Resolution to Approve New Major, European & Transatlantic Studies, in Bachelor of Arts in International Studies

Approved by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies: February 22, 2021
Faculty Senate waived right to comment: February 15, 2021
Staff Senate review: March 17, 2021
Graduate Student Assembly waived right to comment: March 5, 2021
Student Government Association review: March 5, 2021
First Reading by University Council: March 15, 2021
Approved by University Council: April 5, 2021
Approved by the President: April 5, 2021
First Effective Date to Declare Major: Fall 2021
First Effective Date to Graduate: Spring 2023

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has been awarded a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission (EC); and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has been awarded a Jean Monnet Chair by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission (EC); and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has established close academic ties with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and the Atlantic Council of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech is in the process of establishing a Center for EUropean Union, Transatlantic, and Trans-European Space Studies (CEUTTSS) – A Jean Monnet Center of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, CEUTTSS teaching and learning mission is associated with an undergraduate inter/multidisciplinary academic program in the field of EUropean and Transatlantic Studies; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of faculty members in the Department of Political Science but also in other departments and colleges have international reputations, active research agendas, outreach activities, and teaching responsibilities in the area of EUropean and Transatlantic Studies; and
WHEREAS, a significant number of students already take courses associated with EUropean and Transatlantic Studies demonstrating curriculum strength, post-graduation success, and a growing interest in this field of study; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing demand at the federal level for employees specializing in EUropean and transatlantic affairs; and

WHEREAS, students in the Major in EUropean & Transatlantic Studies will be prepared for pursuing a wide-range of careers in the fields of diplomacy, security, international organization, defense, intelligence, and homeland security; and

WHEREAS, the title EUropean and Transatlantic Studies is recognizable and understandable to high school and college students seeking a program related to security and foreign policy.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOVED that the Major in EUropean & Transatlantic Studies be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Arts in International Studies effective Fall 2021 and the proposal forwarded to the President for approval.
Resolution 2020-2021G
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In regard to the addition of a European and Transatlantic Studies major, it is the opinion of the Undergraduate students that this action would be beneficial to Virginia Tech and current and future students upon its availability in the fall 2021.

Additionally, in a time where the globe is becoming more interdependent and interconnected, it is the Undergraduate students’ opinion that this new major option would prepare students to be more globally knowledgeable as well as more successful upon pursuing careers outside of the United States of America.
March 17, 2021

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

The Staff Senate Committee on Policy and Issues has reviewed and approves EUTS Resolution 2020-2021G. The Staff Senate would like to add comment that we are in support of this resolution.

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