

**SUMMARY**  
**Emeritus/Emerita Faculty Resolutions (7)**

**August 31, 2021**

**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (1)**

Robert Grisso                                      Professor Emeritus of Biological Systems Engineering

**College of Engineering (2)**

John J. "Jack" Lesko                              Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering

Deborah G. Tatar                                      Professor Emerita of Computer Science

**College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (3)**

James W. Garrison                                      Professor Emeritus of Education

Joseph C. Pitt    Professor Emeritus of Philosophy

Gresilda A. Tilley-Lubbs                              Associate Professor Emerita of Education

**University Libraries (1)**

Larry Thompson                                      Associate Professor Emeritus of the University Libraries

## **RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS**

**WHEREAS**, for over 20 years, Robert D. Grisso, Jr., Ph.D. faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, with dedication, he taught and lectured in courses including his department's capstone senior design course; and

**WHEREAS**, through his work in machinery management, precision farming, farm safety, and improved machine performance, he brought international visibility to Virginia Tech; and

**WHEREAS**, he authored or co-authored over 135 refereed journal articles, book chapters, and abstracts, and over 280 fact sheets, circulars, magazines, and conference proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, he served as interim head of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering for 18 months; and

**WHEREAS**, he held leadership positions in professional organizations, including the executive/steering committee chair for the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ASABE)'s Power and Machinery Division; and

**WHEREAS**, he served his profession as associate editor of the Power and Machinery Division of Transactions of the ASABE for over 20 years; and

**WHEREAS**, he received many professional honors and awards, including Fellow Member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers; and

**WHEREAS**, he provided many years of distinguished contributions to the department, the college, and the university through dedicated service on numerous commissions and committees;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Robert D. Grisso, Jr., for his distinguished service to the university with the title of Professor Emeritus of Biological Systems Engineering.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution recommending Robert D. Grisso, Jr., Ph.D. for emeritus status be approved.

August 31, 2021

## **RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS**

**WHEREAS**, beginning in 1994 and continuing for 27 years, John J. “Jack” Lesko, Ph.D. has faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics, the Department of Bioengineering and Mechanics, and the Department of Mechanical Engineering; as associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Engineering; and as faculty administrative fellow and special assistant to the Office of the Vice President for Research; and

**WHEREAS**, he made significant contributions in the engineering, entrepreneurial education, and interdisciplinary aspects of fiber reinforced polymer composites, polymer physics, viscoelasticity, materials and adhesion mechanics, processing, mechanics, structures, strength, life, durability, and reliability; and

**WHEREAS**, he ably served the department, college, university, profession, and community as a member, advisory board member, board of directors member, and leader of a number of task forces, working groups, committees, and councils; and

**WHEREAS**, he supported and helped lead the College of Engineering’s outreach in terms of technology transfer and entrepreneurship, development, and the establishment of international relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, with dedication, he taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses ranging across the engineering mechanics curriculum, placing strong emphasis on standards and student learning; and

**WHEREAS**, he advised numerous M.S. and Ph.D. students and helped them develop successful careers in both academic and industrial settings;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. John J. “Jack” Lesko for his distinguished service to the university with the title Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution recommending John J. “Jack” Lesko, Ph.D. for emeritus status be approved.

August 31, 2021

## **RESOLUTION FOR EMERITA STATUS**

**WHEREAS**, for over 18 years, Deborah G. Tatar, Ph.D. faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Department of Computer Science in the College of Engineering and the Department of Psychology, by courtesy, in the College of Science; and

**WHEREAS**, she made significant contributions to computer science through her work on human-computer interaction, computer-supported collaborative learning, educational equity, participatory design of technology, and computational thinking; and

**WHEREAS**, with dedication, she taught multiple undergraduate and graduate courses; and

**WHEREAS**, she directed nine Ph.D. students, numerous M.S. students and served on many M.S. and Ph.D. committees; and

**WHEREAS**, she was principal or co-principal investigator on grants ranging from researching human agency in technology to middle-school learning of computational thinking through chemistry modeling; and

**WHEREAS**, through her collaborative work with colleagues across the world in Great Britain, Denmark, Korea, Spain, and Ecuador, she brought international visibility to Virginia Tech; and

