

229 Council - Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research

Friday, February 2, 2018, 1:00PM – 2:00PM

130 Burruss Hall Conference Room

Present: Ed Jones, Guru Ghosh, Tim Hodge, Ken Smith, Stephen Kleiber, Terry Swecker, D'Elia Chandler, Gary Sherman, Mallory Miller

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions (Ken Smith)
2. Executive Budget Update (Tim Hodge)

Tim reviewed Governor McAuliffe's proposed 2018-20 Executive Budget. The Commonwealth's fiscal outlook continues to improve, with revenue growth trending upward, however, the state is experiencing uncertain times due to uncertainty with the federal budget.

The proposed Executive Budget includes limited new spending on higher education, and includes no new funding for capital projects. However, a two percent salary increase for faculty and staff was proposed in the second year of the biennium.

Agency 229 budget amendments were presented to the state by Virginia Tech and on behalf of Virginia Tech. An update on those budget amendments will be provided after the February 18 crossover.

2. Salary Planning (Tim Hodge)

The Executive Budget includes a two percent salary increase for faculty and staff in year-two, but it does not include a salary program for next year. In lieu of a state program, Virginia Tech could consider implementing a university salary program for next year. However, the university does not have the authority to make changes to classified staff compensation. If the university implements a salary program using non-general fund source, a plan for addressing the impact on Agency 229 will be needed.

3. ANR Summit Update (Ed Jones)

A draft agenda for the Virginia Agriculture and National Resources Initiative Summit was presented. The summit will bring together university members and industry leaders, and will be facilitated by Dr. Martha Walker a Virginia Tech Extension Specialist. Virginia State University is also involved with the planning of the summit and will participate.

4. Updates

- a. Virginia Cooperative Extension
 - i. The Annual VCE Winter Conference will be held February 6-8 at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Projected attendance is 400.
- b. Agricultural Experiment Station
 - i. An update on the creation of the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences was provided.

5. Other Business

- a. A draft composting facility feasibility study was distributed as an informational item. A review and update on the evaluation will be presented in a future meeting.
- b. Guru Ghosh reported on a potential future partnership with a farm equipment manufacturer.