WHEREAS, University Council approved a resolution to revise the system of shared governance at Virginia Tech and approve the New University Council Constitution and Bylaws, effective July 1, 2022;

WHEREAS, the resolution provides for four representatives of the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity; and

WHEREAS, the charge of this commission is as follows: To advise the President’s InclusiveVT Executive Council and to study, formulate, and recommend to University Council policies and procedures as they relate to the university’s responsibilities regarding equal opportunity, affirmative action, accessibility, and policy matters related to compliance, diversity, and inclusion. The policy interests of caucuses are advanced through this commission. Areas for consideration include recruitment, retention, and advancement of faculty, staff, and students, in a manner consistent with the university’s principles of community and commitment to equal opportunity and access.

WHEREAS, historically, the Associate Vice President for Equity and Accessibility, and one faculty/staff representative elected by the Black Faculty and Staff Caucus served as representatives to University Council;

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the historical representation of the Associate Vice President for Equity and Accessibility, and a representative elected by the Black Faculty and Staff Caucus, served as representatives to University Council;

WHEREAS, in addition to the Black Caucus, there are nine faculty and staff caucuses at Virginia Tech;

WHEREAS, representation to University Council should honor the historical representation, and opportunities for ongoing representation from various caucuses;
Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that recognizing the significance of the historical importance of maintaining the representation by a representative of the Black Caucus and the Associate Vice President for Equity and Accessibility, two positions will annually be assigned to these positions: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that recognizing the significance of the diverse membership of the commission, two positions to University Council will be filled by the end of every spring semester at the spring or fall meeting to discuss the caucus status and for the commission to select two additional caucus representatives for the upcoming academic year. Factors for consideration include a review of the caucus annual report, rotating caucus representation, emerging and current issues uniquely impacting particular caucuses, and other timely and important issues.
The GPSS is in full support of CEOD Resolution 2022-23A.

Further comment that University Council should consider the diversity of its current membership more closely, with a specific interest in increasing diversity and avoiding the tokenization of these CEOD seats as the diversity representation.

October 14, 2022
October 24, 2022

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

The Staff Senate Committee on Policy and Issues has reviewed and approves CEOD Resolution 2022-23A. We have no further comment.

Thank you,
Amber Robinson, Chair Staff Senate Policies and Issues Committee
2022-2023 Officers & Committee Chairs

President:
Holli Gardner Drewry
TLOS

Vice President:
Janice Austin
Graduate School

Secretary/Treasurer:
Jennifer Jones
College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

Parliamentarian:
Jeri Baker
Parking and Transportation

Communications Committee Chair:
Jeri Baker
Parking and Transportation

Elections and Nominations Committee Co-Chairs:
Terri Pecora
Academic Applications
Keri Swaby
Undergraduate Studies

Policies and Issues Committee Chair
Nicole Connors
Analytics & Institutional Effectiveness

October 24, 2022

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

From: A/P Faculty Senate Policies and Issues Committee

The A/P Faculty Senate Policies and Issues Committee has reviewed and approves/endorse the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity Resolution 2022-23A to Establish Representation to University Council.

We have no further comment.