

MINUTES OF THE SHARE COUNCIL VIRTUAL SPRING MEETING

IFAS Leadership Briefing * 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Virtual Happy Hour 5:45 – 6:45 p.m.

Friday, April 24, 2020

ZOOM INFO: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/6629013322> * PHONE: 646-558-8656 (Mtg ID: 662 901 3322)

Members in Attendance: Chair Kate English, Vice Chair Sharon Spratt, Membership/Nominee Committee Chair Peter Chaires, Secretary Pam Matchett, John Woeste, Cody Helmer, Dean for CALS Elaine Turner, Dean for Research Rob Gilbert, Dean for Extension Nick Place, Steve Smith, Bernie Hamel, Larry Mack, Staci Sims, Ray Royce, Patricia Dewar, Roger Scarborough, Tom Hart, Rick Minton, and Kenneth Parker.

Member Prospect Guests: Melissa Putnam, Kim Sams, Will Harrell and Mike Joyner.

Guests: Jeanna Mastrodicasa (UF/IFAS AVP), Chris Vivian (ICS AVP), Robert Williams (4-H), Office staff members: Julie Conn, Katherine Davies, John Hooker, Caylin Hilton, Jeff Dobbertien, Genaveve Henson, Kelly Westfall, and Caleb Reed.

Call to Order and Welcome: Kate English called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the first virtual SHARE Council meeting. She thanked them for taking the time to meet. She stated that they put together an agenda that would give everyone an idea about where the university is with the current situation, and although it was a little bit different format than everyone is used to with the spring meeting, at least it gave the opportunity to catch up and hear what everyone has going on and how the university is responding to some of the challenges. English noted that this was an informal meeting and would not follow normal protocol. She then turned the meeting over to Cody Helmer.

Helmer introduced special guests Kim Sams, Mike Joyner, Will Harrell, Robert Williams (4-H), Melissa Putnam, and Chris Vivian (ICS AVP), who joined IFAS in January. Helmer said it was an opportunity for Vivian to listen to some of the stories that the members have about what they are dealing with within the industry and across the state; and give her an opportunity to create some narrative and some stories about what IFAS is doing and how IFAS folks are handling the COVID-19 issue.

IFAS Leadership Discussion: Managing UF/IFAS during COVID-19: English turned over the meeting to Jeanna Mastrodicasa to give a brief overview of the challenges facing UF/IFAS related to COVID-19 and the Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources search.

Jeanna Mastrodicasa greeted everyone on Zoom and said hopefully soon they could greet again in person. She said she's had the pleasure to be on numerous regular Zoom calls about the impact of COVID-19 on the university, and that included some internal things in IFAS and university-wide. She said that IFAS is closed everywhere around the state currently and there are more than 2,000 employees working in alternate locations, and the university is now essentially planning its recovery and where it's going from here; and it's already determined that summer classes will continue to be remote. She said Dean Turner can talk a little bit more about how great our faculty have been in making our classes available by distance learning; and decisions about the fall semester have not been made, but there is a tremendous financial impact to the university as a whole. She stated that, putting aside any potential legislative amounts that might have been coming our way, she thinks the legislature is going to be reconsidering this year's budget. She said the university is not getting the normal, typical revenue it gets at this time as they've given refunds to students who have moved out of the residence halls, and other refunds, like on dining contracts. With students continuing to be remote, none will be living in housing over the summer. That's 10s of millions of dollars that have gone back out the door with no revenue coming in, and this creates a disturbance in the financial force of the university. She said IFAS is looking at

ways to make changes—there is a hiring pause; research has slowed down; some things are on pause because we are not able to safely operate; and we're asked to not have people in the labs and other things. She said Dean Gilbert can talk a lot more eloquently about that. She said Extension is doing tremendous work out in the community by assisting people and collecting data about impacts to businesses. She ended by stating that we don't know when the university will open up again, and when people will be going back to work, and asked if there were questions.

Kate English asked about graduate students and new PhDs who are just coming in and not being able to use their startup money on their projects, and is there some thought being given how to cushion them for the impact.

Jeanna Mastrodicasa said that she and Dean Elaine Turner talk a lot about the welfare of students, especially graduate students and she thinks they're about to start freeing up the process; similarly, with faculty who may have been impacted in their tenure abilities. She said for grad students and the ones who are living in dormitories, there's only so much they can do during the day, so she thinks we're about to jumpstart slowly reopening some things over the summer, particularly off-campus sites where it's a little easier to practice safe activities because they are outside and spread out farther. She hopes to see the impacts lessen as soon as possible. She then said, in closing, that an announcement will be made in early May about who will be the new vice president.

