Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting
Friday, June 6, 2025
1:30-3:00 p.m.
130 Burruss Hall Conference Room

AGENDA

Participants

Jeff Earley, Mary Burrows, Dan Givens, Mario Ferruzzi, Mallory Miller, Mike Gutter, Beth Ebel, Paul Winistorfer, Guru Ghosh, Don Taylor, Rebekah Gunn, Tim Hodge, Cyril Clarke, Dan Sui, Elizabeth Hooper, Brennan Shepard

Welcome and Introductions (Cyril Clarke)

Discussion Items

Approval of Meeting Minutes (Cyril Clarke)
The minutes of the April meeting were distributed electronically with the agenda. The minutes were approved.

Proposed 2026 USDA Budget (Mario Ferruzzi)
Mario Ferruzzi, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, shared scenario planning around the changing federal landscape, including potential changes in capacity funds.

Virginia Legislature Support for Advanced Equipment at ARECs (Mary Burrows)
Mary Burrows, director of Agricultural Experiment Station, shared a prioritized spending plan for the $750K allocated by the state in advanced equipment funding for the ARECS.

Coordinator to Support Large Animal Veterinary Workforce (Dan Givens)
Dan Givens, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, shared the position description for the Coordinator to Support Virginia's Large Animal Veterinary Workforce, a Virginia Cooperative Extension Position. The position will strategically support developing, existing and career-entering large animal veterinarians in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Virginia Tobacco Opportunity Fund is providing funding for the position.

Unit Updates

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Mike Gutter, director of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, shared an update on the six-year capital plan.

Mike also shared an update on localities' support for Agency 229.

In a future meeting, Mike will share VCE's strategic positioning document which includes improving relationships with campus at large, advancement opportunities, and VCE as a value

asset to the land-grant mission and Virginia Tech Global Distinction priority.

Agricultural Experiment Station
Mary Burrows, director of the Agriculture Experient Station, provided an update on grants, including two grants that have been reinstated.

Mary also provided an update on housing at Tidewater and Eastern Shore ARECs.

Deans
Paul Winistorfer, dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, shared that in June Virginia Tech hosted the International Association of Packing Research Institutes at the Hotel Roanoke which brought together around 80 global participants.
https://iapri2025roanoke.com/

Paul also shared that there is a change in leadership in the Sustainable Biomaterials department. Dr. Laszlo Horvath has been named interim department head.

Dan Givens, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, shared information related to the college's 2025 research symposium.

Dan shared that the college will host a medical/critical care symposium in the future. Based on a recent survey of graduate students, the college will increase education on emergency preparedness, developing knowledge and skills to function in stressful situations.

Mario Ferruzzi, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, provided an update on advancement within the college and changes in personnel.

The college is also thinking about creative new ways to enhance engagement with legislators and about creating a dean's advisory committee to solidify value propositions. Mario also noted that the college will launch a strategic planning process in the fall using the same firm that Mike used for VCE.

Budget and Finance
Tim Hodge outlined the state compensation program and bonus and impacts to Agency 229.

Jeff Earley shared that the university has reconciled Agency 208 and Agency 229 FY2026 budgets and letters are forthcoming.

OVPRI
Dan Sui provided an update on federal grants and contracts.

Dan also recognized the good work done to produce the GAP Report which is now on an online platform.

Government and Community Relations
Elizabeth Hooper provided an update on the Seafood AREC event in August.

She also noted that the team and university are monitoring federal workforce impacts within the state.

OIA

Guru Ghosh, vice provost for outreach and internation affairs provided an update on activities in the Danville area.