# Virginia Tech Board of Visitors Meeting

## Information Session

**Monday, June 5, 2023**
**2:00 p.m.**

**New Classroom Building, Room 260**
**Virginia Tech Campus**

**Transportation and Parking**
- Ms. Lynsay Belshe, Vice President for Auxiliary and Business Services

**Innovation Campus**
- Dr. Lance Collins, Vice President and Executive Director for the Innovation Campus

**Virginia Tech Advantage**
- Dr. Menah Pratt, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity
- Dr. Matthew Holt, Agricultural and Applied Economics Department Head

**Constituent Reports**
- Mr. Jamal Ross, Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board
- Ms. Anna Buhle, Graduate Student Representative to the Board
- Ms. Serena Young, Staff Representative to the Board
- Ms. Holli Drewry, Administrative and Professional Faculty Representative to the Board
- Dr. Robert Weiss, Faculty Representative to the Board

# TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING - Blacksburg Campus

## LYNSAY BELSHE, VICE PRESIDENT FOR AUXILIARY AND BUSINESS SERVICES

# Comprehensive approach to transportation services



## PARKING SERVICES

- Manages 14,255 parking spaces on the Blacksburg campus



## FLEET SERVICES

- Manages university rental fleet of approximately 120 state vehicles

- Employees and students can reserve vehicles for business purposes on a daily or long-term basis



## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

- Hokie Bike Hub, Heads up Hokies, Blacksburg Transit, Mass Transit (Smart Way, Smart Way Express, Radford Transit, Virginia Breeze, OurBus, and College Transit), Ride Solutions, and Amtrak
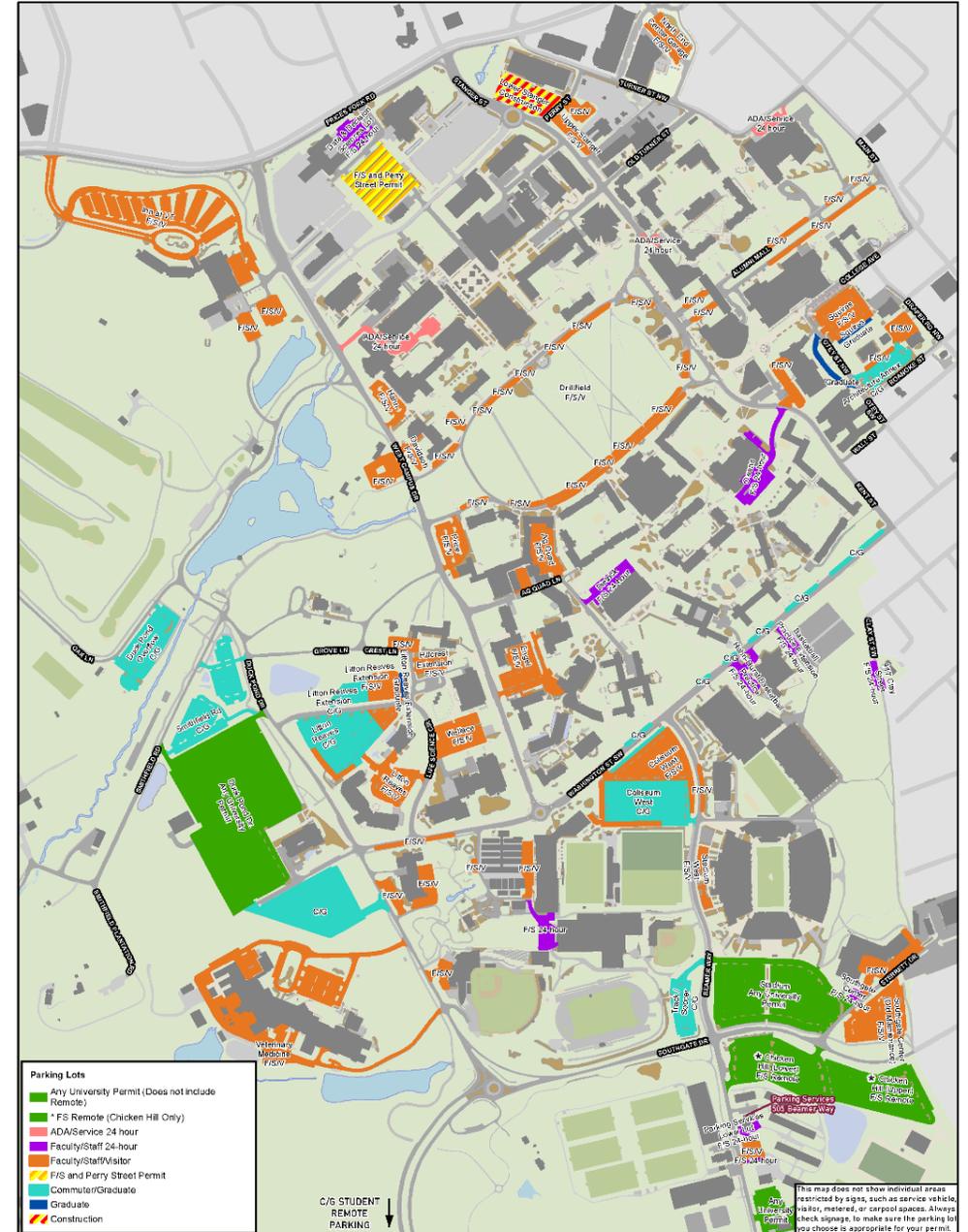


## AIR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- Coordinates air transportation for Virginia Tech business-related matters

# Current state reflects intentional master plan goals

2016 Parking and Transportation Master Plan and the university wide Campus Master Plan of 2018 set guideposts for the future of parking and transportation on campus.



