**Minutes of the**

**Peanut Variety and Quality Evaluation Advisory Committee ZOOM Meeting**

March 23, 2021 @1:00 PM

The Peanut Variety and Quality Evaluation Advisory Committee (PVQEAC) met via zoom from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Wed, March 23, 2021.

* Welcome and introductions were made by Dr. Maria Balota. The 2020 zoom meeting minutes were also approved.
* NIFA updates were presented by Dr. Ed Kaleikau, the NIFA director for the Peanut Variety and Quality Evaluation (PVQE) project. Dr. Kaleikau updated the participants on the recent changes in location and administration of the USDA, and AFRI funding levels and program. In particular, he emphasized the New Investigator Funding, Commodity Funding, and the Crop Development Funding. Among the funding priorities, NIFA’ s support for public breeding efforts to improve productivity, efficiency, quality, and performance of agriculturally important plants was mentioned. Examples of Commodity Funding projects jointly funded with the National Peanut Board in 2018, 2019, and 2020 were provided. Research topics of interest for NIFA pre-breeding and germplasm enhancement, participatory breeding, selection theory, applied quantitative genetics, phenomics, crop growth modeling, and artificial intelligence were mentioned.
* Administrative comments followed and were presented by Dr. Loren Fisher, Assistant Director, NCARS, North Carolina State University, and Dr. Susan Duncan, Associate Director, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Director, Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture, Virginia Tech.
* Dr. Balota and Dr. Dan Anco, Peanut Specialist at Clemson University, updated the participants on the 2020 PVQE tests in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. She also shared the status of the technical staff conducting the PVQE testing, as new technicians were hired.
* Dr. Jeff Dunne presented data on the 2020 release by the North Carolina State University (NCSU), NC 20; he updated the audience on the NCSU breeding program’ s objectives and presented the NCSU results for the lines that he included in the 2021 PVQE testing.
* Discussions on the 2021 PVQE budget continued among the participants and updates of certified seed availability quality and challenges of seed production in 2020 were presented as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.