WHEREAS, Virginia Tech advances a working and learning environment in which all members of the university community have opportunities to thrive; and

WHEREAS, when conflicts arise, Virginia Tech supports a wide variety of appropriate informal and formal dispute and conflict resolution options; and

WHEREAS, the interests of members of the university community are well served through informal processes that include receiving information about university services and formal grievance procedures, exploration of options for addressing workplace concerns, and assistance in fashioning an equitable solution to workplace difficulties; and

WHEREAS, the university community will benefit from the confidential, informal, impartial, and independent services provided by an ombuds program reporting directly to the president of the university;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the above governance bodies support the establishment of a University Ombuds Office, reporting to the president of the university, with a charter that clearly articulates its purpose, organizational relationships, responsibilities and duties, and a commitment to the standards of practice and code of ethics as put forth by the International Ombudsman Association.
Resolution GSA2016-17F

Approval Timeline
Approved, GSA General Assembly
Effective Date 3/23/17

Endorsing Delegates
Adwoa Baah-Dwomoh
Steve Haring

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSITY OMBUDS FUNCTION AT VIRGINIA TECH

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech advances a working and learning environment in which all members of the university community have opportunities to thrive; and

WHEREAS, when conflicts arise, Virginia Tech supports a wide variety of appropriate informal and formal dispute and conflict resolution options; and

WHEREAS, the interests of faculty and other members of the university community are well served through informal processes where they may receive information about university services and formal grievance procedures; explore options for addressing workplace concerns; and seek assistance in fashioning an equitable solution to workplace difficulties; and

WHEREAS, faculty and other members of the university community will benefit from the confidential, informal, impartial, and independent services provided by an ombuds office reporting directly to the president of the university;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we support the concept of a University Ombuds Office at Virginia Tech, reporting to the president of the university, with a charter that clearly articulates its purpose, organizational relationships, responsibilities and duties, and a commitment to the standards of practice and code of ethics as put forth by the International Ombudsman Association.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Joint Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a University Ombuds Function at Virginia Tech be adopted and a second reading be waived.
March 3, 2017

Diane Zahm
Associate Professor, School of Public and International Affairs
Chair, Committee on Faculty Ethics
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA

Dear Dr. Zahm,

The Commission on Student Affairs (CSA) met on March 2, 2017 and deliberated the Joint Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a University Ombuds Function at Virginia Tech (ATTACHMENT A). Upon second reading of the Resolution, CSA has voted to approved the Resolution, and some minor corrections to the title of the Resolution and the approval timeline suggested. The Commission fully supports the intent of the Resolution and will continue to do so as the Resolution goes through the rest of the governance process.

We would like to express our thanks to you and Dr. Ellen Plummer’s efforts and time presenting to the CSA both this and last semester. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any questions and comments.

Best Regards,

Matthew Y. Chan
Chair, Commission on Student Affairs

ATTACHMENT A: Joint Resolution Supporting the Establishment of a University Ombuds Function at Virginia Tech

cc: April B. Myers, Governance and Projects Coordinator, Office of the President
Ellen Plummer, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Administration, Office of the Provost
Chris Saunders, Vice Chair, Commission on Student Affairs
Angela Simmons, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Division of Student Affairs
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSITY OMBUDS FUNCTION AT VIRGINIA

Approved, Faculty Senate Date
Approved, Commission on Faculty Affairs Date
Approved, Staff Senate Date
Approved, Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs Date
Approved, Student Government Association Date
Approved, Commission on Student Affairs Date
Approved, Graduate Student Association Date
Approved, Commission on Graduate Studies and Polices Date
Approved, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity Date
Approved, Commission on Research Date
Approved, Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs Date
Approved, Commission on Outreac and International Affairs Date
Approved, Board of Visitors Date

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech advances a working and learning environment in which all members of the university community have opportunities to thrive; and

WHEREAS, when conflicts arise, Virginia Tech supports a wide variety of appropriate informal and formal dispute and conflict resolution options; and

WHEREAS, the interests of faculty and other members of the university community are well served through informal processes where they may receive information about university services and formal grievance procedures; explore options for addressing workplace concerns; and seek assistance in fashioning an equitable solution to workplace difficulties; and

WHEREAS, faculty and other members of the university community will benefit from the confidential, informal, impartial, and independent services provided by an ombuds office reporting directly to the president of the university;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we support the concept of a University Ombuds Office at Virginia Tech, reporting to the president of the university, with a charter that clearly articulates its purpose, organizational relationships, responsibilities and duties, and a commitment to the standards of practice and code of ethics as put forth by the International Ombudsman Association.
WHEREAS, Virginia Tech advances a working and learning environment in which all members of the university community have opportunities to thrive; and

WHEREAS, when conflicts arise, Virginia Tech supports a wide variety of appropriate informal and formal dispute and conflict resolution options; and

WHEREAS, the interests of faculty and other members of the university community are well served through informal processes where they may receive information about university services and formal grievance procedures; explore options for addressing workplace concerns; and seek assistance in fashioning an equitable solution to workplace difficulties; and

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