2023-2024 Virginia Tech Parking Map

# Build upon existing opportunities:

- Blacksburg Transit: Strong partnership, ridership, fleet upgrades

- Multi-Modal Transit Facility (MMTF) – construction underway

- Future of Work – hybrid work and enhanced commuting options
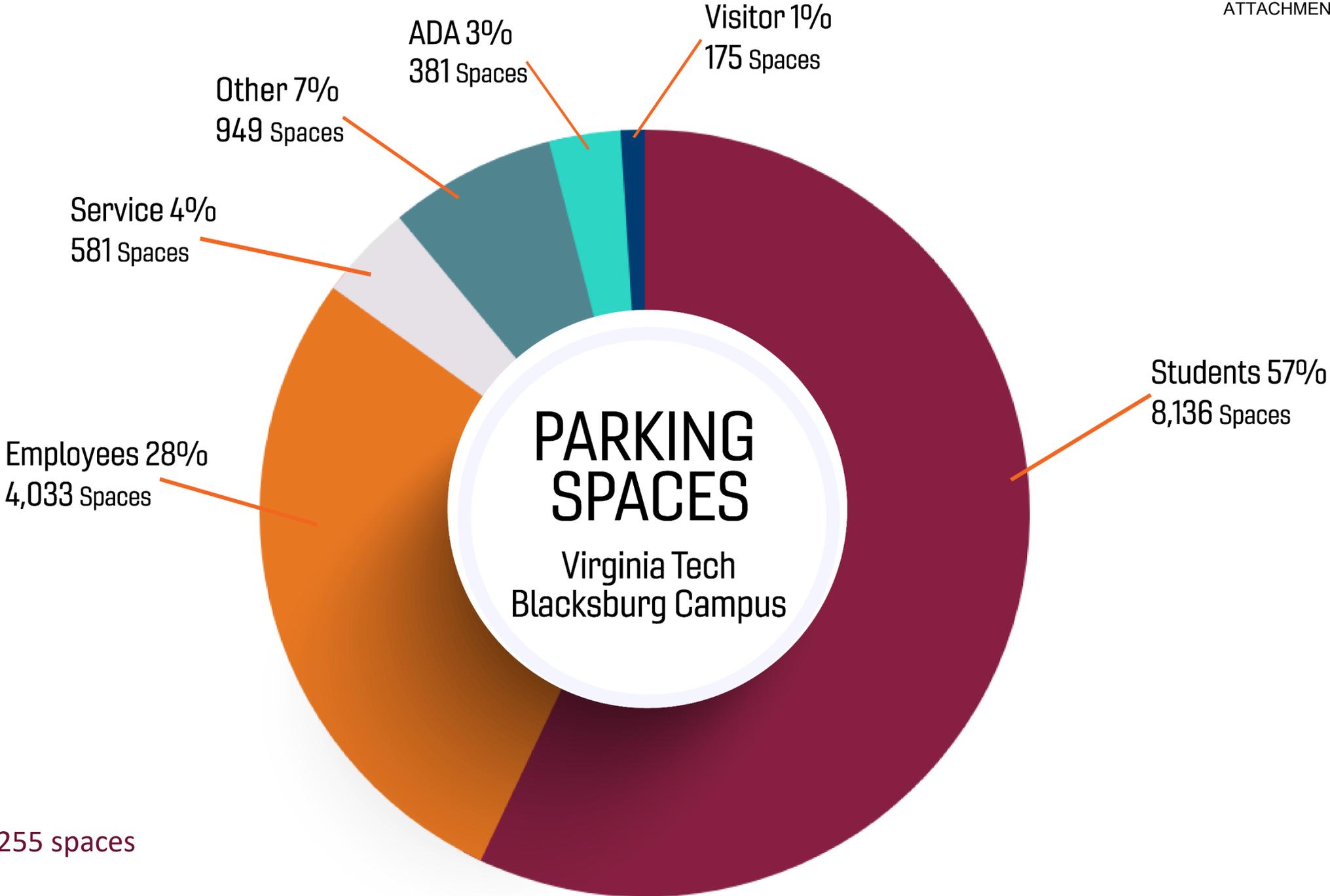
**GOAL 9**
**CLIMATE ACTION COMMITMENT**

Reduce single-occupancy-vehicle commuting to campus by 20% by 2025 and reduce transportation-related GHG emissions by 40% by 2030.

# PARKING SERVICES

- **University Auxiliary Unit:** 100% self-supporting through self generated revenue

- **Equitable** – user-based system, everyone who uses system supports financially

- Remote lot options provide cost-effective options

- Customer focus mindset

- Continuous Improvement

- 14,255 current parking spaces

- Approximately 700 spaces available each day.

Visitor 1%
175 Spaces

ADA 3%
381 Spaces

Other 7%
949 Spaces

Service 4%
581 Spaces

Employees 28%
4,033 Spaces

PARKING SPACES

Virginia Tech
Blacksburg Campus

Students 57%
8,136 Spaces

Total : 14,255 spaces

# Parking Evolution

- Over the past several years, multiple new facilities and major renovations to existing buildings have taken place throughout the North Academic District

- Construction of new academic facilities continues to reduce parking in the campus core

