

Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting

Friday, November 6, 2020

1:30-3:00 p.m.

By Zoom

AGENDA

Attendees: Guru Ghosh, Bob Smith, Zeke Barlow, Ed Jones, Keith Goyne, Saied Mostaghimi, Rich Mathieson, Tracy Vosburgh, Paul Winistorfer, Chris Yianilos, Alan Grant, Cyril Clarke, Steve Kleiber, Tim Hodge, Caroline Buscaglia, Jeff Earley, David Guerin, Paul Winistorfer, Dan Givens, Don Taylor, Dan Sui, Ken Miller, Elizabeth Hooper

1) Welcome and Introductions (Cyril Clarke)

2) Discussion Items

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes (Mallory Miller)

The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed during the meeting. There was a motion to revise the minutes. The minutes were revised during the meeting and were approved.

b) VT Homepage and Public Engagement (Guru Ghosh, Ed Jones, and Tracy Vosburgh)

The VP for Outreach and International Affairs (Guru Ghosh), Director of VCE (Ed Jones), and Senior Associate VP of University Relations (Tracy Vosburgh) presented on the Virginia Tech Homepage and public engagement.

Through monitoring and tracking, University Relations reported that the VCE homepage, CALS homepage, VCE local offices webpage, and Global Education webpage are among the top 100 frequented Virginia Tech webpages. However, outreach and engagement was not easily viewable on the Virginia Tech homepage like many peer institutions.

University Relations has now included an “Engagement and Outreach” link within the homepage menu, which is more easily reached in two clicks. The link currently provides information on Outreach and International Affairs, VTEngage, and VCE.

The council discussed the importance of elevating outreach as a key component of the university’s land-grant mission.

c) Budget Update (Tim Hodge)

The university budget director provided an update on the Executive Budget. The General Assembly convened in August for a special session to discuss police reform and to finalize the budget. The final budget did not include a cut for Agency 229. As a result, unlike Agency 208, Agency 229 will not have a university budget cut in FY2021.

The council discussed potential budget outcomes for FY2022.

d) **Center for Rural Virginia (Ed Jones)**

The VCE director provided an overview of the Center for Rural Virginia which is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004. The Virginia Rural Center is a collaborative partnership of the Center for Rural Virginia and the Council for Rural Virginia.

The Center for Rural Virginia is looking for a partner, to replace the Edward Via School of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg that would provide assets and operational efficiencies.

The VCE director will work with leaders in Outreach and Government Relations to consider a potential enhanced partnership with the center.

3) Update

a) **Virginia Cooperative Extension (Ed Jones)**

VCE held the fall district conference virtually with over 450 participants which was the highest number of participants the event has had at one time.

The director will bring forth VCE central savings requests for approval in an upcoming meeting.

The director is continuing to engage virtually with all VCE offices. Agents and staff are sharing accomplishments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

b) **Agricultural Experiment Station (Saied Mostaghimi)**

The university hosted a workshop on Securing Agriculture, Food, and its Economy (SAFE) with Cyberbiosecurity in the beginning of October. The workshop has over 175 registered participants.

The VAES is actively engaged in CeZAP and has provided seed funding for affiliated faculty

The Tidewater AREC Director position has been posted.

c) **Deans**

The dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment reported that a task force to explore the theme of invasives has begun to meet.

The dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine reported that the college has secured several COVID-19 related grants.

The teaching hospital and equine medical center are both back to operating at a pre-COVID level.

Press releases will be forthcoming to communicate that the Roanoke Animal Cancer Care and Research Center is fully functional.

d) **OVPRI (Dan Sui)**

The new VP for Research and Innovation, Dan Sui, provided a high-level overview of research priorities for the future.

4) Other Business

- a) The VP for Outreach and Innovation reported that there was a Vibrant Virginia webinar held at the end of October.