

Resolution 2015-2016.A

Resolution to Adopt a New Undergraduate Honor Code

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: September 14, 2015

Second Reading: September 28, 2015

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

Effective Date: Fall 2016

WHEREAS, academic dishonesty undermines the core values of the university and devalues the learning process; and

WHEREAS, accountability demands that we devote special attention to creating environments that discourage academic dishonesty and that we have clear procedures in place to adjudicate cases when students behave in a manner inconsistent with our established expectations related to academic integrity; and

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Honor Code has not had a significant review and revision in at least 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the current Undergraduate Honor Code is not consistent with best practices, academic integrity scholarly research, case law, and is now unsuitable and ineffective as a method to promote academic integrity; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that the process for addressing academic misconduct is learning centered and that cases are resolved in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide a framework for educating the campus community on preventable approaches before academic misconduct occurs; and

WHEREAS, a committee of faculty, students, and administrators developed the proposed policy and manual after an extensive review and analysis of academic honor codes that included reviewing best practices, scholarly research, results from cases, examination of our peer institutions, and speaking with members of the University community; and

WHEREAS, if approved, the proposed Undergraduate Honor Code will be consistent with best practices, engage students and faculty as partners in resolving cases of academic misconduct, resolve cases in a timely manner, and position Virginia Tech to be a leader in how institutions can best promote cultures of academic integrity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, (1) that the current Undergraduate Honor System Constitution be retired and that the Undergraduate Honor Code Policy, incorporated herein by reference, be adopted as the Honor Code governing the academic conduct of undergraduate students; and (2) that the Undergraduate Honor Code Manual serve as the document that describes the philosophy, campus educational outreach framework, and administrative operational description of the process.