Kate English then called on CALS Dean Elaine Turner to address the group.

Elaine Turner welcomed the group and stated that she would add, in reference to Kate's question, that the university has made it possible for any faculty member who isn't a tenure track line or a permanent status track line to extend their 10-year probationary period by one year to provide a little bit of relief.

Turner offered to share a link of why it is that using Zoom makes us so tired. She said it is official that there are good reasons we just enjoy being with people, getting interaction and getting energy from other people, so this sort of passive relationship doesn't do it, even for the most introvert of introverts like her.

Turner continued saying that students chose the University of Florida because they want to be at the University of Florida. They aren't choosing the University of Florida, because they want to be online. But that's our current reality as we moved all classes online as of March 16. We moved all of our microbiology and cell science labs online right after spring break, which probably lessened a lot of health risk on campus because there are a lot of those students. She said our faculty have made efforts to move courses online to replicate the same kinds of experiences that they had planned, but of course, it's all different. Classes have ended and we're getting ready for final exams, but we did all of our classes, all of our labs, academic advising and student support remotely since March 16.

Turner said that one of the things that's great about the college is the spirit of collaboration and that's one of our core values that has never been more on display than in the last six weeks. Most of our academic units have one or more faculty members who are experienced in online instruction and who knows that creating and delivering a quality online course takes time—it can take up to a year to pull together and fully make a course online, a great learning experience—we had a couple of weeks to pull this off, and they've really pitched in and helped those faculty who were among the “never, never will I teach online” to move their courses, and that's just been so heartwarming to see them assisting each other. We also have our CALS Center for online teaching and technology, so people have really come together to make this happen. Again, you did laboratories in school, you did field classes, you were out in the woods, you were on lakes, and getting those experiences online in a short period of time, let alone having time to prepare, has just been amazing. I've heard lots of stories about faculty members taking GoPro cameras into the teaching lab and doing their experiments so it would be exactly what the student would have seen if they had done the experiment in the lab, and then sending them the data so

they can analyze it and they can write the lab report. We also have filming going on at field sites in lieu of field trips. It's just so much creativity, and it's really amazing.

Turner continued saying that they are ramping down spring semester and doing final exams, and at the same time preparing to continue summer teaching online and looking at a range of delivery options for the fall. She said that Jeanna Mastrodicasa mentioned graduate students, and they're continuing to take their courses, they're working as teaching assistants, they're working as research assistants, again doing that remotely and to the best extent possible, and so people are having to think differently about ways to stay connected. This has been particularly challenging for our students who live and work at the research and education centers where there is more isolation and maybe less connection. We are trying to encourage our unit leaders to reach out to those students and the departments to keep them connected. Most of my staff members are working from home, but we have a small group who are on campus every day running our Field and Fork Farm and Gardens. Over the last six weeks they harvested more than 1500 pounds of 15 different crops. Just like Florida, we have a diverse set of crops that we grow on the campus farm and gardens, from kale, broccoli, spinach, turnips, green beans, scallions, bananas and strawberries. Most of that harvest has gone to our Hitchcock Field and Fork Pantry on campus and then distributed to students and staff who are in need. In addition, those staff and our interns who work out at the farm and gardens received another 900 pounds of produce from a couple of local farms and are taking that to the local Bread of the Mighty Food Bank. So those folks are working on campus and trying to continue their efforts to help reduce food insecurity on campus.

Turner then said that April is when they do Gator Gatherings around the state and this year they had a virtual Zoom gathering. Many of those were either admitted or prospective students. They featured a panel of alumni from a variety of careers, along with some current students who answered lots of questions from students who were really hungry for information, trying to figure out and make decisions about their future. It was a really successful event.

Turner mentioned that April is when they typically have the CALS Scholarship and Leadership Awards Banquet, and said some of the Council members may have joined them today as they featured the event live on Facebook. She said if they missed it, they can go to the CALS Facebook page and view the recorded version. Turner stated that graduation, obviously, is not going to happen, but on Sunday, May 3 at 9am they will feature a video she will be making to congratulate CALS graduates. They won't be reading their names, but the names of about 200 graduating CALS students will come across the screen.

