

**Administrative Council for
Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting**

Friday, June 4, 2021

1:30-3:00 p.m.

130 Burruss Hall

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions (Cyril Clarke)

2. Discussion Items

a.) Approval of Meeting Minutes (Mallory Miller)

Minutes from the March 2021 meeting were provided electronically with the current agenda. The minutes were approved.

b.) FY2022 Budget Update (Tim Hodge)

The university budget director, Tim Hodge, provided an update on the FY2022 university budget development process.

In the 208 budget development process, funding requests were made to support the university's Climate Action Commitment. The requests include investments in solar energy and energy efficiencies as well as capacity for a sustainability consult who would review projects such as the composting facility.

3. Updates

a.) Virginia Cooperative Extension (Ed Jones)

Extension offices are opening and plan to continue to offer hybrid programs to continue enhancing engagement.

The role of extension offices is being recognized by the CDC and NIFA, which have established grant opportunities for extension to support vaccine education programs and innovation. The grants will initially focus on COVID-19 but will broaden focus in the long-term to all vaccinations. Virginia Tech received the grant this week, and plans to provide vaccine education and facilitate access to vaccines.

4-H camps have begun and in-person participation is trending upward. The camps are operating under COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Virginia is the feature state for the Sunbelt Expo.

b.) Agricultural Experiment Station (Saied Mostaghimi)

The group discussed the process for management and distribution of state Equipment Trust Fund resources.

The group discussed issues related to network connectivity and annual service costs.

A new director for the Tidewater AREC will start August 1, 2021.

An external review of the ARECs is scheduled for the end of October and will include both in-person and virtual meetings. This review was postponed from last year due to the pandemic.

The Seafood AREC building is on schedule to be completed mid-November and a grand opening will occur in March 2022.

c.) Deans

College of Natural Resources and Environment (Paul Winistorfer)

The dean provided an update on the Center Wood project.

The School of Environmental Security is in development and could position the university to become a global leader in environmental security.

On June 15, 2021 an external meeting on urban natural resources will occur. The college is investigating an urban farming degree program.

The college hired a new director of alumni relations.

Faculty member in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Francesco Ferretti, is filming with the Discovery Channel.

The college completed a faculty hire within the coastal systems destination area cluster. The faculty will be housed in the department of geography.

Paul urged the council and colleges to consider exploring ways to collaborate around carbon. The group discussed the potential to collaborate on a DA RFP.

The college engaged in a half day retreat to review research capacity and participation within the college and are investigating opportunities and barriers. The Provost asked that the college present findings and approaches taken in a future meeting.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (Alan Grant)

The CALS faculty hiring plans did slow down due to the pandemic. However, the college is now beginning to make faculty hires and concluded a cluster hire of 13 faculty to support the Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture.

Renee Boyer was named the head of the Food Science and Technology Department.

College of Veterinary Medicine (Dan Givens)

Kathy Hosig in the Center for Public Health Practice and Research is exploring the barriers preventing those reentering recovery from getting vaccinated.

Valerie Regan is working to help veterinarians' career transition and is partnering with the American Mediation Association to enhance outreach.

All students will return to the teaching hospital and the college is talking about ways to enhance student experience based on learnings from the pandemic.

d.) Vice President for Research and Innovation (Dan Sui)

Dan provided an update on the overall strategic direction for university research.

The office has rolled out a new cost share procedure for larger center proposals and will officially implement the procedure in fall.

The group discussed the use of Equipment Trust Funds. OVPRI has developed an online searchable database for equipment.

The National Security Institute is in the final stages of approval.

4. Other Business

Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs (Guru Ghosh)

Guru provided an update on the Vibrant Virginia Initiative.

Government Relations (Rebekah Gunn)

Rebekah provided an update on the FY2022 federal budget.

Regrets

Don Taylor

Steve Kleiber

Elizabeth Hooper

Special Notes

Chris Yianilos (by Zoom)

Dan Sui (by Zoom)

Mallory Miller (by Zoom)

Zoom Details

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/278127950?pwd=NkVzYmVJSUxKK2puMGtnTCs5Z2JwUT09>

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