**WHEREAS**, she authored or co-authored over 100 research publications, 16 book chapters, one book, and one patent; and

**WHEREAS**, she worked tirelessly to promote gender diversity in computing, particularly through 15 years as advisor to the Virginia Tech chapter of the Association for Women in Computing, the annual Women in Computing Day, and as affiliate of the program for Women and Gender Studies; and

**WHEREAS**, she mentored several students who become faculty at other institutions where they have continued and expanded upon her unique vision of the potential for enhancing human agency through technology; and

**WHEREAS**, she provided over 30 years of service as a reviewer for many professional publications and in senior organizing positions for top-tier international conferences; and

**WHEREAS**, she provided many years of distinguished contributions to the department, the college, and the university through dedicated service on many committees;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors recognize Dr. Deborah G. Tatar for her distinguished service to the university with the title of Professor Emerita of Computer Science and, by courtesy, Psychology.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution recommending Deborah G. Tatar, Ph.D. for emerita status be approved.

August 31, 2021

## **RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS**

**WHEREAS**, for over 36 years, Jim Garrison, Ph.D., faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the foundations of education program in the School of Education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, he made significant contributions that brought international visibility to Virginia Tech through his work in the philosophy of education, particularly as an internationally renowned scholar of John Dewey's philosophy; and

**WHEREAS**, he has been a visiting scholar at universities in Brazil, Denmark, Germany, and Sweden, and he received an honorary doctorate from Soka University of Japan; and

**WHEREAS**, he authored or co-authored 14 books, 166 refereed book chapters and journal articles, 46 refereed articles in proceedings, 44 non-refereed book chapters, and numerous reviews and newsletter and newspaper articles, with more in press, and his work has been translated into ten languages; and

**WHEREAS**, he has presented over 500 papers at various conferences internationally, nationally, regionally, and in Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, he received many professional honors and awards, including the Hiroshima Peace Award; the Medal of Highest Honor, Soka University, Tokyo, Japan; the Institute of Oriental Philosophy Scholarship Award, Tokyo, Japan; the John Dewey Society Career Achievement Award; the Jim Merritt Award for his scholarship in the philosophy of education; awards from both the School of Education and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences for excellence in research; and was named a Virginia Tech Board of Visitors National Scholar of Merit; and

**WHEREAS**, he held numerous leadership positions in professional organizations, including as president of the Society of Professors of Education, the John Dewey Society, the Philosophy of Education Society, and the Virginia Educational Studies Association; and

**WHEREAS**, he served on the editorial boards of 14 scholarly journals, reviewed manuscripts for 27 publishers and journals, and served frequently in reviewing for grants and awards; and

**WHEREAS**, he ably served the United States in the Marine Corps; and

**WHEREAS**, with dedication, he taught 15 different graduate courses ranging across the foundations of education curriculum, placing strong emphasis on standards and student learning, and earning the College of Education Teacher of the Year Award; and

**WHEREAS**, he advised numerous students on M.A. and Ph.D. dissertations and helped them develop successful careers; and

**WHEREAS**, he provided many years of distinguished contributions to the department,

college, and university through dedicated service on numerous committees;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Jim Garrison, for his distinguished service to the university with the title Professor Emeritus.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution recommending Jim Garrison, Ph.D., for emeritus status be approved.

August 31, 2021

## RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS

**WHEREAS**, for 50 years, Joseph C. Pitt, Ph.D., faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Department of Philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, he made significant contributions to the discipline of philosophy through his work in the history and philosophy of science and technology; and

**WHEREAS**, he was instrumental in advancing interdisciplinarity at the university as founding director of both the Center for the Study of Science in Society and the Humanities, Science and Technology Program, in spearheading the establishment of the ASPECT (Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought) Ph.D. program, and in developing a curriculum in engineering ethics; and

**WHEREAS**, with dedication, he taught and lectured in hundreds of undergraduate and graduate courses in philosophy, placing strong emphasis on high standards for student learning; and

**WHEREAS**, he directed 32 M.A. students in philosophy, 40 M.A and Ph.D. students in Science, Technology, and Society (STS), 5 Ph.D. students in ASPECT, and served on another 28 M.A. and Ph.D. committees; and

**WHEREAS**, through his work in the history and philosophy of science and technology, he brought international visibility to Virginia Tech; and

**WHEREAS**, he authored or edited 17 books, authored or co-authored over 85 refereed journal articles or book chapters, and authored 39 reviews or popular pieces; and

**WHEREAS**, he held leadership positions in several professional organizations and editorial boards, and served as editor of multiple journals, including *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology*; and

**WHEREAS**, he received many university awards for excellence in research, teaching, and advising; and

**WHEREAS**, he provided many years of distinguished contributions to the department, college, and university through dedicated service on numerous committees and multiple terms as head of the Department of Philosophy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Joseph C. Pitt for his distinguished service to the university with the title Professor Emeritus of Philosophy.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution recommending Joseph C. Pitt, Ph.D., for emeritus status be approved.

