Resolution to Approve New Major, Environmental Economics: Management and Policy, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management

Approved by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies: February 10, 2020
Waived Right to Comment by Faculty Senate: December 17, 2019
Staff Senate Review: December 17, 2019
Graduate Student Assembly:
Student Government Association:
First Reading at University Council: March 2, 2020
Second Reading at University Council
Approved by President:

First Effective Date to Declare Major: Summer 2020
First Effective Date to Graduate: Winter 2022

WHEREAS, few high school graduates come to Virginia Tech (or any university) with awareness of “Agricultural Economics - AGECON” as a field of study and professional careers; and

WHEREAS, our current degree structure consists of two degrees: Agribusiness (AGRB) and Applied Economic Management (AEM); and

WHEREAS, the term Applied Economic Management (AEM) is not very meaningful to students (and parents) exploring majors; and

WHEREAS, the regional, national, and global challenges of rural Environmental Economics: Management and Policy (EEMP), Community Economic Development (CED), and International Trade and Development (ITD) are key fields of study in today’s world; and

WHEREAS, students enrolled in one of these Concentrations/Options consider it to be their “major” and are disappointed that it is listed only on their transcripts, but not their diploma; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural and Applied Economics (AAEC) Department provides coursework and experiential learning, fitting the VT-shaped curriculum, that give students an in-depth understanding of these respected fields; and

WHEREAS, no new resources are required to establish the proposed Major in Environmental Economics: Management and Policy at Virginia Tech and for it to be administered by the AAEC Department with the cooperation of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and

WHEREAS, letters of support have been received from all departments whose courses EEMP students take, plus existing faculty research collaborations; and

WHEREAS, the new Major in Environmental Economics: Management and Policy would be an identifiable curriculum that clearly signals the expertise and career focus of students toward industry, government agencies, academia, advocacy and organizations and international bodies; and

WHEREAS, prospective students will be more readily able to identify and understand what majors are available in AAEC Department at VT; and
WHEREAS, visibility of the new Major in Environmental Economics: Management and Policy is anticipated to increase enrollment by 5-10 students above the current number of 75-80 AEM majors.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the new Major in Environmental Economics: Management and Policy be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management effective Summer 2020 and the proposal be forwarded to the President for approval.
Subject: CUSP Resolutions 2019-2020 (H – M)

The Policies and Issues Committee of the Staff Senate reviewed the resolutions listed below. We support all resolutions.

- Resolution 2019-2020.H Resolution to Change Membership to the Athletics Committee
- Resolution 2019-2020.J Resolution to Approve New Major, Food and Health Systems Economics, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management
- Resolution 2019-2020.M Resolution to Approve New Major, Arabic, in Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages

If you have any questions, please let me know.

c: Tamarah Smith