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

Participants
Jonathan Baros, Mary Burrows, Cyril Clarke, Jeff Earley, Mike Gutter, Tim Hodge, Margie Lee, Amy Sebring, Dan Sui

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions (Cyril Clarke)

Discussion Items
Tidewater AREC Facilities Update (Mary Burrows)
Mary updated the council on the deteriorated condition of Batton Hall at the Tidewater AREC. The agricultural experiment station is working with the university's facilities and real estate management groups to develop options and cost estimates for moving existing activities from Batton into temporary structures until a renovation or replacement of Batton Hall can occur.

Unit Updates
Virginia Cooperative Extension (Mike Gutter)
Mike provided updates on a mini summit held with VCE stakeholders in September dealing with agribusiness and the role of VCE in local food systems and food access. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) is also revisiting the official definition of an extension specialist to create clear expectations for this position. Revisions will go through college and university governance later in the academic year.

Finally, VCE recently launched an external facing advisory council, in collaboration with CALS, to include membership from industries representing public health and many different aspects of agriculture, including livestock and crops.

Agricultural Experiment Station (Mary Burrows)
Mary shared that USDA capacity funds were released by the federal government at the end of September. She also shared that a meeting with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and all CALS faculty will be held to discuss previous animal care issues and future planning efforts.

CALS recently launched an Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) graduate scholarship program that provides one (1) semester of stipend and tuition waiver to eligible PhD students in the college. They received 51 applications, representing 30-40% of eligible PhD students.

Deans
Mike Gutter provided position updates for the college. He also shared that the college recently held discussions with stakeholders at the Southwest Higher Education Center to pursue the potential for expanding the delivery of the Agriculture Technology 2-Year degree

program to that center, in addition to the Blacksburg campus.

Margie Lee provided an update on recruitment efforts for a coordinator to support Virginia's large animal veterinary workforce. She also shared that the college is gathering data from Maryland's rural veterinary shortage initiative, led by the Farm Journal Foundation, to assess veterinary shortages in Maryland and to provide recommendations. The college will be hosting officials from Maryland to discuss the shortages and tour college facilities on November 24th.

Other

Budget and Finance

Tim Hodge shared that the Agency 229 budget requests have been submitted to state for consideration in the upcoming governor's budget.

Amy Sebring provided an update on internal reviews of risks to the university posed by the federal government shutdown.

Office of Research and Innovation (ORI)

Dan Sui provided additional assessments of the impact of the federal government shutdown on federally sponsored grants and contracts at the university.