

Resolution 2019-2020.J
Resolution to Approve New Major, Food and Health Systems Economics, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

December 9, 2019

First Reading:

Faculty Senate:

Staff Senate:

Graduate Student Assembly:

Student Government Association:

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

First Effective Date to Declare Major: Summer 2020

First Effective Date to Graduate: Winter 2022

WHEREAS, in the past 15-20 years, interest in the health implications of the food system has increased dramatically; and

WHEREAS, there is emerging demand for graduates capable of evaluating policies and practices that promote healthier systems of food production, distribution, processing, and preparation; and

WHEREAS, with its cluster hire of three senior faculty in health economics, the Agricultural and Applied Economics (AAEC) Department is uniquely positioned among U.S. Land Grant Colleges to address holistic linkages across food systems and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the AAEC Department is committed to providing coursework and experiential learning, fitting the VT-shaped curriculum, that give students an in-depth understanding of the linkages among systems of food production and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, no new resources are required to establish the proposed Major in Food and Health Systems Economics at Virginia Tech and for it to be administered by the AAEC Department with the cooperation of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and

WHEREAS, letters of support have been received from all departments whose courses FHSE students would take, plus existing faculty research collaborations; and

WHEREAS, the new Major in Food and Health Systems Economics would be an identifiable curriculum that clearly signals the expertise and career focus of students toward industry, government agencies, academia, and advocacy organizations; and

WHEREAS, the new Major in Food and Health Systems Economics is anticipated to initially attract 5-10 additional students per year interested in pursuing careers in food systems and health care to Virginia Tech.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Major in Food and Health Systems Economics be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management effective Summer 2020 and the proposal be forwarded to the President for approval.