- Perry Street Garage opened in FY2012 in anticipation of planned growth

- Work to continually improve Virginia Tech's transportation systems on campus

**Blacksburg Campus**

Parking Spaces (2013–2022)
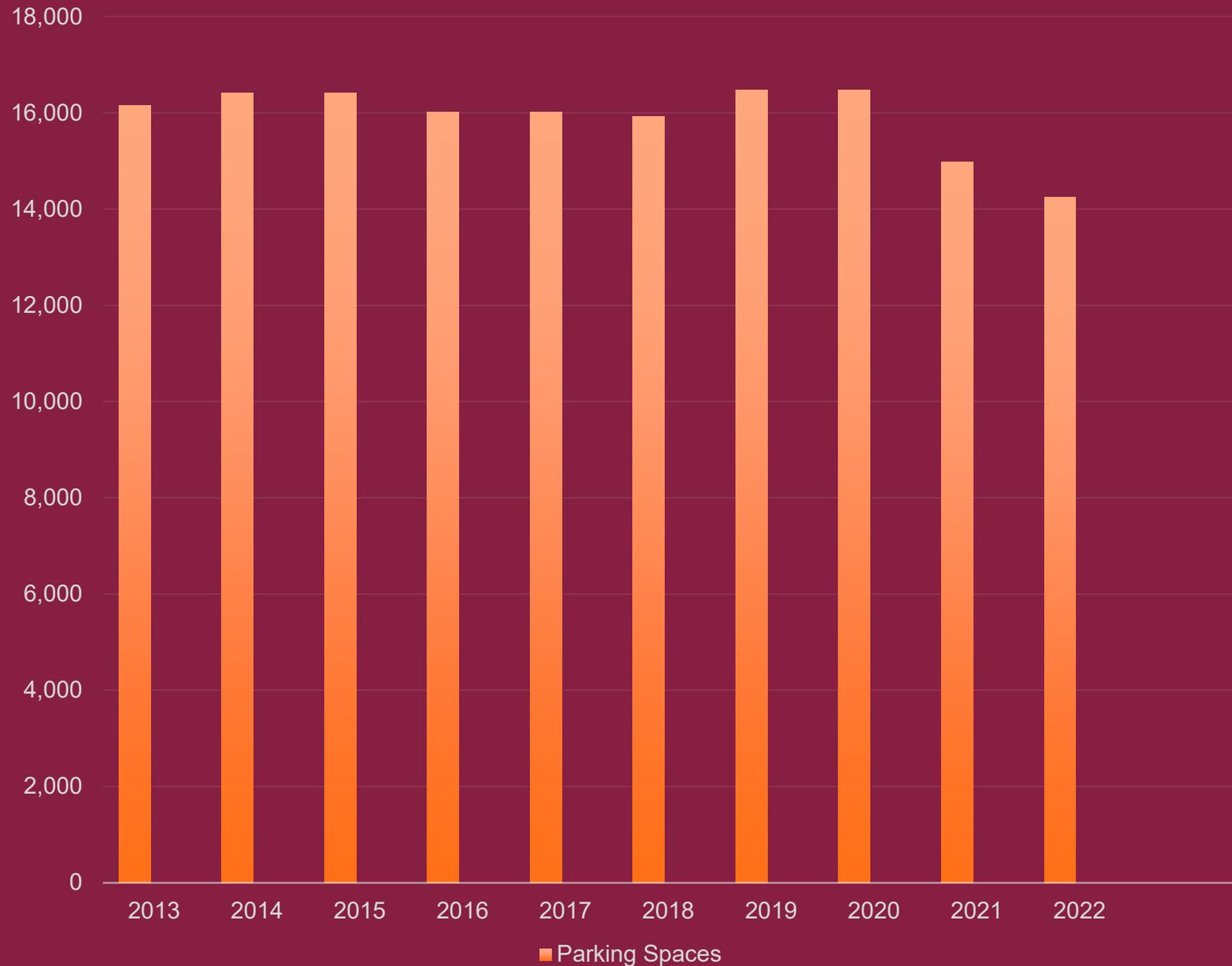
# Strategies to help offset parking displacement

- Use MMTF to improve movement to and around campus

- Continue focus on alternative transportation methods, including BT, walking, biking, carpool, vanpool

- Review and adjust garage access as needed by user type

- Future of Work – hybrid work arrangements and commuting options

- Continue shifting majority of commuter and graduate students to the periphery

- Future parking facility

Distance From Drillfield Center

0.25 mile

0.50 mile

0.75 mile

1 mile

Parking Spaces denoted in Gray

Structures are denoted in Maroon

Sustainable Transportation
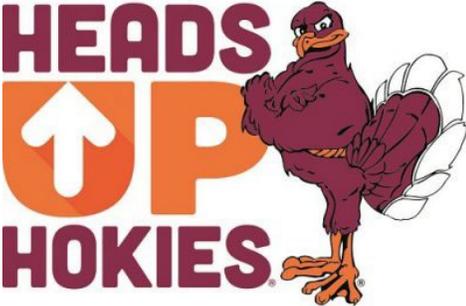
# Questions?

# *VIRGINIA TECH INNOVATION CAMPUS*

## LANCE COLLINS
## VP AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

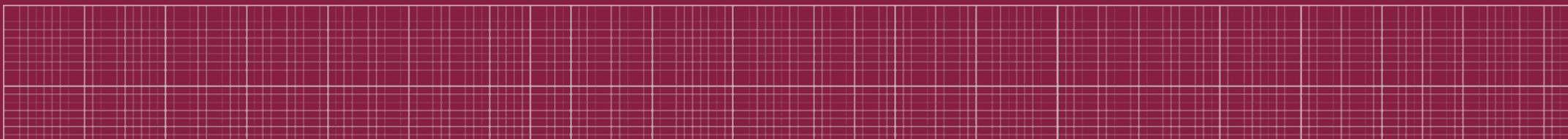*BOARD OF VISITORS MEETING*
*JUNE 5, 2023*

# 1

"

Faculty scholarship, faculty awards, global partnerships, competitive grant funding. Advancing in these areas not only helps us attract talent and compete with our peers, but it also enhances our impact on the communities we serve.

