

SUMMARY

Emeritus/Emerita Faculty Resolutions (4)

August 19, 2025

The title of emeritus or emerita is conferred on retired Virginia Tech faculty members, as defined in chapter 2 of the Faculty Handbook, who have made exemplary contributions to the university and are recommended to the Board of Visitors for approval by the provost and president.

The following faculty members are recommended for emeritus or emerita designation at Virginia Tech.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (1)

James W. Knight

Professor Emeritus of Animal Sciences

College of Science (1)

Thomas H. Woteki

Professor of Practice Emeritus and
Founding Director Emeritus of the
Academy of Data Science

Honors College (1)

Paul Knox

Dean Emeritus of the Honors College and
University Distinguished Professor Emeritus
of Urban Affairs and Planning

Admin (1)

Rachel L. Holloway

Vice Provost Emerita for Undergraduate
Academic Affairs

RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS

WHEREAS, for 49 years, James W. Knight, Ph.D. faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Department of Animal Science, the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, and the School of Animal Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS); and

WHEREAS, he made significant research contributions to the area of reproductive biology in pigs, specifically in uterine and placental function, and in *in vitro* porcine oocyte maturation, fertilization and embryo growth and development, resulting in more than 200 peer-reviewed scientific abstracts and journal publications; and

WHEREAS, he taught an undergraduate course in reproductive biology throughout his entire career to more than 8,000 students; and

WHEREAS, he co-authored a book entitled: *Preventing Birth: Contemporary Methods and Related Moral Controversies*, which was selected by *Choice* magazine of the American Library Association as one of the Outstanding Academic Books for 1990-1991; and

WHEREAS, he was a highly distinguished educator, receiving numerous honors including the inaugural Diggs Teaching Scholar Award, the W.E. Wine Award, the CALS Certificate of Teaching Excellence, the Virginia Tech Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award of Merit, the Southern Region United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Excellence in College and University Teaching Award, and induction into both the Academy of Teaching Excellence and the Academy of Faculty Service at Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, he served as a permanent member of the departmental Promotion and Tenure Committee, successfully mentoring a vast majority of junior faculty through the process, and conducting the majority of teaching evaluations of the academic unit; and

WHEREAS, he served on numerous grant review panels, including those for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other funding agencies; and

WHEREAS, he served as the founding director of the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, he provided many years of distinguished contributions to the department, college, and university through dedicated service on numerous committees, notably serving as chair of the Animal and Poultry Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Promotion and Tenure committees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. James W. Knight for his distinguished service to the university with the title of Professor Emeritus of Animal Sciences.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution recommending James W. Knight, Ph.D. for emeritus status be approved.

August 20, 2025

RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS

WHEREAS, for over six years, Thomas H. Woteki, Ph.D. faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Academy of Data Science and in the College of Science; and

WHEREAS, he directed the part-time Master of Arts degree program in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics in Northern Virginia, offering vital education pathways for mid-career professionals seeking to advance their expertise in data analytics; and

WHEREAS, he mentored 28 students to the successful completion of the Master of Arts degree in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics; and

WHEREAS, he provided significant leadership as the founding director of the Academy of Data Science in the College of Science, guiding its establishment as a university-wide, transdisciplinary hub integrating education, research, and community engagement in data science; and

WHEREAS, working closely with faculty, he led the development and approval of the new interdisciplinary Master of Science degree in Data Science, launching in fall semester of 2025, which integrates curriculum from mathematics, statistics, and computer science, prepares students for success in our modern data-driven workforce; and

WHEREAS, he demonstrated dedicated service in promoting research and scholarship through Academy initiatives such as the Data Science Faculty Fellowships and the Academy of Data Science Discovery Fund, which fostered faculty development, collaboration, and student engagement in innovative data science research; and

WHEREAS, he demonstrated a commitment to the principles of *Ut Prosim* in all his work with students and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, with dedication, he taught a variety of graduate-level statistics courses emphasizing high standards and student learning and success; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, he provided distinguished contributions to the Academy of Data Science, the college, and the university through serving on numerous internal and external committees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Thomas H. Woteki for his distinguished service to the university with the title of Professor of Practice Emeritus and Founding Director Emeritus of the Academy of Data Science.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution recommending Thomas H. Woteki, Ph.D. for emeritus status be approved.

