Administrative Council for
Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting

Friday, September 5, 2025 1:30-2:45 p.m.
130 Burruss Hall Conference Room

Participants
Cyril Clarke, Mary Burrows, Brennan Shepard, Beth Ebel, Guru Ghosh, Mallory Miller, Dan Sui, Mario Ferruzzi, Tim Hodge, Saskia van de Gevel, Caroline Buscaglia, Mike Gutter, Jeff Earley, Jonathan Baros

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions (Cyril Clarke)

Discussion Items
Approval of Meeting Minutes (Cyril Clarke)
The minutes of the August meeting were distributed electronically and approved.

Facilities Update (Mary Burrows)
Mary Burrows shared an update on AREC facilities, including the Tidewater AREC. She and Mario highlighted the strong partnership with University Facilities that has enabled continued progress.

The council also discussed upgrades to Biosafety Level 3 laboratories. Brennan Shepard and Tim Hodge agreed to work with College of Veterinary Medicine on funding and timeline.

Unit Updates
Virginia Cooperative Extension
Mike Gutter recognized Caroline and Elizabeth from Government Relations as outstanding partners in engaging the General Assembly in support of Extension.

Mike mentioned recommendations to enhance collaboration between Extension and Outreach and International Affairs is forthcoming.

Mike also shared that the unit is finalizing the draft of the strategic plan and will share with the Provost and Administrative Council in the upcoming week.

Agricultural Experiment Station
Mary Burrows shared that in the last month, new faculty, advancement, and communications toured eight AREC centers. The unit is busy with field days demonstrating the tripart mission.

Mary reported that the NIFA audit was successfully completed.

Work is underway to help faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences use AI tools to

identify funding opportunities, with plans to expand to other colleges in the future.

Deans
Mario Ferruzzi provided an update on hiring searchers within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The college is also reviewing the Ag Tech program offerings and working to strength coordination with the higher education center and ARECS.

Mario shared that the college is launching a strategic plan process, using the same firm as Extension. The plan will build off of Extension process and look forward 8-10 years.

President of Kansas State University (Hokie alum) is visiting September 18-19th to discuss changes to the land-grant structure in agriculture and how KSU mobilized around public-private-partnerships.

Saskia van de Gevel shared emerging ideas within the College of Natural Resources and Environment for establishing a Center for Sustainable Forest Supply Chains.

Margie Lee discussed ongoing shortage of large animal veterinarians, especially in food animal monitoring. She shared that the Dean participated in Maryland rural vet shortage discussions and outlined the Virginia-specific efforts to review and address veterinary shortages within the Commonwealth.

Margie shared impacts related to changes in USDA food inspections and real challenges for producers.

The council discussed in some detail the potential expansion of Virginia resident seats in the college.

Government and Community Relations
The Government Relations teams continue to monitor federal impacts and will continue to keep the council up to date on federal activities.

OIA
Guru Ghosh shared that the Engagement Scholarship Council meeting will be held at the Hotel Roanoke and 60 Virginia Tech faculty, and 10 graduate students will present.