

Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting

Friday, October 4, 2019

1:30 – 3:00 PM | 130 Burruss Hall Conference Room

Participants: Paul Winistorfer, Alan Grant, Cyril Clarke, Ed Jones, Susan Duncan, Dave Guerin, Ansar Ahmed, Steve Kleiber, Don Taylor, Elizabeth Hooper (via Zoom), Keith Goyne, Guru Ghosh, Zeke Barlow

1. Welcome and Introductions (Cyril Clarke)

2. Discussion Items

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes (Mallory Miller)**

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

- **SmartFarm Innovation Network – Communications & Legislative Strategies (Alan Grant)**

Alan Grant shared a brochure that provides an overview on the Agency 229 budget requests. The budget requests align with the SmartFarm Innovation Network. Additionally, the council discussed a communication plan that includes distributing the brochure to stakeholders across the Commonwealth.

3. Updates

- **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)**

- Ed Jones reported that in late-October VCE will host the first youth and family summit that will focus on issues facing youth today.
- Private funds were secured to open an additional extension office in Fredericksburg.
- Stakeholders are engaging about the future of the Pamunkey Indian Reservation Office of VCE.

- **Agricultural Experiment Station (AES)**

- Alan Grant reported that deans, department heads, and AREC directors are working together to redefine vacant positions, combining into a cluster hire around SmartFarm Innovation Network. Alan noted that there are positions that do not align with the SmartFarm Innovation Network objectives and those positions will be pursued separately.

- **Deans**

- College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE) is in the process of hiring a director for inclusion and diversity.
- CNRE's Maren Roman is a finalist pursuing a \$25M NSF grant.
- Renovation of the Center Wood research facilities is in the planning stages.
- College of Veterinary Medicine dean search is underway and a decision is forthcoming.

- The Virginia Seafood AREC in Hampton, Virginia secured funding for a new building. The new building will be part of the Downtown Hampton redevelopment efforts.
- **Office for the Vice President of Research and Innovation (OVPRI)**
 - Commonwealth Cyber Initiative has completed the executive director search and an announcement is forthcoming.
 - OVPRI is working to secure a search firm to assist with the hiring search for Fralin Life Sciences Institute.

4. Other Business

- The annual confirmation of effort distribution between the university division, VCE, and AES will be distributed to the three colleges. Colleges are asked to verify that personnel working in the VCE and AES division were appropriately reflected in terms of their percent effort. The committee will review and approve the salary verification report in a future meeting.
- Susan Duncan and Ansar Ahmed reported that there is a working group of Agency 229 investigators identifying cross-cutting initiatives to address complex problems.
- The group discussed the need for the university homepage to showcase the tri-part mission for the university. Currently, the public engagement mission is not represented.
- Visitors from Amazon will be on the Blacksburg campus in late-October.