RESOLUTION TO APPROVE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT SANCTION ENHANCEMENTS FOR POLICY VIOLATIONS MOTIVATED BY BIAS

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech is committed to non-discrimination as outlined in University Policy 1025 and the Principles of Community; and

WHEREAS, the University Student Conduct System supports the educational mission of the university by educating undergraduate, graduate, and professional students about appropriate behavior and by fostering a community in which academic success can occur; and

WHEREAS, the system is based on the assumption that students and groups have the capacity to assume responsibility for their own behavior and that the university has the authority to establish an internal structure for the enforcement of its policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, student conduct sanctions may be imposed upon a student or student organization for violation of university policy; and

WHEREAS, sanctions are determined based on case precedent and the presence of any mitigating and/or aggravating factors; now

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the *Student Code of Conduct* be amended to include the following statement on sanction enhancements for violations of the code motivated by bias:

> Any violation of the Virginia Tech Student Code of Conduct motivated by an individual's age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status (as stated in University Policy 1025) will be deemed an aggravating circumstance and will subject the student to a sanction more severe than would be imposed in the absence of such motivation. This sanction enhancement will not apply in cases in which protected classes are specifically addressed within the language of the policy, such as gender-based violence or gender-based stalking.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution to amend the Student Code of Conduct be approved by the Board of Visitors.

June 3, 2019