Turner continued to address the Council about the extension summer internship. The students selected for the summer internships have taken a class to get them connected to their supervising extension agent to learn about extension, the land grant university and other things. There are 12 students with placements in 12 different counties around the state, and they are going to continue with their internship. A lot of it will be remote, but we're really excited to see that they wanted to continue their engagement and we look forward to hearing from them several times over the summer to see what they've been doing.

Cody Helmer asked Turner what would be the most impactful gift for CALS, if somebody wanted to give a gift of support right now.

Turner replied gifts to keep the Field and Fork Farm and Gardens going, any kind of support, i.e., seeds, equipment, and all the things that it takes to run a small urban farm would be very useful. She also said anything to grow scholarship programs for students who are returning or coming in the next few semesters is certainly valuable, as well as Florida fund annual gifts. We're shifting funds around to help them with the kinds of equipment they need, whether it's GoPro cameras or webcams or other things that they need to keep the teaching enterprise going.

Kate English then called on Dean for Research Robert Gilbert who thanked everyone for their attendance.

Robert Gilbert addressed English's question first because it really affects the research enterprise around the state. He said that when the COVID-19 outbreak began, it became clear that they had to get research activities approved by the vice president of research going forward. They had to be very clear that safety was first and using CDC approved protocols and social distancing had to be involved in whatever they would do. Central research with COVID-19 was allowed to continue and essential activities already on-going, and they maintained irrecoverable resources such as plant genetics, blueberries, strawberries, tomatoes, sugarcane, and other plants that they had bred for decades. Additionally, animal maintenance had to continue; maintaining cell lines or GMO materials on insect collections had to continue as well as activities involved in regulatory frameworks such as soil samples for fertilizer recommendations. He said that diagnostic work and extension to support the agricultural enterprise was approved. He stated that 700 different essential activities were approved around the state. He gave examples of different research projects at various research and education centers that were approved to continue specific research, such as monthly monitoring for toxic algae blooms; irrecoverable blueberry germplasm; and industrial hemp research.

Gilbert said he completely understands faculty members' concerns about a lot of projects that had to be ramped down; they couldn't have business as usual in terms of the numbers of people who go out in the field; and transporting people together in the field wasn't allowed—only one person per vehicle. They had to make human health their highest priority.

Gilbert reported that there's a task force to examine the different stages of ramping up. The first stage contains critical activities such as getting field plantings out this year so as not to lose an entire year's worth of work, and ramping up labs at remote locations, which would be areas that wouldn't have any buildings or structures, and developing protocols for joint use of some buildings and offices. He said they are also looking at trying to liaise with grant partners to get not only no-cost extensions, but what's called administrative supplements, where they would add additional funding for additional work. He then said that if someone wants to donate, the graduate students would be their greatest need. They have communicated to the graduate committee, those who determine what the graduate students' projects are going to be, and asked them to be more empathetic and understanding, and to redesign their projects, which should help reduce the stress of some graduate students. They are looking into supplemental additions to grants, as well as extensions and no cost extensions as well. Additionally, many faculty members are taking the time to write more grants—there is a record number of grant activities in terms of submissions, and they're also writing publications as well.

Gilbert continued by saying that it's not uniform with all faculty. There are faculty with young children at home, and it's not easy sitting down and writing all day. He sees young kids popping up on Zoom all the time, and it's not an easy situation, to be very productive, so they have to be empathetic with faculty around the state, and what they are all dealing with.

Kate English replied that she's happy to hear about the concept of supplemental funding, particularly for young PhDs, and the ones who were concerned that they had just spent their startup money and they weren't going to have anything going forward.

Robert Gilbert thanked English and said they are looking at kick-start funds for research, giving some internal seed funding that will help them kick start their research.

Kate English then asked Nick Place to address the group.

Nick Place said it was good to see everyone. He said COVID-19 made everyone change everything in regard to how we do our work, not only with teaching and research, but also in the extension realm. Faculty have

switched over and are doing a lot of things online, so there's more and more courses being done that way, as well as using various kinds of technology and Facebook Live and a whole host of other things to reach audiences. Most of the offices around the state have been closed, however, there's a few that are still open with some staff and maybe one or two faculty, but in most cases, a lot of our extension faculty are working from home or alternative work locations. He said they have a great partnership with IFAS Communication Services in trying to push information out. Extension, ICS and UF Health partnered together to push out information and research related to COVID-19. He said they are also doing webinars for the Florida Association of Counties as they were not able to get the latest research on COVID-19.