President Tim Sands
2023 State of the University Address

# TOP FACULTY

**Building Virginia Tech's faculty leadership in Northern Virginia.**

**Innovation Campus faculty are purpose-driven, industry-connected, and make up a distinct, action-oriented culture.**
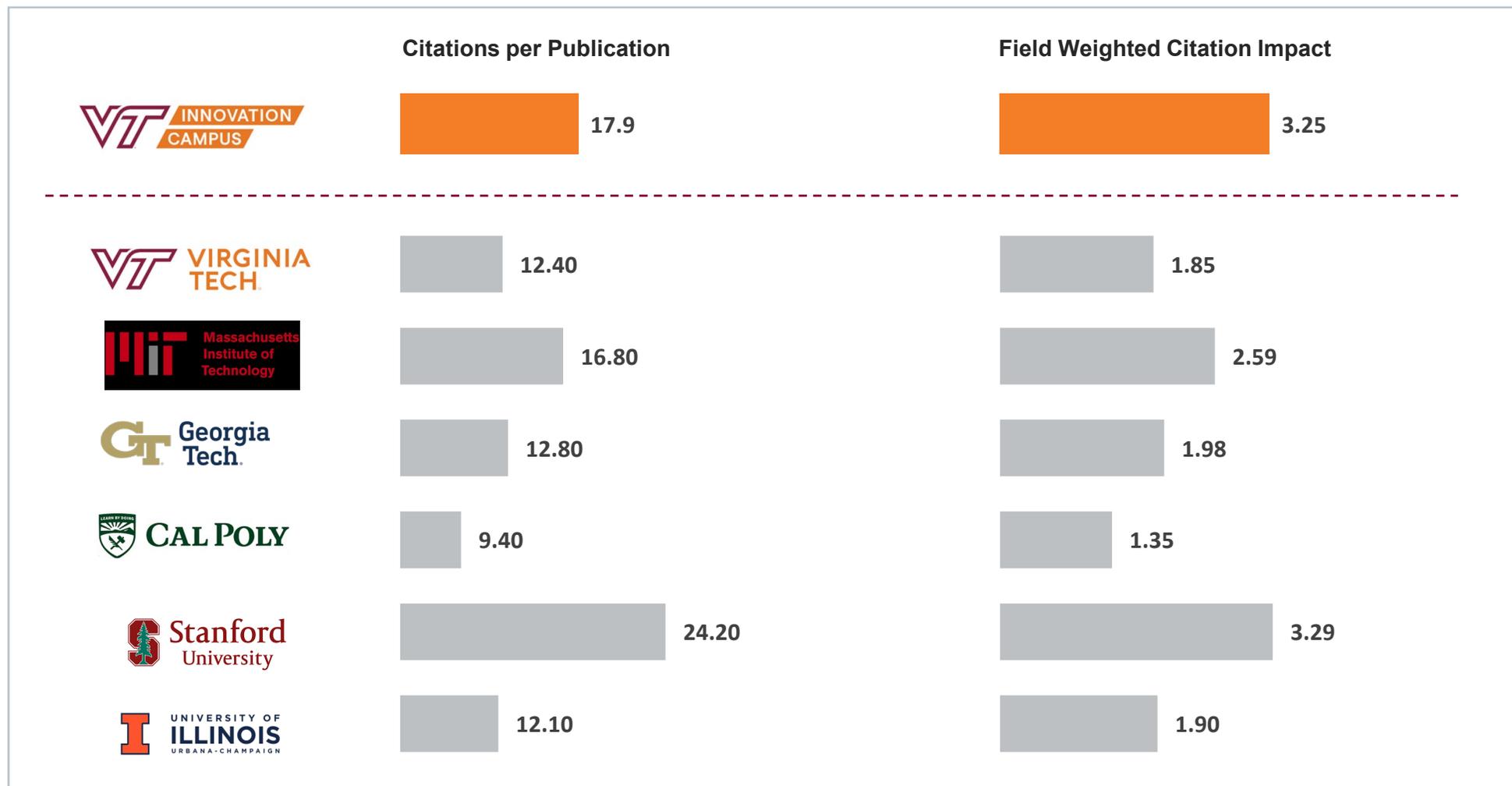
# RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

- **Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning**
- **Quantum Algorithms/Software**
- **Intelligent Interfaces**
- **Next Gen Wireless**
- **And More!**

4

# INNOVATION CAMPUS FACULTY ARE WORLD-CLASS

## Our faculty have publication impact commensurate with top institutions

| | Citations per Publication | Field Weighted Citation Impact |
|---|---|---|
| VT INNOVATION CAMPUS | 17.9 | 3.25 |
| VIRGINIA TECH | 12.40 | 1.85 |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology | 16.80 | 2.59 |
| Georgia Tech | 12.80 | 1.98 |
| CAL POLY | 9.40 | 1.35 |
| Stanford University | 24.20 | 3.29 |
| UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN | 12.10 | 1.90 |

FWCI=Field-Weighted Citation Impact, the ratio of the actual total citations vs expected total citations. Global average = 1. Comparison to Computer Science Departments

5

# FACULTY BRING STRONG COLLABORATORS TO INNOVATION CAMPUS
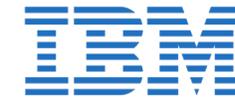
**The first IC faculty engage deeply with industry**

# FOUR EXTERNAL COLLEGIATE FACULTY HIRES



**REZA JAFARI**

**Collegiate Associate Professor of Computer Science**



**MELISSA CAMERON**

**Collegiate Associate Professor of Computer Science**



**TESSEMA MENGISTU**

**Collegiate Assistant Professor of Computer Science**



**ERIKA OLIMPIEW**

**Collegiate Associate Professor of Computer Science**

INNOVATION CAMPUS

# SENIOR HIRE: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING

- **Collaboration with Sanghani Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics**
- **Search Committee:**
  - **Naren Ramakrishnan (Chair),** AI/ML Lead, Innovation Campus
  - **Kirk Cameron,** Faculty Lead, Innovation Campus
  - **Walid Saad,** Wireless Lead, Innovation Campus
  - **Hoda Eldardiry,** College of Engineering
  - **Ruoxi Jia,** College of Engineering
  - **Chris North,** College of Engineering
- **Committee is reviewing candidates**

