RESOLUTION TO DISCONTINUE THE
EXECUTIVE MASTER'S DEGREE IN INFORMATION SECURITY ASSURANCE

WHEREAS, in March 2009, Virginia Tech received approval from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to offer a new executive master's degree in information security assurance (eMISA) to be located in the National Capital Region, and administered by the College of Engineering; and,

WHEREAS, the original intent was to deliver the eMISA program through a cooperative arrangement between Virginia Tech faculty and an exceptional pool of experienced information security experts in the region; and,

WHEREAS, in early 2010, the key faculty member involved in the development and preparation of the eMISA curriculum and instruction unexpectedly ended his employment at Virginia Tech; and,

WHEREAS, at the same time, the national economy began a protracted downturn that made it unusually difficult to recruit faculty with expertise in cyber security intelligence; and,

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech found that it was not in a position to launch the eMISA degree program by fall 2012 in a way that ensured enrollment viability, as proposed in the original plan approved by SCHEV; and

WHEREAS, these circumstances resulted in zero enrollments in the eMISA degree program; and,

WHEREAS, SCHEV recently granted approval for George Mason University—a university situated in the northeast region of the commonwealth—to offer a graduate degree in information security assurance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the executive master's degree in information security assurance in the College of Engineering be discontinued, with notice of the discontinuance forwarded to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution to discontinue the executive master's degree in information security assurance be approved.

November 7, 2011