

**Resolution 2017-18.E**

**Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Science, Technology, and Society**

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: November 6, 2017

Faculty Senate: Waived

Second Reading: November 27, 2017

Approved by the University Council:

Approved by the President:

Approved by the Board of Visitors:

Effective: Spring 2019

**WHEREAS**, emerging science and technology present new and unanticipated social, political, and ethical consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, Science, Technology, and Society (STS) is a growing interdisciplinary field that brings together conceptual and methodological frameworks from the social sciences and humanities to develop ways of understanding and intervening in the relationship of science and technology to society; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations of many kinds are reporting a need for college graduates with a combination of liberal arts skills – writing, research, critical thinking, collaboration – and advanced scientific or technological literacy; and

**WHEREAS**, there is currently no undergraduate degree in Science, Technology, and Society offered at institutions of higher education in Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bachelor of Science in STS embodies the elements of the “VT-shaped Individual,” with depth in the specialized concepts and frameworks of STS, transdisciplinary skills, and problem-driven, experiential learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Science, Technology, and Society at Virginia Tech is a leading department in graduate instruction and research in the field and already offers a range of undergraduate courses, providing about two thousand credit hours of undergraduate instruction per year;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bachelor of Science in Science, Technology, and Society be approved effective Spring 2019 and the proposal forwarded to the President, the Board of Visitors, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) for approval.