August 20, 2025

RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS

WHEREAS, for over 40 years, Paul Knox, Ph.D. faithfully served Virginia Tech as a faculty member in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning; as University Distinguished Professor, as dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, dean of the Honors College, interim director of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, and interim executive director of the Calhoun Honors Discovery Program; and

WHEREAS, he has made exceptional contributions to the field of Urban Affairs by authoring more than 25 books, which have won multiple national awards and been translated into nine languages around the world; and

WHEREAS, he has also contributed to the field of Urban Affairs in publishing more than 100 articles and book chapters, and by serving on the editorial board of seven international journals; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, he was appointed as a University Distinguished Professor, the highest distinction a professor can attain at the university, bestowed upon members of the university faculty whose scholarly attainments have attracted national and international recognition; and

WHEREAS, he served as dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies from 1997 to 2006, during which time he established several new schools and programs, expanded international partnerships, and advanced the college's research reputation, leading the college to be placed as one of top five colleges of its kind in the nation in terms of research funding; and

WHEREAS, he served as a senior fellow for international development and was responsible for the renovation and expansion, academic programming, and administration of the Steger Center for International Scholarship in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland; and

WHEREAS, he personally established an undergraduate study-abroad scholarship to support Honors College students with demonstrated financial need who plan to study abroad at the Steger Center; and

WHEREAS, he founded numerous programs, including the Myers-Lawson School of Construction, the former School of Architecture + Design, the School of Public and International Affairs, the Virginia Tech Global Forum on Urban and Regional Resilience, and the Honors College; and

WHEREAS, he served as a senior fellow and led the long-term planning process that produced the university's 2012-18 strategic vision: *A Plan for a New Horizon* which emphasized enhancing research and innovation; fostering creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking; and positioning Virginia Tech as a dynamic and distinctive community; and

WHEREAS, as founding dean of the Honor's College, he transformed the former University Honors Program into a nationally recognized college with innovative curricular structure and pedagogy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Paul Knox for his distinguished service to the university with the title of Dean Emeritus of the Honors College and University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Urban Affairs and Planning.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution recommending Paul Knox, Ph.D. for emeritus status be approved.

August 20, 2025

RESOLUTION FOR EMERITA STATUS

WHEREAS, for 36 years, Rachel L. Holloway, Ph.D. faithfully served Virginia Tech as an undergraduate program coordinator, faculty member in the Department of Communication, assistant department head and department head in the Department of Communication, associate dean for Undergraduate Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and as vice provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs; and

WHEREAS, she served as a teacher, advisor, and mentor to hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students across her 36-year career at Virginia Tech and has distinguished herself and Virginia Tech through her research on political communication and issue management; and

WHEREAS, from 2002 to 2009 she served Virginia Tech as head of the Department of Communication, overseeing the creation of a new master's degree in communication; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 she was appointed as associate dean for undergraduate academic affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, ably offering guidance in undergraduate research, scholarship awards and university initiatives; and

WHEREAS, since 2013 she has served as vice provost for undergraduate academic affairs, leading sweeping general education reform and championed other initiatives such as First-Year Experience courses, academic advising innovation, and the integrated experiential learning requirement, all of which have dramatically transformed undergraduate education at the university; and

WHEREAS, her strategic approach to creating a structure for experiential and engaged learning has, and will, continue to impact Virginia Tech students long after they graduate; and

WHEREAS, her leadership of a multiyear overhaul of the undergraduate general education curriculum culminated in the launch of Pathways General Education, which is now the foundational academic experience shared by all undergraduates, who choose from a wide variety of courses to learn core concepts in thinking, reasoning, and analysis across the disciplines; and

WHEREAS, her support of Virginia Tech's First Year Experience program has transformed it into a hallmark of the Hokie experience with 85 percent of first year and transfer students completing one of its 183 discipline-based sections; and

WHEREAS, her collaborations with colleagues across the university in her quest to make undergraduate education more supportive of and accessible to an increasingly diverse student body became a central tenet of Virginia Tech Advantage; and

WHEREAS, her mentorship and facilitation of conversations around student achievement has led to the central role of academic advisors, academic counselors, and faculty in

supporting undergraduates, and fostered the implementation of the Navigate platform to create a coordinated care network among advisors across the university; and

WHEREAS, her leadership and advocacy for students has profoundly shaped the undergraduate experience at Virginia Tech and distinguished our university as a model for student-centered learning; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as vice provost she led and implemented a revision to the undergraduate honor code, adopting a learning-centered approach to academic integrity, expanded support services and programming for students to promote their timely progress to degree, and transitioned career and professional development into undergraduate academic affairs as part of the holistic approach to student success; and

WHEREAS, she served on the executive board and as president of the Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities (UERU), a coalition of her counterparts at 135 schools nationwide; and

WHEREAS, she received the 2025 Leadership Award from the Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities, the highest honor bestowed by the UERU Board in recognition of her extraordinary volunteer service to the organization; and

WHEREAS, her steadfast commitment to and passion for service and student support has shaped the Hokie experience for generations of Virginia Tech undergraduates; and

WHEREAS, the student-focused legacy Dr. Holloway leaves at Virginia Tech and her outstanding career achievements will have a lasting impact on past, current, and future undergraduate students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Rachel L. Holloway for her distinguished serviced to the university with the title of Vice Provost Emerita for Undergraduate Academic Affairs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution recommending Rachel L. Holloway, Ph.D. for emerita status be approved.

August 20, 2025