

Resolution 2019-2020.L
Resolution to Approve New Major, International Trade and Development, 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, few high school graduates come to Virginia Tech (or any university) with awareness of “Agricultural Economics - AGECON” as a field of study and professional careers; and

WHEREAS, our current degree structure consists of two degrees: Agribusiness (AGRB) and Applied Economic Management (AEM); and

WHEREAS, the term Applied Economic Management (AEM) is not very meaningful to students (and parents) exploring majors; and

WHEREAS, the regional, national, and global challenges of rural Environmental Economics, Management, and Policy (EEMP), Community Economic Development (CED), and International Trade and Development (ITD) are key fields of study in today’s world; and

WHEREAS, students enrolled in one of these Concentrations/Options consider it to be their “major” and are disappointed that it is listed only on their transcripts, but not their diploma; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural and Applied Economics (AAEC) Department provides coursework and experiential learning, fitting the VT-shaped curriculum, that give students an in-depth understanding of these respected fields; and

WHEREAS, no new resources are required to establish the proposed Major in International Trade and Development 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 ITD students take, plus existing faculty research collaborations; and

WHEREAS, the new Major in International Trade and Development would be an identifiable curriculum that clearly signals the expertise and career focus of students toward industry, government agencies, academia, advocacy and organizations and international bodies; and

WHEREAS, prospective students will be more readily able to identify and understand what majors are available in AAEC Department at VT; and

WHEREAS, visibility of the new Major in International Trade and Development is anticipated to increase enrollment by 5-10 students above the current number of 75-80 AEM majors.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the new Major in International Trade and Development 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.