

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REORGANIZING  
THE COLLEGES OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN STUDIES, ENGINEERING,  
AND LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES  
AND TO APPROVE RENAMING THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND  
URBAN STUDIES AS THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, ARTS, AND DESIGN**

**WHEREAS**, the current organization of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, in place since 2003, no longer reflects the integration and disciplinary strengths of all of the programs in the college as they have evolved; and

**WHEREAS**, aligning the arts, design, and architecture programs in one college affords administrative efficiencies and enhanced opportunities for transdisciplinary research, creative productions, instruction, and engagement and outreach across associated arts, design, and architecture disciplines (see background information included below); and

**WHEREAS**, the Myers-Lawson School of Construction (MLSoC), currently a joint school in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the College of Engineering, is more closely aligned in research, instruction, and engagement and outreach with the integration and disciplinary strengths of the Department of Civil Engineering and other departments in the College of Engineering; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Public and International Affairs, currently housed in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, is more closely aligned in research, instruction, and engagement and outreach with the integration and disciplinary strengths of the Department of Political Science and other departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, the School of Performing Arts, currently housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, is more closely aligned in creative scholarship, instructional modalities, and engagement and outreach activities with the arts, design, and architecture schools in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies; and

**WHEREAS**, the architecture and design programs, currently housed together in the School of Architecture + Design, will be better served in separate schools, a School of Architecture and a School of Design, respectively, with individual missions and foci, as well as enhanced opportunities to recruit faculty and students, secure donor funding and student internships, and develop websites and marketing materials specific to their respective disciplines; and

**WHEREAS**, degree programs would not be changed in transferring them to different colleges; and

**WHEREAS**, faculty rank and tenure status would not be changed in transferring schools to different colleges; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost to the university would be minimal as budgets, staff, and other resources would be reallocated to correspond with the transfer of programs across colleges; and

**WHEREAS**, the name of the reorganized college should reflect the disciplines housed within it;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Colleges of Architecture and Urban Studies, Engineering, and Liberal Arts and Human Sciences be reorganized by transferring the Myers Lawson School of Construction to the College of Engineering; the School of Public and International Affairs to the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and the School of Performing Arts to the College of Architecture and Urban Studies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the restructured College of Architecture and Urban Studies will include the School of Architecture, the School of Design, the School of Performing Arts, and the School of Visual Arts; and

**LASTLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that the College of Architecture and Urban Studies be renamed the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design to reflect the disciplines included in the new organization, with these changes effective upon approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the resolution restructuring the Colleges of Architecture and Urban Studies, Engineering, and Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and renaming the College of Architecture and Urban Studies as the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design be approved, effective upon approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

Approved April 4, 2022

## **Background for Resolution on College Restructuring and Renaming of College of Architecture and Urban Studies**

In the years following the 2003 college reorganizations, Virginia Tech's programs have continued to evolve. The proposed restructurings detailed in this resolution reflect many of these changes. None of the proposed school transfers affect extant degree plans; all degrees will be transferred with their existing schools. All faculty will transfer in their current schools to new colleges with their current rank and tenure status. All proposed changes are cost-neutral since budgetary and staff resources will follow each school to its proposed college location.

Since its inception as a school housed in both the Colleges of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) and Engineering (COE), the Myers-Lawson School of Construction (MLSoC) has been one of only three schools of construction in the United States that offer both engineering and non-engineering construction degrees. The degree programs in building construction and real estate have been housed in CAUS and the degree programs in civil and environmental engineering and environmental design and planning have been housed in COE. The proposed transfer of MLSoC entirely to the College of Engineering will achieve administrative efficiencies, better facilitate research and instructional collaboration among faculty across building construction and civil engineering disciplines, and offer students additional opportunities to pursue transdisciplinary undergraduate research and industry internships across these related disciplines.

Currently housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS), the School of Performing Arts (SOPA), with its programs in theatre arts/cinema and music, has modes of instruction and creative activities that closely align with those that prevail in CAUS. Many SOPA faculty regularly collaborate with faculty in the CAUS School of Visual Arts on multi-faceted artistic productions and research. The proposed realignment of SOPA in CAUS will strengthen these ties for both faculty and students. The administrative efficiencies to be gained reflect the shared spaces for the visual and performing arts embedded in the university's Master Plan for the Creativity and Innovation District.

Over the last five decades, programs in the CAUS School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), including Government and International Affairs, Urban Affairs and Planning, and Public Administration and Policy, have established strong national reputations and highly productive collaborations with faculty in CLAHS. An emphasis on arts, design, and architecture in the proposed restructuring of CAUS provides compelling reasons to move SPIA to CLAHS. This transfer offers opportunities to amplify greatly the depth and scope of Virginia Tech's strengths in national and cyber security, foreign affairs, public policy, urban planning, and environmental and climate justice. Adding a broadly construed stakeholder committee to SPIA's governance structure will formalize extant partnerships and curricular interconnections with CLAHS departments and research centers focusing on related scholarship and teaching. The proposed realignment will strengthen opportunities for undergraduate and graduate experiential learning and internships across the Blacksburg, Richmond, and Arlington campuses.

To accurately reflect the mission of the proposed restructured college, CAUS will be renamed the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design. Please see summary schematic below.

## Summary Schematic for Resolution on College Restructuring and Renaming of College of Architecture and Urban Studies

