

Administrative Council
for
Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting

Friday, May 6, 2022
1:30-2:30 p.m.
130 Burruss Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Jeff Earley, Cyril Clarke, Paul Winistorfer, Mallory Miller, Ken Miller, Randy Heflin, Saied Mostaghimi, Alan Grant, Elizabeth Hooper, Steve Kleiber, and Susan Duncan

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introductions (Cyril Clarke)**

- 2. Discussion Items**
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Cyril Clarke)**

Minutes from the April 2022 meeting were provided electronically with the current agenda. The minutes were approved.
 - b. General business**

Provost Clarke discussed a shared interest for the areas represented by this council to create closer and more sustained relationships with industry partners. These partnerships should recognize that various differentiations exist across agriculture and natural resource industries. These partnerships should also be reciprocal, informing talent development (e.g., the need to reshape curriculum to meet current and emerging industry needs) and research focus. Existing university partnership models aligned with other areas of instruction and research can serve as a guide. The council discussed moving forward to draft a prototype partnership plan that can then be reviewed and revised by stakeholder groups.

- 3. Updates**
 - i.** Alan Grant shared that the search for the Director of Cooperative Extension is going well, with four finalists being brought on campus for interviews end of May/early June.

 - ii.** Saied Mostaghimi shared that they are in the final stages of the search for a director at the Southern Piedmont AREC, and a search committee has been convened to search for the director of the Alson H. Smith Jr. AREC. The new Virginia Seafood AREC facility is nearing completion, with occupancy to begin in May 2022. There are stakeholders interested in investigating the location of a Virginia Beach AREC. Saied will keep the council up to date on developments related to these discussions.

 - iii.**

 - iv.** Paul Winistorfer, dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, reported that the College hosted the Forestry Summit for the first time on May 3-5 at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Students, faculty, and government and industry leaders were all in attendance. The event was successful.

He also reported that the college is developing an initiative around carbon. Paul spoke about focusing on the theme of carbon in previous council meetings.

Paul also noted that the college strengths are affording the college is also focused on security related to forestry and water.

- v. Alan Grant, dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, reported that the college is engaged in a search for an IT position that will oversee the college and AREC offices. The group briefly discussed the university's IT Transformation Project.
- vi. Randy Heflin shared that the Destination Area proposal phase one process has begun, which is being led by the Provost Office, and deadline for submission is September 30, 2022.

He also reported that the university launched the Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship program. The program aims to strengthen the university's ability to recruit outstanding, diverse postdocs to Virginia Tech.

4. Other Business

- i. Elizabeth Hooper reported that the General Assembly has yet to pass the budget.

The group briefly discussed the new Commonwealth telework policy.