

Resolution 2014-15.E

Resolution to Approve New Major, Literature and Language, in Bachelor of Arts in English

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: September 22, 2014

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

First Effective Date to Declare Major: Spring 2015

First Effective Date to Graduate: Spring 2016

WHEREAS, the current option in Literature, Language, and Culture works to “help students increase their capacity for reasoning and analysis, rational and aesthetic judgment, and oral and written communication” (*Plan for a New Horizon 2012-2018*), thereby preparing students for successful careers in a variety of fields; and

WHEREAS, the current Literature, Language, and Culture Option demonstrates curricular strength, post-graduation success, and a healthy interest in this field of study; and

WHEREAS, the current Literature, Language, and Culture Option prepares students for careers in education, the law, graduate study in linguistics and in literature, the non-profit sector, and the public sector; and

WHEREAS, a recent article argued that “English majors are the hot new hires” in the business world because they bring communication skills, writing skills, researching skills, critical thinking skills, and empathy” (*American Express Open Forum*); and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech’s admission materials highlight majors, but not options, thereby increasing opportunities to recruit more students and to meet enrollment targets for the college; and

WHEREAS, a major, unlike an option, is recorded on students’ transcripts and resumes, thus constituting institutional validation of their education; and

WHEREAS, English Studies includes several disparate fields of inquiry leading to disparate career opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the name “Literature and Language” more clearly and accurately describes the principal foci of the proposed Major than does the name “Literature, Language, and Culture” of the current Option;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Major in Literature and Language be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Arts in English effective Spring 2015 and the proposal forwarded to the President for approval.