

Resolution 2019-20.O

Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading:

February 24, 2020

Faculty Senate:

Staff Senate:

Graduate Student Assembly:

Student Government Association:

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

First Effective Date to Enroll: Fall 2020

First Effective Date to Graduate: Spring 2021

WHEREAS, Behavioral decision science is rapidly generating insights that are important to society, with more firms and governments creating positions and teams to analyze and implement behavioral change; and

WHEREAS, Behavioral decision scientists are emerging as essential contributors to a multitude of domains that involve choices, risk assessment/management, and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, the Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science will provide a complete framework to identify the essential variables in big and small data and will act as the link between information acquisition, information processing and human choice, training undergraduate students in the emerging field of causal behavior analytics; and

WHEREAS, the Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science will provide students an understanding of economic and psychological models for how people optimally make decisions, along with an understanding of basic neural mechanisms and substrates that aid understanding of the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, the Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science will prepare graduates for employment in the private and public non-profit sectors, in state and federal government agencies, the health industry, the legal profession, and for post-baccalaureate training; and

WHEREAS, the College of Science is in an excellent position to initiate a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science in that it draws from the expertise at Virginia Tech in Economics, Psychology, and Neuroscience; and

WHEREAS, the degree is the only one of its kind in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and will be one among only a few behavioral decision science programs in the US, establishing Virginia Tech as a key leader in education for one of the most creative and impactful areas of scientific inquiry of the future.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Decision Science be approved effective Spring 2021 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.