

**Resolution 2017-18.H**

**Resolution to Approve New Major, Smart and Sustainable Cities, in Bachelor of Arts in Public and Urban Affairs**

Recommended by the Commission of Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: February 26, 2018

Reviewed/ Waived by Faculty Senate:

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

First Effective Date to Declare Major: Fall 2018

First Effective Date to Graduate: Winter 2020

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that 70% of the world's population will reside in urbanized areas by 2050 and managing rapid urban growth requires an understanding of several inter-connected systems that preserve and enhance community life, protect the environment, and promote equity; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase in Big Data's role in decision-making requires students to understand the limitations of the otherwise invaluable modeling and data analysis and introduce them to more collaborative methods of decision-making and accessible ways of sharing their data and the models behind them; and

**WHEREAS**, the Major in Smart and Sustainable Cities will provide students with a deep understanding of sustainable urban development and how smart technology and urban analytics can be combined in the search for solutions to critical urban challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, by focusing on sustainability, data analytics, and policy in the urban sphere, the School of Public and International Affairs is fully capitalizing on the strengths and interests of faculty across the School; and

**WHEREAS**, the Major in Smart and Sustainable Cities will prepare students for careers with federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, planning and consulting firms, real estate developers, and private industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the Major in Smart and Sustainable Cities responds to several strategic initiatives launched at Virginia Tech— Beyond Boundaries, Destination Areas (DAs), Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs), and InclusiveVT- and provides Virginia Tech with one of the first undergraduate programs in the nation that integrates urban sustainability with urban data analytics.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Major in Smart and Sustainable Cities be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Arts in Public and Urban Affairs effective Fall 2018 and the proposal forwarded through University governance and the President for approval.