Place stated that another thing that has happened in light of this whole situation is many people around the state, and the country, have become very interested in gardening. It's kind of reminiscent of the time back in World War II, when we had the victory garden effort. Our folks here in Florida are working on that, between agricultural families, communities and 4-H. He said there is also a sustainable food effort that they put together with more than 2,000 people who are already engaged in those efforts that is going very well.

Place stated that faculty are working closely on things such as managing stress, how to work from home, things related to food safety, cleaning, disinfecting, and more. There's a lot of concern about economic certainty and how to stretch the dollar, so we have a number of our family and consumer science faculty trying to do educational programs in that space. With 4-H everything has pretty much moved into the online environment and making very good use of Facebook to reach the 200,000 members that are part of our 4-H program. He said they have made the decision to not do summer 4-H camps and that decision was made a couple of weeks ago, based upon the best information and research that they had at that point in time about bringing in large groups of people together. However, 4-H agents and faculty are working on virtual kinds of camps to still bring us together. He said he's proud of 4-Her's winning a lot at the local fairs, and that agents and volunteers have stepped in to link kids with buyers so they were able to sell their animals. So again, it's people seeing a need and jumping in and making a difference to their local communities.

He said COVID-19 has been extremely devastating to producers around the state, particularly those in fruits and vegetables, and dairy production has been hit very hard. A number of our food and resource economics faculty at the county and state level are diving into that issue. Three extension specialists have put together and sent out five agriculture and natural resource surveys. They will collect data through May 15. We've had a very good response—we've heard from almost all counties.

Place stated they are working to connect producers and consumers, helping to address some of the producer issues about getting their produce out there to the people who really need it, including some agents who stepped in to make sure that milk is also part of this. Many young people, because they're not in school, will still have the opportunity to get free meals, with milk, because we addressed the issue of milk being wasted.

Place ended on the essential working activity saying that, because of the stay at home order, it's been very difficult for extension faculty, both county and state, to get out and work with producers as they typically do to help with diagnostics, management issues, irrigation and fertilization issues. There are some cases where that technology just doesn't cut it and they still need to get out there to see things firsthand. So we were able to obtain approval for our faculty can get out to do those visits.

Cody Helmer asked if somebody wanted to make a gift to support extension, where would it be the most impactful right now.

Place replied the most impact would be to connect producers and consumers thru an updated database system, and any type of advanced technology. Really, kind of moving more into this space of technology-based extension versus more of the face-to-face or in-person extension.

Christine Vivian: I wish I could be meeting all of you in person, but it's also good to get updates and I look forward to hearing the impact roundtable forum input. I'm the new associate vice president of ICS (IFAS Communication Services) and I'm very excited to have joined the team. I came on board in January, although, as several folks have mentioned, that feels like a long, long time ago. If you want to get to know people, get them in a crisis and work out of the situation as best they can and all I can say is what a wonderful team. And I'm very fortunate and grateful to be here.

You'll see I put links in the chat bar as Dean Place was talking about these items, such as the COVID-19 update webinars. We've spent a lot of time working together with UF Health and I think we've built a lot of good relationships. They want to promote the things that we're doing. And we're finding ways to work together with them so that we can benefit our communities more. So some of the items that we have produced are on the UF Health COVID-19 resource pages, particularly stay-at-home and family support items. I put some of those links out there and hopefully they will be useful to you and you can get a glimpse of the breadth of the work that's been done by extension and research and the authors through blogs.

Kate English: Do we have any questions for Chris? Thank you so much for that information, Chris.

And as I said, here on backwards Friday, we'll move into the welcome for our guests and also the introductions to SHARE Council members. The guests we have with us today are Kim Sams and Melissa Putnam and Mike Joyner and also Robert Williams from the 4-H Foundation. We're thrilled to have them with us today. It's a little bit of an unusual program, but I am excited that they've been able to join us today.

I am Kate English. I'm the chair of SHARE Council; I have the golden gator. I love the golden gator, but I will be happy when the golden gator moves to another office. I'm looking forward to figuring that out and hearing from you all about what you all are seeing and hearing in the field. Not to echo some of the comments you've heard already, but a lot of what I'm seeing from my larger producers is a fair amount of devastation with the loss of the restaurant and the more commercial trade, and I'm seeing a lot of very entrepreneurial creativity in regard to getting to consumers with some of my smaller producers. But with that, John Woeste would you introduce yourself and start us off as a member SHARE Council?

John Woeste: introduced himself as former Dean for Extension and current SHARE Council member.

