Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting
Friday, April 4, 2025
1:30-3:00 p.m.
130 Burruss Hall Conference Room

Participants
Mary Burrows, Mike Gutter, Mario Ferruzzi, Cyril Clarke, Tim Hodge, Dan Givens, Paul Winistorfer, Jeff Earley, Elizabeth Hooper, Guru Ghosh, Dan Sui, Mallory Miller

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions (Cyril Clarke)

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

Restructure of CALS Research (Mary Burrows)
Marry Burrows provided an outline of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) Research organizational restructure. The restructuring provides additional differentiation between AES and CALS.

The group discussed targeting specific audiences to enhance communications and marketing outcomes.

Extension Veterinarian (Mike Gutter)
Mike Gutter and Dan Givens shared information related to a task force on the shortage of rural veterinarians in the Commonwealth of Virginia. There is support from stakeholders to allocate funds to address the need and a proposal for an Extension Veterinarian to support rural communities and veterinarians in those communities.

In mid-April, stakeholders will convene to draft a plan to address veterinarian needs and Virginia Tech, with the support of the council, will propose an Extension Veterinarian. The counsel was supportive of the Extension Veterinarian position.

Unit Updates
Virginia Cooperative Extension (Mike Gutter)
Mike Gutter shared that the strategic plan has been shared with key stakeholder groups for refinement. Ther are seven core initiatives with the plan that are connected to university strategic priorities.

Mike provided an update on the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

funding. VCE is working on a BEAD project with UVA and Carilion.

Mike also discussed a grant to enhance broadband adoption for agricultural economies. Paul suggested that VCE connect with College of Natural Resources and Environment's Center for Geospatial Information Technology.

Agricultural Experiment Station (Mary Burrows)
Marry Burrows provided an update on field days and leadership council meetings. The Middleburg AREC is going through a process to identify priorities and narrow its focus to need community needs. Horses will continue to be at the AREC and equine nutrition management will continue.

Mary also provided a facilities update. Meetings are also taking place with facilities on issues related to historical renovations. Planning for HABBII are underway.

The group discussed in some detail forestry management plans. Tim Hodge will look into the into the management plans and report back.

Mary shared that an e-newsletter on research impact is forthcoming.

Deans
Paul Winistorfer, dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE), provided a brief update on federal grants and contracts.

Dan Givens, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), provided an update on ongoing searches for leadership positions within the college.

Mario Ferruzzi, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Science (CALS), provided updates on hiring searches. He also shared an update on the review of the Agricultural Technology Program. Additionally, Mario shared that the CALS research restructure and VCE strategic plan are the first steps to a strategic plan process for the college, which he expects to launch in the fall.

Budget and Finance
Tim Hodge shared that the general assembly reconvened earlier this week. There have been no changes to Agency 229 since the conferee budget.

Jeff Earley shared that the university is focused on two of the top Agency 229 capital projects for the six-year capital plan: AREC improvements at Eastern Shore, South Piedmont, and Tidewater and HABB II.

Research and Innovation
Dan Sui provided an update on the changing federal landscape. Dan also provided an update on the vivarium project; the university is continuing through the architectural design phase and then reevaluate before entering the next phase of construction.

Outreach and International Affairs
Guru Ghosh provided an update on immigration policy and related impacts.