INNOVATION CAMPUS

8

# DIRECTOR: CENTER FOR QUANTUM ARCHITECTURE AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

- Collaboration with Northrop Grumman
- Search Firm – PSIRCH
  - **Shai Phillips**, President – personally overseeing search
- Search Committee:
  - **Lance Collins (Chair),** Vice President, Innovation Campus
  - **Ed Barnes**, Professor, College of Science and Center for Quantum Information Science & Engineering (VTQ)
  - **Kirk Cameron**, Faculty Lead, Innovation Campus
  - **John Morris**, Associate Dean for Research, College of Science
  - **Walid Saad**, Next-G Wireless Lead, Innovation Campus
  - **Wayne Scales**, Professor, College of Engineering
  - **Jamie Sikora**, Assistant Professor, College of Engineering
- Committee is reviewing candidates

INNOVATION CAMPUS

9

# MARQUEE HIRE FOR INTELLIGENT INTERFACES

- Collaboration with Boeing
- Search committee:
  - **Doug Bowman (Co-Chair)**, Professor of Computer Science and Director of the Center for Human-Computer Interaction
  - **Kurt Luther (Co-Chair)**, Associate Professor of Computer Science, Innovation Campus
  - **Joe Gabbard**, Associate Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering, College of Engineering
  - **Kirk Cameron**, Faculty Lead, Innovation Campus
- Committee is reviewing candidates
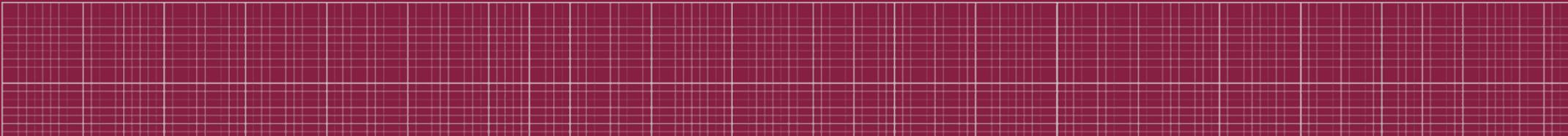
INNOVATION CAMPUS

# 2

"

A project-based curriculum is built around project work, where students – guided rather than directed, by faculty – gain responsibility for their own learning by tackling tangible, open-ended problems faced by real people – (not just hypothetical situations).

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

# UNIQUE GRADUATE EDUCATION

- **Master of Engineering**

- **Project-Based Education**

- **PhD/MS in a "Use-Inspired" Environment**

- **Post-Doctorate Appointments**

# INNOVATION CAMPUS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE



### KIRK CAMERON

**Professor of Computer Science and Faculty Lead, Innovation Campus**



### SARA HOOSHANGI

**Collegiate Associate Professor and Director of the Computer Science Master of Engineering Program, Innovation Campus**
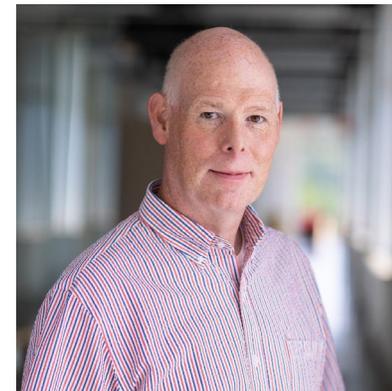


### VASSILIOS KOVANIS

**Collegiate Professor and Director of the Master of Engineering in Computer Engineering Program, Innovation Campus**



### JEREMI LONDON

**Associate Professor of Engineering Education, Innovation Campus**



### TIM TALTY

**Collegiate Professor and Director of Admissions, Masters of Engineering Program, Blacksburg**

13

# INNOVATING A PROJECT-BASED LEARNING CURRICULUM

## Our strategic plan calls for a radical approach to the role of projects in a curriculum

### M.Eng Foundational Coursework          +          M.Eng Project Work

**Online, Hybrid and In-Person**
Asynchronous online material and in-person contact tailored to content needs; students can work efficiently at their own place and pace

**Modular**
Modularized coursework to enable students to acquire skills just-in-time for when they are required. e.g., PBL skills Bootcamp

**Competency-Based**
Personalized learning experiences that allow students to invest directly into filling their specific knowledge gaps