Steve Smith: Good to see everybody. It's some interesting times. You know in the citrus business there's been some good news and bad news, unfortunately. We do have an increase in demand in citrus, which is a good thing. Folks are looking for a good healthy drink to boost their immune systems and are turning to orange juice and we like that. Processing plants have their challenges as well as the growers at this time, but the food service industry has buffered that increase in demand and retail. Hanging in there for the most part.

Bernie Hamel: I work for a vegetable seed company called HM Clause and what I'm seeing out in the field with my customers is just devastation where volume was coming in just about the time that all this hit, and a lot of vegetables, particularly beans and peppers and tomatoes were either left in the field or it was, "hey, come by and get a box from the packing house for five bucks." The other interesting thing about this is, we're starting to come out the other side a little bit with the prices for green beans. Evaluating trials and all that sort of thing is going on, and ironically, while food service has taken a definite hit, at least the fast food places or the pickup only places are open. Hopefully this will continue. My friend, a dairy guy, said when the schools shut down he lost a third of his market overnight, so they're hurting. That's what I've seen and heard from the field. Here, we have a relatively light spring crop coming in, especially with tomatoes. And as we get as we get farther away from methyl bromide, you're starting to see soil borne diseases that you haven't seen in 20 years.

Mike Joyner: Bernie is spot on. Cabbage and lettuce are hoping to maybe go 10 more days. You know there were just so many beans plowed under early. A lot went to food banks, which is a good thing. But then we overwhelmed the food banks and a lot were plowed under.

Robert Williams: I don't think I have a whole lot to add, but I think that our 4-H youth are doing an excellent job adjusting to this situation. There is a tremendous amount of online presence from some of them showing some pretty strong leadership as far as helping to bridge the gap between consumers and growers. The team at the university is just exceptional.

Larry Mack: I'm with Seminole Feed in Ocala, and the horse business is in foal season, and the horses are still eating. We're in a central business and so we're still functioning as most in the feed industry. Others, in the horse business, can't take their horses to a show, or can't go race, and obviously sales have been postponed and put off so a lot of people in the horse industry are struggling from that standpoint. They spend a lot of time and effort and have a lot of money invested, but they can't sell their wares. From our standpoint, however, the horses are still eating and dairy cows are still eating, and the poultry, too, so the feed industry is going strong.

Patricia Dewar: I'm from the ornamental side and we have had some issues. There are churches that aren't holding services and do not need ornamentals anymore. A lot of grocery chains are redistributing that space to more essential items. But on the flip side of that, we have a whole fruit line that's just skyrocketed. I guess some areas you still get some sales out.

Kelly Westfall: I'm with the Advancement Office, the development coordinator, and I help manage Cody's calendar.

Jeff Dobbertien: I'm also with the advancement office. I'm a new assistant director of development and I work mostly with corporate relations with Julie Conn. It's nice to meet you guys, and hopefully I'll be able to meet all you in person soon.

Ray Royce: I'm in citrus and we are just trying to get thru the harvest season without a labor disruption or problems, but I think there's an opportunity, long term. I think consumers are probably making a little more connection between the farming aspect of society, grocery stores and how things work. So I hope that one of the things University works on long term is how do we exploit that through social media so that people have a greater understanding about those connections—what happens when distribution changes; how transitions between the food service sector to retail are not easy or seamless.

Kate English: A lot of people experienced, with hurricanes the last few years, short term shortages in grocery stores. It's a little bit shocking, but we quickly recovered. I think there are going to be some shortages going forward to deal with, and it's not really related to our ability to produce the food. It is terribly related to the resiliency of the change we have to get it in front of them, the systems that we have to get in front of them, and I think it has provided the opportunity for some teachable moments.

Julie Conn: Hi everybody, we've been working hard with a handful of prospects with our corporate partners that may have some leads in the next couple of months, but really, our team has been focused on just doing a lot of stewardship and thanking people and reaching out to tell them we're thinking about them. So that's it from my end.

Cody Helmer: Julie, do you want to talk at all about how you've made yourself useful for being a food delivery person?

Julie Conn: Oh, I volunteer for Food for Kids, which is a backpack program that helps kids in the county school system, who have food security issues, to get a backpack full of food to take home for the weekend. And so every Thursday I go to the warehouse and pick up, not backpacks, but larger bags to last for a week and deliver them to the elementary school where I volunteer. So that's been really helpful. Then Jeanna helped organize a little delivery system for Extension and ICS folks and CALS folks. We all drove around delivering food for Farm Share a few weeks ago. And that was great, as well. It was good to feel helpful and hopefully if they need to do it again, they'll put us into service.

