

**Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies**  
**Resolution 2020-2021B**  
**Resolution to Establish the School of Environmental Security**

Recommended by the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policies

First Reading: January 21, 2021

Faculty Senate:

Staff Senate:

Graduate Student Assembly:

Student Government Association:

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

Effective: Summer 2021

**WHEREAS**, environmental security is a broad and diverse field of study and practice that draws upon multiple academic disciplines and professions to address threats to human safety and prosperity from global population growth, resource availability and access, and environmental shifts including climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, these multiple and diverse disciplines and professions are not found within one academic department but could be organized within the administrative structure of a school; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed School of Environmental Security enhances the university's ability to educate and empower faculty, students, and partners to provide meaningful contributions to a more secure commonwealth, nation and globe; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed School of Environmental Security supports the mission of Virginia Tech to serve the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world community through the discovery and application of solutions to increasingly common environmental threats and disturbances; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed School of Environmental Security will contribute a critical component to Virginia Tech's emerging emphasis in national security, cyber security, and related security initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed School of Environmental Security supports the mission of the College of Natural Resource and Environment at Virginia Tech with continued emphasis on professional graduate education, applied research, and active engagement with stakeholders in the Washington, D.C. Metro area and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed School of Environmental Security supports the land-grant mission of Virginia Tech in the discovery and dissemination of knowledge about managing environmental threats to human society, infrastructure, and prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed School of Environmental Security will enhance the stature of Virginia Tech as an internationally recognized university for teaching, training, and research scholarship in environmental security; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed School of Environmental Security will provide a unified identity within the College of Natural Resources and Environment and within Virginia Tech, and will be the only School of its kind in the nation.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the resolution for the establishment of the School of Environmental Security hosted within the College of Natural Resources and Environment be approved effective Summer 2021 and the proposal forwarded to the President, Board of Visitors, and State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for approval.