Instructor of Record
15 FTEs

Students
750 across 180 teams

PBL Liaisons
6-8 FTEs

Faculty SME
35 FTEs

Corporate Mentors
1 per Team

Graduate TA
35 FTEs

INNOVATION CAMPUS

14
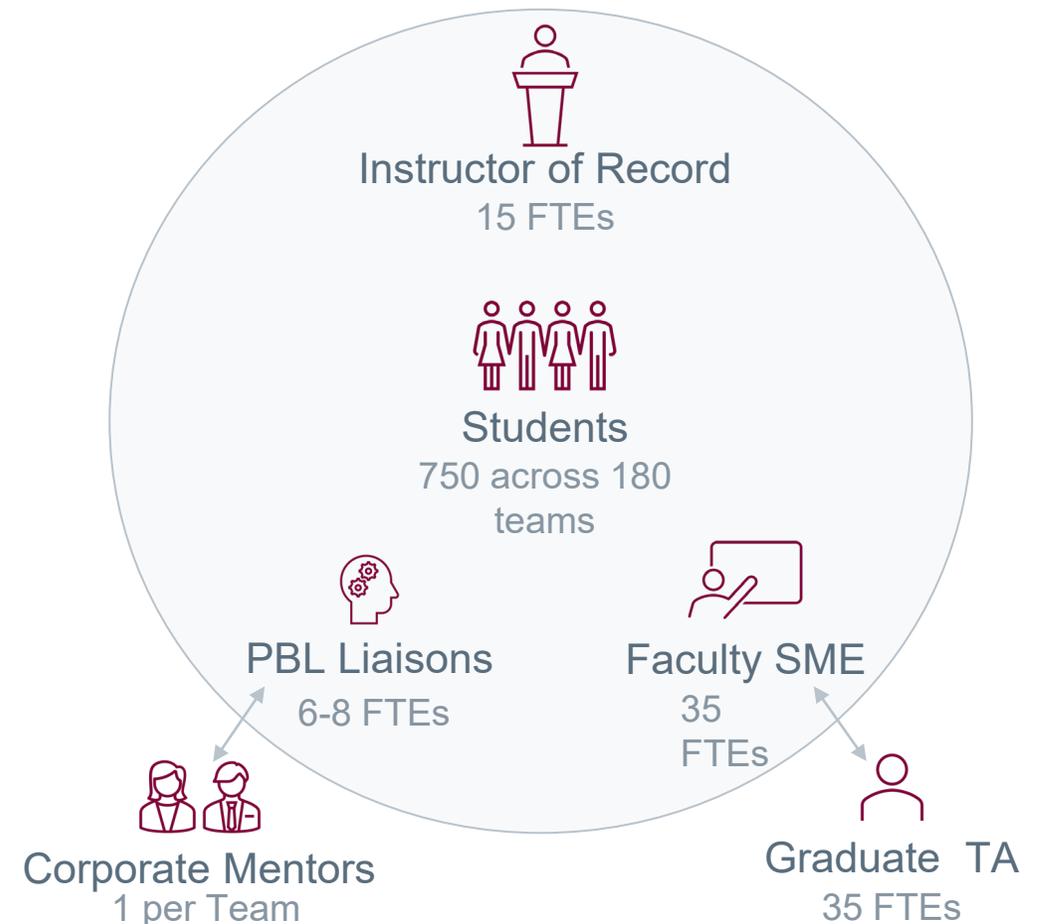
# M.ENG CURRICULUM: DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

**It goes beyond technical competencies to include personal and professional attributes of future leaders**

**Management Leadership**

**Entrepreneurial Mindset**

**Compelling Communication Skills**

**Interdisciplinary Exploration**

**Working Effectively In Diverse Teams**

**Realistic Work Life Experiences**

**Project Management**

# BODY OF EVIDENCE: PBL INCREASES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

## Empirical evidence supports PBL being more effective than traditional instruction

"…Project-based learning has a **medium to large positive effect** on students' academic achievement compared with traditional instruction."[2]

| **30** | **12K** | **189** | **9** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Articles** | **Students** | **Schools** | **Countries** |

**0.71**

**Weighted Mean Effect Size[1]**

- Problem Solving Flexibility
- Broader Knowledge And Exposure
- Professional skills
- Multidisciplinary Collaboration
- Industry Demands And Practices
- Positive Subsequent Course Performance For All

INNOVATION CAMPUS

1. Magnitude of difference between treatment group (PBL) and control group (traditional instruction). > 0.5 implies medium effect of treatment, > 0.8 is large effect of treatment
2. C-H Chen, Y-C Yang "Revisiting the effects of project-based learning on students' academic achievement: A meta-analysis investigating moderators". Educational Research Review, Volume 26, February 2019, Pages 71-81

# M.ENG DEGREE: A DISTINCT INNOVATION CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

### From cohort-based classroom instruction to competency-based experiential learning

## CURRENT STATE

## FUTURE STATE

**Pacing**
- Cohort based/Seat time
- Fixed Curriculum

- Self-paced/Individualized
- Competency-based course path

**Instruction**
- Courses
- Sequential Coursework

- Projects
- Modular Coursework

**Assessment**
- Test grades
- Course grades

- Embedded Assessments
- Demonstrated competencies

**Student Success**
- Graduation
- Career fairs

- Job Placement
- Leadership roles

INNOVATION CAMPUS

17

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRACK

We are creating a completely new entrepreneurship track for students who want to enrich their tech skills with business acumen.

A new task force, comprised of entrepreneurs and VCs from diverse backgrounds in the DC Area, is guiding the curriculum design.
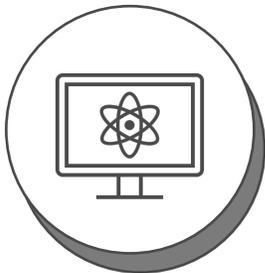
INNOVATION CAMPUS

# PHASED TRANSITION TO THE NEW CURRICULUM

**Our approach immediately puts projects at the center of the curriculum**

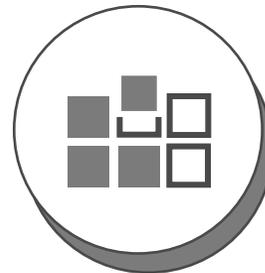| AY 23 - 24 | AY 24 - 25 | AY 25 - 26 | AY 26 - 27 |

**Phase 1**

**Phase 2**

**Phase 3**

**Big Project Courses**

15 credit hours on
year-long projects

**Modularized Course Work**

1 - 3 credit hour instead of
typical 3 credit hour course
Maximize online education

**Interdisciplinary Teams**

Include majors beyond
Comp Sci & Comp Eng

INNOVATION CAMPUS

19

# SUMMARY



## FACULTY

- 12 faculty transferred to the Innovation Campus
- 4 external collegiate hires
- 16 staff members hired bringing total headcount to 32
- 3 senior searches underway

## CURRICULUM

- Committee has developed the framework for project-based curriculum
- Projects will represent up to half of the credits and will have a duration of up to a year
- Phase 1: Introduce the projects
- Phase 2: Modify courses to be more modular
- Phase 3: Invite participation from disciplines beyond computer science and computer engineering

INNOVATION CAMPUS

# VIRGINIA TECH ADVANTAGE

## BOV PRESENTATION | JUNE 2023

# VIRGINIA TECH ADVANTAGE

The **Virginia Tech Advantage** is a university wide, multiyear **commitment** to offer the broad educational experience to admitted undergraduate students from Virginia.

