WHEREAS, in the spring of 2019, President Sands appointed the President’s Committee on Governance (PCG) charged with conducting the first comprehensive review of the university’s governance system in more than 25 years. The recommendations from the first phase of the PCG’s work proposed formalizing the role of the faculty, staff, and student representative bodies within the governance system and redefining the relationship between those bodies and University Council and the commissions. A joint resolution proposing the framework for the overall governance system is being advanced by the Commission on Faculty Affairs, the Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, the Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs, and the Commission on Student Affairs to University Council for approval; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2020, the President and Provost approved the creation of a Task Force on the Future of Student Governance to work in parallel with the President’s Committee on Governance with the specific goal of developing a set of recommendations for redesigning the structure of student governance to represent more effectively the voice of the undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force, co-chaired by the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Vice President for Policy and Governance and composed of current and former undergraduate and graduate student leaders along with a representative from the PCG and officials from Student Affairs and the Graduate School, studied the existing undergraduate and graduate/professional representative bodies, assessed their strengths and deficiencies, and consulted with the American Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force first focused its attention on devising the proposed framework for the new Undergraduate Student Senate to supersede the Student Government Association; and
WHEREAS, the proposed framework for the senate, which incorporates feedback from the PCG and several student groups, is depicted in the two attached documents that describe the separation of duties among several vice presidents and outline standing committees comprised of senators representing both colleges and university chartered student organizations as well as at-large senators selected from the student body; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the establishment of an Undergraduate Student Senate (USS) to supersede the Student Government Association be approved, with the transition to begin at the end of the 2021 spring semester; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Undergraduate Student Senate Constitution and Bylaws be drafted and approved through the university shared governance process during the 2021-22 academic year.
• President - President of the Senate

• VP 1 - Vice President for Issues and Policy (Mainly Legislative)
  In Charge of:
  • Working Group 1
  • Working Group 2

• VP 2 - Vice President for Shared Governance (Mainly Legislative)
  In Charge of:
  • Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs

• VP 3 - Vice President for Administration
  In Charge of:
  • Accountability Committee
  • Administration Committee
  • Communications Committee (under Director of Communications*)
  • Outreach Committee (under Director of Communications*)
  • Staff Development Committee (under Director of Staff Development*)

• VP 4 - Vice President for Finance
  In Charge of:
  • Appropriations Committee
  • Hokie Effect (Under Director of Hokie Effect*)

• VP & BOV - Vice President and Representative to the BOV
  Selected by the BOV
April 8, 2021

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

The Staff Senate Committee on Policy and Issues has reviewed and approves CSA Resolution 2020-2021B. The Staff Senate would like to comment that it is in full support of this resolution.

Thank you,
LaTawnya Burleson, Chair Staff Senate Policies and Issues Committee