Katherine Davies: Julie hit on what we're doing outside of the office as we're working from home, but on a kind of positive note, we're continuing to move forward with a few positions that we had begun and one of those is Genaveve Henson, so I'll have her actually say a little bit about herself in just a minute. She is still actually a CALS student; she's replacing Taylor Johnson's position and will be working a lot with the college and with Dean Turner. She's not graduating until May, so she's not full time with the team. However, she is doing 10 hours per week with us right now as a student. So we're really thankful that we have her and she's getting on board during a very interesting time, but we're thankful that she's here. And, if you watched the Facebook Live earlier today with Dr. Turner, you'd see that she's actually one of the top 10 students of CALS, so I think we're very lucky that we have her and will let her say a little bit more about herself.

Genaveve Henson: Hi everyone, it's very nice to meet you all. Of course, this isn't the ideal way to meet you guys, but I'm still really happy to be here. Like Catherine said, I'm graduating technically next weekend and that's really exciting. I'm really excited to get started. And thank you guys for having me.

Elaine Turner: Can I just say one quick thing about Genaveve, we are proud of her for being a top 10 senior. She and Caleb Reed are some of the student workers who have been in the CALS dean's office helping out our team by reaching out to our admitted freshmen. We had about 1900 students who were on the admitted freshman list who had picked the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences major. We've enlisted the help of these students to reach out and connect with those students and see if they have questions, anything that we can answer, hoping to get them to commit to the college. Even if we're not all together in the fall semester, to join us anyway. And so we've really appreciated using some of those hours of our UF Advancement Office student employees as well as our student employees.

John Hooker: It might be interesting to know that in the last couple of weeks we have had a couple of estate gifts, one to the Ag Law Center that documented around \$100,000 and then another gift to support the Master Naturalist Program. So there's still quite a bit of activity that I've seen. Also, I've talked to some the producers about things that are not suspended, like food safety inspections. I had a long chat with one blueberry grower who said the regulations are to have soap and hand sanitizer at weigh stations and bathrooms, but everyone has bought up all the hand sanitizer. How are they supposed to handle that when the inspectors come? I thought that was an interesting down-the-line issue that growers and producers are facing. But actually, I'm curious now, if anybody knows in this area, any producers that have excess produce that they can't sell or can't get rid of, reach out to me individually. Thanks.

Roger Scarborough: I did about 30 plus years with Farm Credit and retired. I was then asked to come back and work for the state of Florida. CPA's have actually been pretty stressed because everybody wants their personal tax returns done so they can determine if they're eligible for a stimulus check. Then we have all these businesses that are applying for either loans or grants. There are challenges with learning new forms and trying to help clients prepare those applications. Another thing a lot of people don't think about is, as part of the audit process, CPAs are challenged with addressing the viability of the business, and the likelihood that it will continue. And you can imagine our auditors having to discuss with clients about their viability, or lack of viability. That's a tough conversation. There's all kinds of businesses that had their cash flow dried up and they burned up all their reserves. Auditors are having some pretty tough conversations about what to say in their reports about the ability or the likelihood of that company continuing, and it's a viable concern. On a more

personal level, CPAs have pretty stiff continuing education requirements. They have to do 80 hours every two years, and their deadline is June 30, which is fast approaching. In Florida, the big push is in the spring, leading right up to the June 30 deadline. All over the state there's usually a lot of seminars going on for continuing education, whether it's at a university or at Disney World or other theme park or big hotel. Now, all of those situations dried up and either the facility was closed down, or the CPAs were told there's a travel ban and they can't go to it anyway. So there's been a big push in the IT industry to move a lot of live courses to online courses. Just thought I'd share some of the situations that I'm dealing with in the accounting industry. It's good to be with y'all today and good to see a lot of familiar faces.

