

Resolution 2016-17.C

Resolution for the Establishment of a School of Plant and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: October 10, 2016

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council

Approved by President

Approved by Board of Visitors

Effective Date: Fall 2017

WHEREAS, bringing together the disciplines from the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science, and Department of Horticulture into a single academic unit will increase the interdisciplinary and impacts of teaching, research, and extension programs in the plant and environmental sciences; and

WHEREAS, faculty of the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science, and Department of Horticulture are supportive of combining their respective program strengths and to partner across traditional boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the college administration in collaboration with the three participating departments have proposed the establishment of a School of Plant and Environmental Sciences within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, the faculty and department heads of the three participating departments, as well as the college administration, have approved the proposal to establish a School of Plant and Environmental Sciences; and

WHEREAS, oversight and administration to integrate the disciplines within plant and environmental sciences and to increase interdisciplinarity can be accomplished effectively by the proposed School structure; and

WHEREAS, the proposed School will increase the quality of undergraduate and graduate programs and the number of students completing degrees in plant and environmental sciences; and

WHEREAS, the proposed School supports the mission of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech to serve the Commonwealth, the nation, and global community through the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge and to prepare students for careers in the life sciences; and

WHEREAS, the proposed School will enhance the stature of Virginia Tech as an internationally recognized university for teaching, extension, and research scholarship in the plant and environmental sciences;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposal for the establishment of a School of Plant and Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech, housed within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, be approved and the proposal forwarded to the President, Board of Visitors, and State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) for approval.