu
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