Kim Sams: I do not have much of a farming background, but what I do have is a love of Florida agriculture and we're very involved in the equestrian community. So yes, I use your feed, Larry! I'm in my 30th year at Disney, but I do not represent Disney on this board. I have to share though, from a personal perspective, that out of 30 something people on my team, I have lost over half to furlough right now. You see the pictures of our cruise ships sitting off the coast of Port Canaveral because there's not enough room in the port for all the cruise ships. We have employees who are on those cruise ships serving no one right now. So, so it's a pretty dismal situation. And I just wish that I could stay in the produce section at Publix every day and say, "Hey, buy the Florida tomatoes," because I totally do that when I go to the grocery store. Usually people thank me. I say, "Hey, you don't want Florida to lose out from all those other states, so please buy the Florida tomatoes." This guy goes, "Oh yeah, I'm from Texas, and I would have had no idea. I'm so glad you told me so." And I'm eating way too many green beans, so I'm personally trying to take responsibility. I have been on global calls about how to solve the food insecurity issues. Right now there is not a good enough system for transporting produce across state lines or to other food banks. That's just a big mess. What I think we probably need, and I'm sorry, you didn't ask me to get on a soapbox, but now I'm going. There's a company called Med Share that clears medical equipment and things and gets it out to hospitals. I feel like we need a national food share that partners with refrigerated truck companies to get the produce all over the U.S. I really hope that I can add some value in some way. My background is public relations and journalism and I lead the Walt Disney Company Foundation in my day job as well, so Julie and I have crossed paths a few times. One of the groups that reports to me is the Disney Conservation Fund and all of those nonprofits are suffering. I'm sure that we will be much more positive in our next meeting than this one.

Peter Chaires: From the side of my world that involves research, you can imagine the challenges. We are trying to review what we did with the PIs this year and learn what they were not able to complete; and evaluate those programs and try to set budgets and proposals for next year. On fresh citrus, we really came out well overall. We were toward the end of our grapefruit run. We saw a spike on fresh oranges at first and then orders stayed pretty flat. But now it's starting to pick up a little bit for those houses that are still running. So, considering what's happening to our vegetable producers, we really can't complain.

Sharon Spratt: It's fairly quiet in Tallahassee. I'm doing government affairs, so I have been on all the reopen Task Force meetings. We listen and I think we will hear strong recommendations and/or requirements coming in the governor's office around the time that the safer-at-home order expires, which is on April 30. Great participation on working groups. Heard a lot of folks who provide a lot of good ideas on what we can do to jumpstart the economy, which is important to everyone, without having another round or spike of infection; keeping employees safe as well as students and the whole nine yards. So I don't think there's any easy way going forward. I think we'll probably have a couple of setbacks, but on a positive note, Jeanna, I heard you mention the budget. We just got a memo that the first quarter revenues were not as low as they expected. Only a few million less than expected, so it looks pretty positive. They will be coming back for special session, but it may not be as drastic as we expected.

Melissa Putnam: I was gonna weigh in as a parent of a CALS student and I've been impressed by how they have transitioned to online learning. My daughter had to come home. She's a freshman, and it was amazing how

CALS was able to get classes up and running online. She was taking a lot of health classes, and didn't miss a beat with advising. She was supposed to study abroad in Italy with a CALS trip this summer and that was canceled. They walked her through how to get reimbursed and I've been very impressed with how UF has handled everything, particularly the college. I also have a senior who is going to Florida, and of course she's concerned about whether she's gonna get to live on campus or not in the fall. I don't know what to tell her, but she's excited. She was a participant on the April 6 Plant City Meet and Greet. She participated via zoom. She's obviously been to campus a lot so she didn't have to visit campus to make her decision. I've been impressed by the ways that CALS has reached out to all the prospective students and tried to give them all the support they needed to make their decisions and to know what to expect and to be checking everything off their list. So things are good here. We are clicking along. My daughter, who's a freshman, finished her classes yesterday. She's actually done, so she's thrilled, and we're thrilled because that means we have less people trying to use the Wi Fi all day long. My other kids are in high school and middle school and they're on all day long. So thank you guys and everybody who's making those situations possible.

Elaine Turner: Thank you, Melissa. That's just so great to hear. You know, we truly don't know how our students are doing. We have ideas and we hear about random problems, but it's nice to hear your perspective of what her experience has been. So thank you.

Kate English: I think, considering how quickly you all had to throw all this together, that it's been really impressive to watch the transition to digital distance learning environment when that was not really on the game plan, certainly not at the scale that you've done and I can relate to the comment about the competition for the Wi Fi. We had things get a little tight or a little slow at our house in terms of capacity there. I don't think I truly understood the term "bandwidth" until this particular experience.

