

Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting
Friday, March 5, 2021
By Zoom

Attendees: Alan Grant, Elizabeth Hooper, Jeff Earley, Saied Mostaghimi, Tim Hodge, Dan Givens, Ed Jones, Ken Miller, Ralph Byers, Rebekah Gunn, Dan Sui, Don Taylor, Paul Winistorfer, Steve Kleiber, Bob Smith, Susan Duncan, Mallory Miller

Agenda

1) Welcome and Introductions (Don Taylor)

2) Discussion Items

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes (Mallory Miller)

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

b) Updated on Agency 229 State Budget Request (Tim Hodge)

Tim Hodge provided an update on the Agency 229 state budget request and proposed Agency 229 appropriations from the executive and conference budgets.

c) Faculty Time Allocation Report (Jeff Earley)

Annually the Provost Office provides a report detailing the allocation of time for Agency 229 faculty. Jeff Earley reviewed the Agency 229 Allocation of Time Confirmation Report Summary with the membership, and the funding splits were approved.

d) Center for Rural Virginia Update (Ed Jones)

The university approved the Center for Rural Virginia agreement. The agreement will be circulated to Delegate Tyler, Senator Ruff, and Brian David for review and approval.

e) Composting Facility Update and Next Steps (Saied Mostaghimi)

The group discussed the Composting Facility project. The project is one of the Climate Action Commitment recommendations to move the university towards a more sustainable future. The group discussed potential next steps to continue to move the project forward, including funding avenues.

3) Updates

a) Virginia Cooperative Extension (Ed Jones)

Ed Jones provided an update on VCE's efforts to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic, including the role extension offices have in helping with vaccine education, access, and distribution. 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 group discussed the opportunity to host summer camps. The Provost shared that university leadership is having on-going conversations about summer overnight and day camps. University guidance should be available shortly.

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

Saied Mostaghimi shared that the in-person field day is scheduled for May 20, 2021.

The hiring process is on-going for the Tidewater AREC director position. Applications are being reviewed.

c) **Deans**

Dan Givens, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, shared that students are helping with the distribution of vaccines in the local community. All students involved in clinical service activities will have the opportunity to get vaccinated.

Dan also shared that the college and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have partnered with the Department of Corrections cattle herd for an experiential learning opportunity. All food animal focused students have the opportunity to serve as a surgeon on a cow C-section.

Alan Grant, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, shared that the college is in the process of bringing together two departments to form one academic unit, the School of Animal Sciences.

d) **Research and Innovation (Dan Sui)**

Dan Sui, Vice President for Research and Innovation, shared that the Office for Research and Innovation (OVPRI) will unveil four research frontier areas shortly to brand Virginia Tech's research identity better.

Dan also shared that the OVPRI is working on new policies and procedures for cost-sharing and shared facilities to secure large grants.

The group discussed in some detail funding to support university research initiatives.

4) **Other Business**

The group discussed the potential for federal funds in the next federal stimulus bill.