It reflects the university's **commitment** to serve the Commonwealth of Virginia.

# VIRGINIA TECH ADVANTAGE

- At scale, the program will remove barriers for **more than 5,500 undergraduate students** from the Commonwealth with unmet financial need.

- It will provide a strong foundation for academic success through **enhanced resources**, a **community of peers and mentors**, and **scholarships and emergency funds**.

- It will help students enhance the value of their Virginia Tech degrees by providing **opportunities for research**, **experiential learning**, and **discovery** inside and outside of the classroom or lab.

# VIRGINIA TECH ADVANTAGE
*STUDENT EXPERIENCE and FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY WORKING GROUPS*
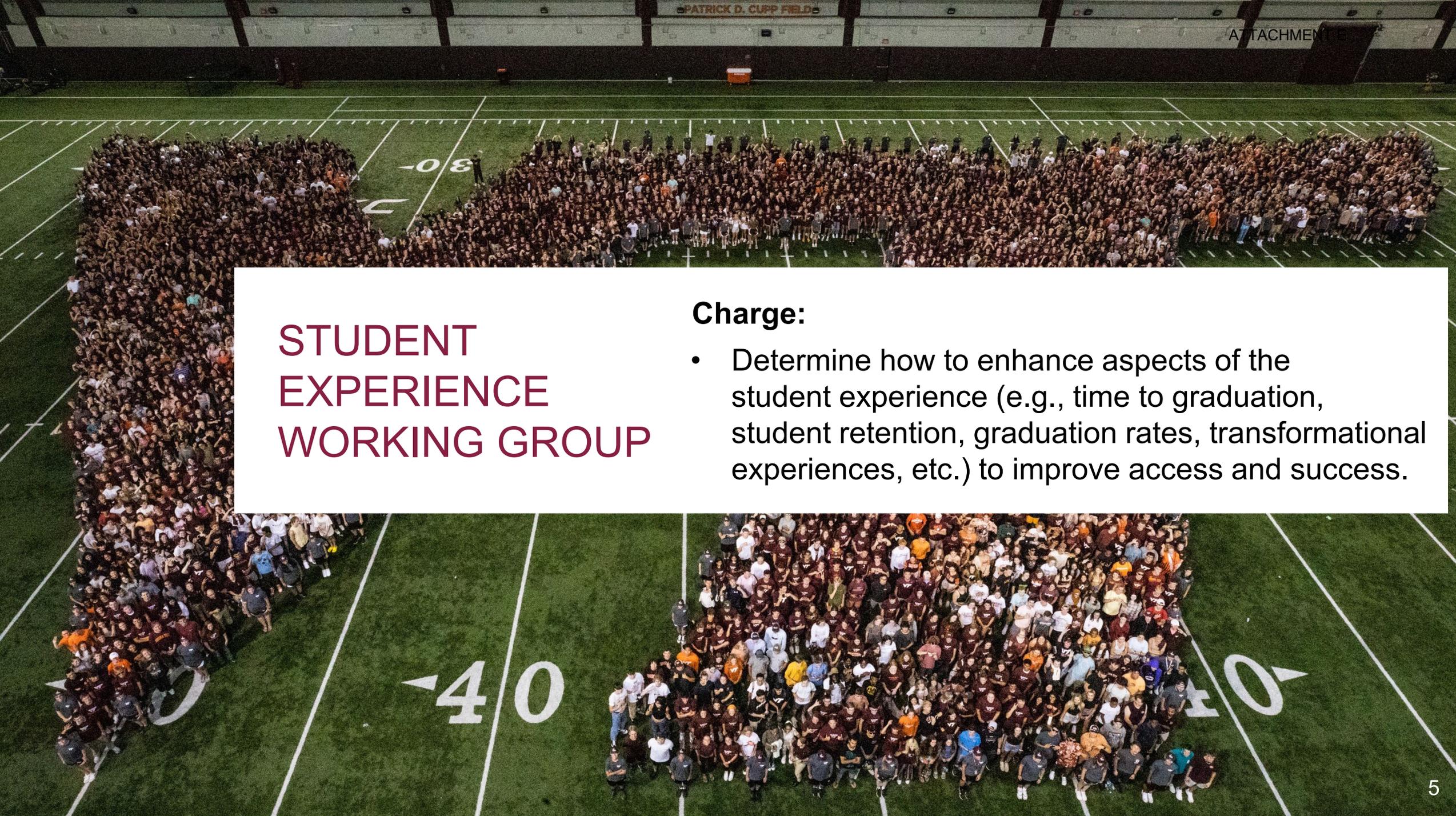
## STUDENT EXPERIENCE WORKING GROUP

