Resolution 2016-17.D
Resolution to Establish a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biomedical Engineering

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: October 10, 2016
Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:
Approved by the President:
Approved by the Board of Visitors:

WHEREAS, biomedical engineering is a rapidly emerging field that draws on engineering principles to provide training to undergraduate students so that they may tackle emerging societal issues related to engineering aspects of the growing field of health care; and

WHEREAS, graduates with a degree in biomedical engineering will analyze and design solutions to problems in biology and medicine with the goal of improving the quality of patient care through jobs at universities, hospitals, manufacturers, government agencies, and research facilities; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech is uniquely suited for such a degree program due to its established partnerships unavailable to other universities in Virginia or in the United States, including ties with prestigious groups such as the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute and the Wake Forest School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, the addition of a degree in biomedical engineering aligns with President Sands goal that the university should strive to increase Virginia Tech's US rankings, become a top-100 global research university and continue to attract high-quality students with world-leading interdisciplinary programs and research opportunities. The College of Engineering is the only program in the top 50 across the U.S. without a biomedical engineering undergraduate program. Adding a degree will help increase both the college and the university's rankings nationally; and

WHEREAS, the biomedical engineering degree meets goals set in the Virginia Tech 2012-2018 Strategic Plan that proposes major growth in the fields of "science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health sciences (STEM-H)". This degree will help Virginia Tech grow as a high-ranking institution and make its graduating students and alumni highly attractive to employers in the Commonwealth and beyond; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bachelor of Science Degree in Biomedical Engineering be established, effective Fall 2017.

RECOMMENDATION:
That establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering to be approved effective Fall 2017 and the proposal be forwarded to the President, the Board of Visitors, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for approval, and to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges for notification.