

RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE VIRGINIA TECH'S PLAN TO ESTABLISH AN INNOVATION CAMPUS IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, President Sands, in his 2014 Inauguration Address, laid out his binary star vision, which included a long-term plan to expand Virginia Tech's 50-year presence in Northern Virginia by creating a campus there. This plan became a cornerstone of the Commonwealth of Virginia's proposal for Northern Virginia to become the site for Amazon's HQ2, and now has been fast-tracked as a result of Amazon's decision to establish one of its two new headquarters at National Landing, and the company's attendant need for talent to fill the 25,000 jobs that it expects to create; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus in Alexandria, Virginia, less than two miles from Amazon's new headquarters at National Landing is a historic investment that will transform Virginia's high-tech economy by providing a pipeline of talent to industry and is a natural extension of the university's commitment to drive economic development throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Innovation Campus is envisioned to be a global center of technology excellence and talent production where students, faculty, and industry leaders foster new ideas, support scaling of startups, and collaborate with corporations around the world to transfer technologies into the marketplace and further enhance the university's academic and research programs; and.

WHEREAS, the most significant elements of the plan include:

- A one-million-square foot campus located along U.S. Route 1 in Alexandria, Virginia, that will include space for classrooms, R&D facilities, business incubators, student and faculty housing, and retail and support spaces.
- Commitments by Virginia Tech and the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide \$250 million each (a 1:1 match) over the next 20 years to seed the project that is expected to exceed \$1 billion in revenues and expenditures over that period.
- Graduate-degree programs and research opportunities focusing on computational sciences and engineering; data science, analytics, and collective decisions; security and the internet of things; and technology and policy.
- Hosting 500 master's degree students within five years and at scale enrolling 750 master's degree candidates and training hundreds of doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows.
- Integration with and benefits to the Blacksburg and Roanoke campuses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University hereby reaffirms President Sands' binary star vision and endorses the plan to create an Innovation Campus in Alexandria, Virginia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the President and his designees to provide regular, detailed progress reports at each Board meeting and more frequently when appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all matters within the purview of the Board of Visitors including but not limited to the creation of new degrees, substantive changes for accreditation, budget, tuition and fees, real estate, debt financing, capital outlay, and building designs will be brought to the Board for its approval at the appropriate times.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution reaffirming President Sands' binary star vision and endorsing the creation of the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in Alexandria, Virginia, be approved.

November 26, 2018