

**Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies**  
**Resolution 2014-15E**  
**Resolution to Approve New Major, Literature and Language, in**  
**Bachelor of Arts in English**

Approved by CUSP:	October 13, 2014
First Reading by University Council:	November 3, 2014
Second Reading by University Council:	November 17, 2014
Approved by the President:	November 17, 2014
First Effective Date to Declare Major:	Spring 2015
First Effective Date to Graduate:	Spring 2016

**WHEREAS**, the current option in Literature, Language, and Culture works to “help students increase their capacity for reasoning and analysis, rational and aesthetic judgment, and oral and written communication” (*Plan for a New Horizon 2012-2018*), thereby preparing students for successful careers in a variety of fields; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Literature, Language, and Culture Option demonstrates curricular strength, post-graduation success, and a healthy interest in this field of study; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Literature, Language, and Culture Option prepares students for careers in education, the law, graduate study in linguistics and in literature, the non-profit sector, and the public sector; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent article argued that “English majors are the hot new hires” in the business world because they bring communication skills, writing skills, researching skills, critical thinking skills, and empathy” (*American Express Open Forum*); and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech’s admission materials highlight majors, but not options, thereby increasing opportunities to recruit more students and to meet enrollment targets for the college; and

**WHEREAS**, a major, unlike an option, is recorded on students’ transcripts and resumes, thus constituting institutional validation of their education; and

**WHEREAS**, English Studies includes several disparate fields of inquiry leading to disparate career opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the name “Literature and Language” more clearly and accurately describes the principal foci of the proposed Major than does the name “Literature, Language, and Culture” of the current Option;

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Major in Literature and Language be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Arts in English effective Spring 2015 and the proposal forwarded to the President for approval.