

Resolution 2017-2018.G

Resolution to Approve New Major, Environmental Policy and Planning, in Bachelor of Arts in Public and Urban Affairs

Recommended by the Commission of Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: February 26, 2018

Reviewed/ **Waived** by Faculty Senate: February 27, 2018

Second Reading: March 26, 2018

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

First Effective Date to Declare Major: Fall 2018

First Effective Date to Graduate: Winter 2020

WHEREAS, the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy and Planning will be discontinued effective Fall 2019; and

WHEREAS, promoting sustainable human interaction with the natural environment continues to be one of the critical challenges facing societies around the world, and while science and technology are critical to meeting this challenge, they must be supported by policies and plans responsive to diverse political, economic, sociocultural, institutional, and regulatory contexts; and

WHEREAS, the Major in Environmental Policy and Planning will provide students with the interdisciplinary knowledge and skills needed to function as policymakers and planners who can understand complex environmental issues and develop enduring solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Major in Environmental Policy and Planning will enable the School of Public and International Affairs to fully capitalize on the strengths and interests of faculty across the School via the focus on policy, planning, and governance; and

WHEREAS, the Major in Environmental Policy and Planning will prepare students for careers with federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, planning and consulting firms, real estate developers, and private industry; and

WHEREAS, the Major in Environmental Policy and Planning supports several strategic initiatives launched at Virginia Tech – Beyond Boundaries, Destination Areas (DAs), Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs), and InclusiveVT – and will ensure that Virginia Tech has an undergraduate program in a growing and increasingly important field.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Major in Environmental Policy and Planning be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Arts in Public and Urban Affairs effective Fall 2018 and the proposal forwarded through University governance and the President for approval.