

Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research Minutes

Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting
Friday, August 7, 2015, 1:00PM-2:30PM
325 Burruss Hall Conference Room

Attendance: Mark McNamee, Ken Smith, Tim Hodge, Cyril Clarke, Alan Grant, Bob Smith, Saied Mostaghimi, Steve Kleiber, Ed Jones, Noel Byrd, Martin Daniel, Bob Smith, D'Elia Chandler (guest), Jody Jellison, Paul Winistorfer, Ed Jones, Ralph Byers

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions (Mark McNamee)
2. Discussion Items
 - a. Carryover Allocation Recommendation (Tim Hodge)
 - i. Tim Hodge led a discussion about the sources of one-time funding including the changes in fringe benefit calculation that resulted in the availability of one-time balances. He also noted that these funds will not be available in the future.
 - ii. The process of distributing the proposal to deans and VP's electronically, adjusting the proposal based on input from the group, and the resulting proposal (handout provided) was also discussed with the group. The weekly budget group has expressed support for the proposal.
 - iii. Ed Jones, Cyril Clarke, and Saied Mostaghimi expressed support for coverage of the dairy relocation and for connectivity issues at the ARECs.
 - iv. Provost McNamee suggested that as the new Provost transitions into the position, it would be helpful if the council provided a detailed explanation of the 229 budget. Provost McNamee asked that deans/directors contribute to presentations to occur over the next several 229 council meetings that would include what each entity is doing and how that interacts with the 229 budget.
 - v. Provost McNamee made a motion to approve the current budget proposal. The motion was seconded and approved by the council.
 - b. Confirmation and Posting of Historical Minutes of the Council (Ken Smith)
 - i. Ken Smith reviewed the newly created website containing the 229 council meetings minutes dating back to July of 2012.
3. Updates
 - a. Virginia Cooperative Extension (Ed Jones)
 - i. Ed Jones discussed a state grant for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) clients that has now been migrated into extension. This has allowed for more collaboration and coordination across programs and the ability to put more agents in the field.
 - ii. As of July 1st, the FFA specialist position was moved from Ag Leadership into Extension which has allowed for more synergistic activities with the 4H faculty.
 - b. Agricultural Experiment Station (Saied Mostaghimi)

- i. Field days at the ARECs have been well attended. Bus tours of the ARECs in June included many faculty and members.
 - ii. The AREC faculty exceeded the college average in three faculty measures (publications, research expenditures, and student advising).
 - iii. Regarding on-going challenges, technology issues remain a focus including outdated technology, bandwidth, and connectivity. In addition, the loss of land leases, the inability to find appropriate land for lease or purchase, and the high costs of renovations continue to present challenges.
 - iv. The Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors hosted their spring 2015 meeting at Hotel Roanoke April 6-9, 2015.
 - c. Deans
 - i. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs)
 - 1. Update on federal funding
 - a. Gratitude was expressed to all of the hard work and extra effort required by the persons involved in the dairy relocation, particularly the farm manager. All cows have been moved to the new location and the transition is complete.
 - b. Alan discussed the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) concerns regarding the growing interest in non-land-grant universities across the country seeking land-grant status and potential impacts to the federal funding pool.
 - c. The federal rule changes regarding overtime exemptions could disproportionately impact extension agents. Cyril Clarke reports that this would also impact the clinical residents.
 - d. The Agriculture Bio-Conference is scheduled for September 9th in Danville.
 - e. Steve Kleiber led a discussion about the challenges of off-campus faculty/staff coming to the main campus, particularly regarding technology. Off-campus faculty staff are not part of the CNS connectivity pool and therefore, do not have access to internet/WIFI services when visiting campus. A group will explore solutions to this issue.
 - ii. College of Natural Resources and Environment (CRNE)
 - 1. Paul Winistorfer reported that the 16 bay Research Aviary will host an open house on September 21, 2015.
 - 2. Research expenditures for CNRE are up considerably (over \$16 mil) and awards are also on the rise (over \$18 mil).
 - 3. USA Today ranked Virginia Tech as the number one college to study in the field of "Natural Resources and Conservation". Article available online at: <http://college.usatoday.com/2015/07/28/the-10-best-colleges-for-studying-natural-resources-and-conservation/>
 - iii. College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)
 - 1. Cyril Clarke extended congratulations and praise to all involved in the successful dairy relocation. The CVM is looking forward to the next phase that includes the applied reproduction lab.

2. Cyril Clarke also spoke to the highly collaborative relationship between CALS and CVM through clinical partnerships with the dairy and making animals available to the CVM faculty/students. Cyril and Alan Grant led a joint committee charged with reviewing all components of the existing collaboration and review/develop MOUs as needed.

4. Other Business

- a. This was Dr. McNamee's last meeting as chair of the council. The Provost expressed his gratitude to the group for their outstanding collaboration in regards to the 229 council and his opinion that the agency was strongly positioned for the future. Members of the council expressed their appreciation for Dr. McNamee's leadership and service to the university and its land-grant mission.