August 31, 2021

## **RESOLUTION FOR EMERITA STATUS**

**WHEREAS**, for over 22 years, Gresilda (“Kris”) Tilley-Lubbs, Ph.D., faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in both the Foundations of Education program and the English as a Second Language (ESL) and Multicultural Education program in the School of Education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, with dedication, she taught and lectured in undergraduate and graduate courses; and

**WHEREAS**, she directed or co-directed the completed dissertations of 16 Ph.D. students, and served on nine other Ph.D. committees; and

**WHEREAS**, she was principal or co-principal investigator on external grants totaling over \$970,000 to aid Latino communities in developing ESL and literacy skills; and

**WHEREAS**, through her work in ESL, critical pedagogy, and especially critical autoethnography methods she brought international visibility to Virginia Tech; and

**WHEREAS**, she authored or co-authored three books, 28 refereed journal articles, 18 book chapters, and numerous reviews, newsletter and newspaper articles, and translations, with more in press; and

**WHEREAS**, she served as a visiting scholar at both the Universidade da Caruna, Spain, and Instituto de Pedagogia Critica in Chihuahua, Mexico; served as external member on doctoral committees at institutions in Mexico, Canada, Australia, and other institutions in the United States; in editorial and reviewer positions for well-respected publishers and journals; as external tenure reviewer for institutions across the United States; and for numerous community and regional service committees and organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, she held leadership positions in professional organizations, including the American Educational Research Association, the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, the Governor’s Virginia Latino Advisory Board, and the Foreign Language Association of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, she received many professional honors and awards, including Teacher of the Year for Roanoke County Schools in 1995; Teaching Excellence Award from Virginia Tech; the CLAHS Land Grant Scholar Award; and separate awards in diversity, outreach, and advising from the School of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, she provided many years of distinguished contributions to the department, the college, and the university through dedicated service on numerous commissions and committees;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Gresilda (“Kris”) Tilley-Lubbs for her distinguished service to the university with the title of Associate Professor Emerita of Education

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution recommending Gresilda (“Kris”) Tilley-Lubbs, Ph.D., for emerita status be approved.

August 31, 2021

## **RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS**

**WHEREAS**, for 25 years, Larry Thompson, M.S.L.S. faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the University Libraries; and

**WHEREAS**, he ably served the College of Engineering faculty and students by providing in-depth research consultations, high quality instructional sessions, and ensuring access to information sources to support and enhance the degree programs and research initiatives of the college; and

**WHEREAS**, he was a leader in the American Society for Engineering Education's Engineering Libraries Division, presenting and organizing sessions at the annual conference for over 25 years, and received the Homer I. Bernhardt Distinguished Service Award for his many contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, he ably served the University Libraries in leadership positions focused on services to faculty, staff and student research needs including reference, instruction, and collection development; and

**WHEREAS**, he provided instrumental leadership and mentoring to the science and technology liaisons by leading the science and technology team for five years, and his influence continues through the liaisons who progressed their careers into leadership capacities; and

**WHEREAS**, he served the University Libraries and the University in leadership of and membership on numerous committees and councils, and provided mentorship and support for library faculty in continued appointment review and promotion processes; and

**WHEREAS**, he continually sought methods for improving access to and promotion of library resources to facilitate positive user experiences, and

**WHEREAS**, he co-taught the engineering and physical sciences section of the GRAD 5124 Library Research Skills course for over 15 years and contributed to the regular updating and revision of core material for all course sections; and

**WHEREAS**, he authored or co-authored over seven journal articles, presentations, and series with a focus of enhancing methods of teaching students to locate, evaluate, and use engineering information.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Professor Larry Thompson for his distinguished service to the university with the title Associate Professor Emeritus of University Libraries.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution recommending Professor Larry Thompson, M.S.L.S. for emeritus status be approved.

August 31, 2021