

Administrative Council
for
Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting

Friday, August 4, 2023

1:30-2:30 p.m.

By Zoom (details below)

Participants: Mike Gutter, Alan Grant, Brennan Shepard, Steve Klieber, Caraline Buscaglia, Cyril Clarke, Dan Givens, Paul Winistorfer, Mallory Miller, Jeff Earley, Ken Miller, Don Taylor, Rebekah Gunn, Mary Burrows, Margie Lee, Dan Sui

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions (Cyril Clarke)

2. Discussion Items

a.) Approval of Meeting Minutes (Mallory Miller)

The June meeting minutes were distributed electronically with the agenda. The council reviewed and approved the June minutes.

3. Unit Updates

a.) Virginia Cooperative Extension

Mike Gutter, director of VCE, provided an update on stakeholder visits, VCE's new budget model, and hiring plan.

VCE is engaged in water issue discussions pertaining to the Chesapeake Bay and has participated in Farm Bill listening sessions.

The group discussed Governor Youngkin's recent comments on continuing growth in the Commonwealth's agricultural industry, specifically comments associated with the use of soybean oil in tire manufacturing.

b.) Agricultural Experiment Station

The council welcomed Mary Burrows, the new director of Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. Mary shared that she has been engaged in meeting stakeholders and all the AREC directors in the beginning days of her appointment.

b.) Deans

Alan Grant, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, shared that the university hosted the Virginia Agriculture Council's summer meeting. The university was able to highlight Virginia Tech programs and the council toured many campus facilities such as Kentland Farm, College of Veterinary Medicine facilities, SmartFarm operations in the CRC, and Plantation Road.

This week the Horsely Family hosted the Virginia Agricultural Expo in Virginia Beach where several members of the university demonstrated

research findings and highlighted extension programs.

Paul Winistorfer, dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, provided an update on hiring searches, including an extension specialist position.

Dan Givens, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Margie Lee, interim director for Animal Cancer Care and Research Center, provided an update on recent hires and hiring searches.

The Jane and Stephen Hale Equine Performance Evaluation Center ribbon cutting ceremony is set for December 12, 2023.

Virginia Tech Animal Laboratory Services (ViTALS), a diagnostic group, received a \$1M grant for a national animal health monitoring system that will enhance emergency response.

The council discussed the University of Maryland System's declaration of intent to start a school of veterinary medicine and the potential for growth within the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.

c.) Budget and Finance

Tim Hodge, associate vice president for budgeting and financial planning, provided an update on the state and university budgeting processes.

d.) OVPRI

Dan Sui, vice president for research and innovation, shared the outcome of a recent animal care retreat hosted by the Office of Research and Innovation. Dan mentioned changes in animal care requirements for avian facilities.

e.) Government and Community Relations

Rebekah Gunn shared that in late June, Dean Grant provided testimony on the importance of USDA funding and the impact of university research and Extension programs before the US House Agriculture Committee's subcommittee on conservation, research, and biotechnology.

4. Other Updates

Don Taylor, executive vice provost, shared that two Destination Area proposals were selected for full funding: Invasive Species and Pandemic Prediction and Prevention.