Caylin Hilton: Things are going great considering. It's actually been exciting to work with some of our program leadership to really break down some of those core experiences and outcomes and things that they're looking for in the 4-H program, and then translating that to virtual and digital format. We're doing a lot of strategic planning around what the summer looks like, how we're shifting things related to some of our keystone programs, like for each university, and for each legislature and how we're handling those. And then what our partnerships with FDACS and other groups look like in light of those changes and what some of those opportunities look like in the digital space and getting resources to our youth nationally. National 4-H did a study recently with Microsoft in regard to the digital divide and lack of resources for some youth. Obviously, that was a very timely study that they had completed. And so we are looking at how we address that with programs as well as opportunities to support 4-H in Florida. A lot of great work is being done in that space and we are excited to see how they adjust. It's been inspiring to get to interact with some of our youth leaders, just the resilience that they've demonstrated is inspiring and it keeps you going. Things are going well and we're excited to see what 4-H looks like this summer.

Kate English: As a working parent, I'm excited for anything that will give us some other options than home for the summer.

Caleb Reed: I don't really have anything to add. Thank you for letting me sit in this meeting. I've learned a little bit about everything. I look forward to eventually being able to meet everyone in person. Right now my job is just essentially the same, thanking everyone for donations, but we're just working from home. Things are going well, though.

Tom Hart: It's been very interesting being so isolated. I mainly work in citrus nutrition and it's been challenging to meet with the growers and give them results and make recommendations, but we're doing our best with emails and trying to limit personal contact. This is one of the most interesting SHARE Council meetings, and I look forward to the day when we can all be together again in person.

Rick Minton: We're in the cattle business over in Sarasota. There's no cattle market right now, it's very low volume and we usually market our cattle in the fall. Cowboys get to keep working because social distancing, by design, is their job. Citrus is kind of a disappointment, but with the increase in volume and some of the research coming out with some better varieties of rootstocks, we're optimistic about the future with citrus. I'd like to do a shout-out to Mike. I haven't collaborated with him in about 20 years and I credit him for facilitating the great Land Bill of 1995, which created conservation easements and a lot of other things.

Kenneth Parker: Hope everybody's doing well. I guess we don't have to be at church to give a praise report, but I got to tell you the strawberry folks in eastern Hillsborough County were very fortunate and they realize that and are thankful. This pandemic hit right at the end of our season and we were able to finish the season strong, for the most part, but now they're all nervous about their vegetables and their watermelons and cantaloupes. This event speaks directly to the narrative that we as a nation should never rely on foreign countries for critical supplies or food. And I hope it is abundantly clear now that we have to maintain a robust, viable, domestic supply of fresh fruits and vegetables. Agriculture and the State of Florida is going to rely even more on the University of Florida and IFAS to help keep food and fiber from the state abundant, safe and affordable for the consumers, and it has to remain profitable for the growers. And with that, I want to say thank you to the University for continuing to conduct research.

Kate English: Well, I'm pleased to hear that the strawberry folks have done well out of this, but I know a lot of them have some diversification. So they've got to be nervous about those other crops. I think we've got a lot of challenges and I couldn't agree more with you that we really need to make sure that we maintain our agricultural infrastructure. And I think one of the lessons we have to take away from this is the resiliency of how we distribute the products and the people who distribute the products for us and get it to the consumer. We're going to have to think hard about how that happens and make sure that we've got some backups. I mentioned earlier that I had some smaller clients who went to direct sales pretty quickly. And from what Bernie said, I did not know about the cleaning out of the coolers in Ruskin and Palmetto, but I was pleased to hear they had some ability to do that. I think some of our folks who are really in trouble, who are some of our largest growers, who are making sure that we have things to eat in the food service line all the time, that's some of the guys who have just gotten hammered. So we're going to have to think about, going forward, what resilience looks like and how distribution networks look like.

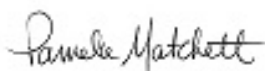
Are we still thinking that we're going to have a fall meeting? Maybe, hopefully, fingers crossed. Well, you know, I think this was a good dry run.

Cody Helmer: Or if we aren't able to be in person, doing something like this again. And of course, you break the mold on it the first time and it gets easier to do it the second time. I'm hopeful though that we're able to do something, regardless, in the fall. Hopefully it'll be face to face. Keep your fingers crossed that it will work out that way.

Kate English: Our Spring SHARE Council meeting, courtesy of technology, is coming to a close, but I would like to invite you to join us for our first virtual SHARE Council cocktail hour.

Jeanna Mastrodicasa: How about we take a five-minute break and those who wish to move on with your evening, please do so. And those who need to fill a glass, we shall reconvene in about five minutes. Thank you so much for being here. We ended up with 37 people at one point in time; I was expecting around 20 or 25, so that's an incredible number of people to be joining in.

Reported and respectfully submitted by:



Pamela Matchett, Interim Secretary