Administrative Council for
Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting

Friday, August 2, 2024
1:30-3:00 p.m.
130 Burruss Hall Conference Room

AGENDA

Participants:
Mary Burrows, Mike Gutter, Cyril Clarke, Don Taylor, Paul Winistorfer, Steve Kleiber, Beth Ebel, Brennan Shepard, Suzanne Griffin, Dan Sui, Tim Hodge, Mallory Miller, Elizabeth Hooper, Simon Allen, Chris Yianilos, Margie Lee, Alan Grant

Welcome and Introductions (Cyril Clarke)

Discussion Items
Approval of Meeting Minutes (Cyril Clarke)
The meeting minutes from the June meeting were distributed electronically with the agenda, reviewed, and approved.

Briefing on Animal Welfare Developments at the State Level (Suzanne Griffin)
Suzanne Griffin provided an update on Animal Welfare Development at the State. She is representing Virginia Tech on a state task force which will produce a report in November. There is an internal working group engaged in discussions in support of this work. The Provost asked to ensure all appropriate units were included in the internal discussions.

Legislative Priorities for Next Session (Mary Burrows and Mike Gutter)
The council reviewed the list of legislative priorities for next session. The list did not change much since the last iteration, but additional equipment requests were added. The council agreed to work together to refine the language of the requests to ensure a focused direction, aligned with state interests, that is also distributed in its application across ARECs. Mike Gutter will take the lead in refining the prioritized list and engaging the three colleges.

Unit Updates
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Mike Gutter shared that VCE is continuing to work on strategic planning efforts and engaging the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He provided an update on topics discussed at the Ag Summit including value and market chain issues and rural community vitality. VSU and VT are working on brainstorming micro-credentials and extension grants for workforce issues.

Mike shared that the unit is exploring inventory extension, outreach, and engagement centers to find synergies. The Provost emphasized the need for stronger partnerships between extension and outreach and mentioned that a task force on micro-credentials (led by Catherine Amelink) is nearing completion.

Field marketing agents have been hired and are developing communication strategies, including graphic design and freelance work for field offices.

Agricultural Experiment Station
Mary Burrows shared that CALS has experienced a positive federal grant success rate (33 percent) over the last two years. An analysis is ongoing for optimizing success in future submissions.

She also shared that facility updates are progressing for Tidewater AREC and other locations, though there are challenges with inspections and maintaining standards.

Deans
Alan Grant, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, shared that Mario Ferruzzi will become the next dean for the college starting on October 15, 2024.

Paul Winistorfer, dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, provided an update on the college, including the following:

- College sponsored expenditures reached $22.9M at the end of FY24, which is a 54 percent increase since FY2019.
- The college is finishing installation of a control chamber at the Brooks Lab funded within Agency 229 resources, which will enhance packaging research capacity.
- Planning continues for the state-funded capital project located at Center Woods.

On behalf of the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Margie Lee, provided an update on sponsored expenditures, noting that proposal submissions are up significantly. The college is participating in a large workgroup focused on a shortage of veterinarians.

Budget and Finance
Jeff Earley, vice provost for academic resource management, shared that six-year capital planning meetings are being scheduled early fall with a final presentation in December.

OVPRI
Dan Sui, vice president for research and innovation, shared that the new director for sponsored programs will start next month with a top priority of review internal work flows and recommend efficiencies.