WHEREAS the College of Science proposes a master’s degree coordinated by the Academy of Data Science focused on preparing students to apply the data analysis and computational modeling methods of the emergent field of Data Science that combines methods, techniques, ideas and learnings from Statistics, Computer Science and Mathematics; and

WHEREAS the degree will provide concentrations in application areas such as Economics, Geosciences, Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Modeling and Algorithms and Agricultural and Applied Economics; and

WHEREAS the degree’s concentrations will prepare students from across the University for rewarding careers based on a combination of advanced data analysis and modeling skills combined with the domain knowledge of their undergraduate major; and

WHEREAS according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics “employment of Data Scientists is projected to grow 36 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations1” indicating that employment and career prospects for students with this degree are very bright; and

WHEREAS Virginia Tech is uniquely suited to offer such a degree program through its proven capacity to prepare students in this sector as evidenced by sustained enrollment in the Computational Modeling and Data Analytics (CMDA) undergraduate degree program; and

WHEREAS the preparation of students for careers in data science to meet employers’ needs for individuals with such skills is a natural fit for a public land-grant university serving the Commonwealth of Virginia, nation and world community;

1 https://www.bls.gov/ooh/math/data-scientists.htm#tab-6
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Master of Science Degree in Applied Data Science be established effective Fall 2023.