

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

**Friday, September 4, 2020**

**1:30-3:00 p.m.**

**By Zoom**

**Attendees:** Ralph Byers, Bob Smith, Ken Smith, Steve Kleiber, Saied Mostaghimi, Keith Goynes, Cyril Clarke, Caroline Buscaglia, Ed Jones, Paul Winistorfer, Alan Grant, Tim Hodge, Susa Duncan, Guru Ghosh, Don Taylor, Dan Givens, Elizabeth Hooper

**AGENDA**

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

**2. Discussion Items**

**a. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Mallory Miller)**

Minutes from the August 2020 meeting were provided electronically with the current agenda. The minutes were approved.

**b. Update on the Computation of the Initial Budget Reduction (Tim Hodge)**

The university budget director provided an update on the computation of the initial Agency 229 budget reduction. In the spring, during budget development, the full understanding of fiscal impacts was limited by several variables due to the COVID-19 pandemic including the university operating assumptions and the level of state support. The university established a preliminary budget to open the fiscal year with the expectation of a reduced level of state support. The reduction for Agency 229 was computed based on total allocable resources.

The group discussed in some detail approaches to dealing with increases and decreases in funding support and recommended that a small working group develop a list of questions relative to long-term planning and policy regarding federal funds and in particular their allocation between colleges, and approaches to dealing with increases or decreases in federal support.

**c. Update on Executive Budget of the Special Session (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 Governor's budget proposal did not include a cut for Agency 229. The budget does not include any incremental funding for the agency either.

The group discussed in some detail the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic within Agency 229.

**d. Agency 229 Capital projects priority (Saied Mostaghimi)**

During the August meeting, the Council requested that the Agency 229 directors convene with the college deans to review Agency 229 capital project priorities. The AES director provided an update on that review process noting that the process was inclusive and priorities are representative of the three Agency 229 colleges. The list of Agency 229 capital project priorities proposed will guide planning for the next university capital outlay budget proposal to the state.

**3. Updates**

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

Ed Jones shared that he is engaging virtually with all 100 VCE offices. Agents and staff are sharing accomplishments during the COVI-19 pandemic.

VCE is working with 4-H centers to fundraise to continue support for the centers.

VCE of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University are participating in a program called “Coming Together for Racial Understanding.” This will also be a primary topic of conversation at the National VCE Director’s meeting this September.

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

Saied shared that hiring plans are pending for some faculty and director vacancies within the ARECs.

The NIFFA compliance review has been scheduled for Fiscal Year 2022.

Susan Duncan shared that the university will be hosting a workshop on Securing Agriculture, Food, and its Economy (SAFE) with Cyberbiosecurity in the beginning of October. During the workshop, thought leaders and influencers will discuss common food and agricultural system challenges, scenarios, outcomes and risks to various sectors of the system, and cyberbiosecurity strategies for the system, gaps in workforce and training, and research and policy needs.

**c. Deans**

Dan Givens, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, shared that the Center for One Health labs are operating under high demand especially for researchers with COVID-19 pandemic related funding.

Alan Grant, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, shared that the Board of Visitors successfully toured the new dairy science complex which was an opportunity to highlight an Agency 229 project.

**4. Other Business**

**a. Office for Outreach and International Affairs (Guru Ghosh)**

Guru Ghosh shared that faculty from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and College of Natural Resources and Environment served as successful exemplars of outreach at the recent Board of Visitors meeting.