

Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research Minutes

Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting
Friday, September 6, 2013, 1:00PM-2:30PM
325 Burruss Hall Conference Room

Attendance: Mark McNamee, Ed Jones, Paul Winistorfer, Alan Grant, Tim Hodge, Martin Daniel, Steve Kleiber, Bob Smith, Guru Ghosh, Jody Jellison, Gerhardt Schurig, Saied Mostaghimi

1. Welcome and Introductions (Mark McNamee)
2. Discussion Items
 - a. Agency 229 Budget and Annual Report (Tim Hodge)
 - i. Tim Hodge shared copies of a report to the legislature and Department of Planning and Budget on revenues and expenditures in Agency 229. After a low of 46.5% for VCE in 2011, expenditures have recovered back to 50.8%, which is more consistent with the long-term trend. Further discussion ensued regarding the net between revenues and expenses in the federal funds. A delay in receipt of reimbursement from the federal government caused this but funding was received after the close of the state fiscal year that offset this negative. Information in the 229 annual report will correspond with this financial report.
 - b. Agency 229 Report (Ed Jones & Saied Mostaghimi)
 - i. Ed Jones shared articles and content for annual report which is scheduled for printing 9/25/13.
 - c. Update to Secretary of Education (Ed Jones)
 - i. Ed Jones reported on the recent salary study investigating agent salaries internally and externally. Results indicated that our salaries are lower than market and other similar professionals.
 - ii. There are currently 239 Extension Agents, the highest since 2007.
 - iii. Additional topics of brief discussion included an Agent Specialist Exchange Program (pairing of agents), District Program Leadership Teams (mentoring/training program), Change in the Graphic Identity, the District Directors Retreat (focus on large supervisory spans), a Communications Plan for Extension, and the Federal Report to NIFA (reduce in size & scope for utility).
 - d. Faculty Retention at the ARECs (Saied Mostaghimi)
 - i. Saied Mostaghimi led a discussion regarding the faculty retention issues at the Eastern Shore AREC, one of the largest ARECs, which are have been linked to the quality of the public school system in that area. Although private schools are an option, they are very costly. Several possible approaches were examined.
 - e. Setting Priorities for Agency 229 in Budget and Capital Processes (Paul Winistorfer)
 - i. The Center for Natural Resources Assessment and Decision Support has been created. A budget request for support was not was not funded by the state. Another request is being submitted through the Secretary of Natural Resources.
3. Updates

- a. Virginia Cooperative Extension
- b. Agricultural Experiment Station
 - i. Regular, annual meetings of AREC Directors will be held jointly with NC State AREC Directors. Additionally, AREC Directors visited Virginia State which has resulted in more engagement. An external evaluation is planned for late fall 2014.
 - ii. VT ranked number 10 in the NSF ranking for 2011. Although our expenditure increased by 4M, we remained at same rank. If only considering competitively awarded funds, we ranked number 5. State funding is an area in which we do not fare very well on the NSF funding ranking.
 - iii. The P-CAST report on USDA/NIFA funding recommended increasing the competitive research funding and minimize the formula funding.
- c. Deans
 - i. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs)
 - 1. Alan Grant discussed the Agribusiness Council carrying out its annual roundtable series held on campus this month. Ed Jones and Alan will be giving an update to the council with a tour of facilities including the dairy facility.
 - 2. The Farm Bureau board met with all three colleges on campus in June. Hopefully, this will be repeated on an annual basis.
 - 3. This will be Gerhardt Schurig's last meeting with the Council. Cyril Clarke will be starting October 1st.
 - ii. College of Natural Resources and Environment (CRNE)
 - iii. College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)
- 4. Other Business
 - a. Ken Smith reminded the group that 9/30/13 is faculty census. Faculty splits between 208, VCE and AES will be explored.