

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies  
Resolution 2011-12B**

**Resolution for Renaming the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products to the Department  
of Sustainable Biomaterials**

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies:	October 10, 2011
Approved by the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies	October 19, 2011
First Reading by University Council:	November 14, 2011
Approved by University Council:	December 5, 2011
Approved by the President:	December 5, 2011
Effective:	Spring Semester 2012

**Whereas**, the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, established as a separate department in the College of Natural Resources and Environment in 1979, has achieved national prominence for the faculty work in teaching, discovery and engagement, and

**Whereas**, as faculty expertise has diversified during the life of the department to include expertise in nanomaterials, drug delivery, adhesion science, advanced composites, non-timber forest products, biofuels, aseptic packaging for food and pharmaceuticals, and biomaterials, and

**Whereas**, many peer programs across the country have evolved their department name changes in the past decade to include such terms as Forest Biomaterials (NCSU), Renewable Materials (Oregon State University), and the Center for Renewable Carbon (UT, Knoxville); and

**Whereas**, many institutes, centers and industries around the globe working with natural materials and polymers for renewable product-use have adopted the term 'biomaterials' including: Kyoto University's Division of Forest and Biomaterials Science in Japan, the Max Plank Institutes' Institute of Biomaterials in Germany, and the Comparative Biomaterials Laboratory in Canada; and

**Whereas**, the utilization of natural, renewable resources to produce useful bioproducts, materials and bioenergy in a sustainable manner is an area of global importance, advancing Virginia Tech's strategic plan, and

**Whereas**, the inclusion of reference to biomaterials and sustainability in the department name will bring broader recognition of its contributions and aspirations among prospective students, research sponsors, and the general public, helping Virginia Tech demonstrate leadership in academic programs focused on sustainability,

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the name of the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products be changed to the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the above resolution renaming the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products to the Department of Sustainable Biomaterials be forwarded to the President and the Board of Visitors for approval and to the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) for notification.