

Resolution 2017-18.E

Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Science, Technology, and Society

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: November 6, 2017

Faculty Senate:

Second Reading:

Approved by the University Council:

Approved by the President:

Approved by the Board of Visitors:

Effective: Spring 2019

WHEREAS, emerging science and technology present new and unanticipated social, political, and ethical consequences; and

WHEREAS, Science, Technology, and Society (STS) is a growing interdisciplinary field that brings together conceptual and methodological frameworks from the social sciences and humanities to develop ways of understanding and intervening in the relationship of science and technology to society; and

WHEREAS, organizations of many kinds are reporting a need for college graduates with a combination of liberal arts skills – writing, research, critical thinking, collaboration – and advanced scientific or technological literacy; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no undergraduate degree in Science, Technology, and Society offered at institutions of higher education in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Bachelor of Science in STS embodies the elements of the “VT-shaped Individual,” with depth in the specialized concepts and frameworks of STS, transdisciplinary skills, and problem-driven, experiential learning; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Science, Technology, and Society at Virginia Tech is a leading department in graduate instruction and research in the field and already offers a range of undergraduate courses, providing about two thousand credit hours of undergraduate instruction per year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bachelor of Science in Science, Technology, and Society be approved effective Spring 2019 and the proposal forwarded to the President, the Board of Visitors, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) for approval, and to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for notification.