**Charge:**

- Determine how to enhance aspects of the student experience (e.g., time to graduation, student retention, graduation rates, transformational experiences, etc.) to improve access and success.
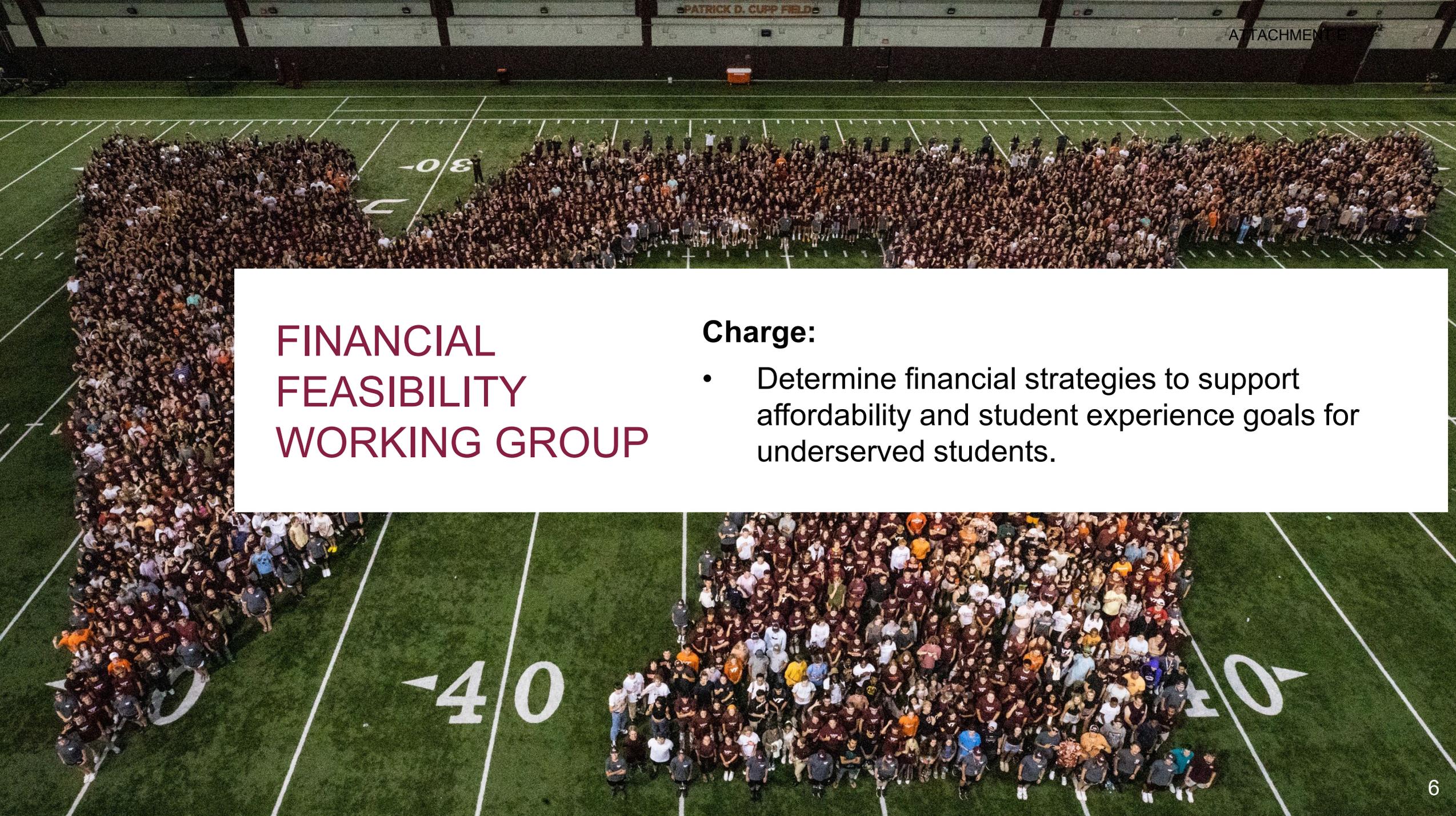
# FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY WORKING GROUP

**Charge:**

- Determine financial strategies to support affordability and student experience goals for underserved students.

# RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

- Develop data-informed interventions to identify and address barriers for student retention, progression, and participation in all aspects of the undergraduate student experience.

- Identify opportunities to increase and leverage university funds in support of the **Virginia Tech Advantage** imperative.

VIRGINIA TECH ADVANTAGE

# RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

- Develop sustainable infrastructure to support basic needs programs and initiatives, including student emergency funds.

- Identify and make transparent the costs for undergraduate students to participate in transformative experiences (high-impact practices; experiential education) and develop strategies to mitigate those barriers.

# RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS

- Complete a full policy audit (financial and academic) to identify and remove institutional barriers to undergraduate student success.

- Pursue curricular alignment to support four-year graduation across all degrees.

# RECOMMENDATIONS & GOALS

**Goal 1**
**Reduce unmet need for low and lower-middle income Virginia undergraduate students**

**Annual Cost: $41 million at steady state**

Targets 4,580 Virginia students who qualify for Federal Pell Grants and/or the Commonwealth of Virginia program.

Closing the affordability gap for this population is critical to closing the success gaps. This strategy aims to close the affordability gap for all Virginia undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need to no more than $9,500/year (the equivalent to working 20 hours a week at minimum wage) in 2021 dollars.

**Goal 2**
**Expand Presidential Scholars Initiative (PSI)**

**Annual Cost: $10.5 million at steady state**

Currently 400 undergraduate students are served, the university's target is to more than double the number supported.

Leverages a successful model that results in stronger 4-year graduation rates (73% by 2028) as set forth in the *Virginia Tech Difference: Advancing Beyond Boundaries* strategic plan. This strategy aims to accelerate closing gaps in success metrics for low-income Virginians and increase the number of underserved Virginia students enrolled and graduating from Virginia Tech.

# VIRGINIA TECH ADVANTAGE
## *A THREE-WAY PARTNERSHIP*

INCOMING UNDERGRADUATE

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS

PHILANTHROPY

VIRGINIA TECH.

11
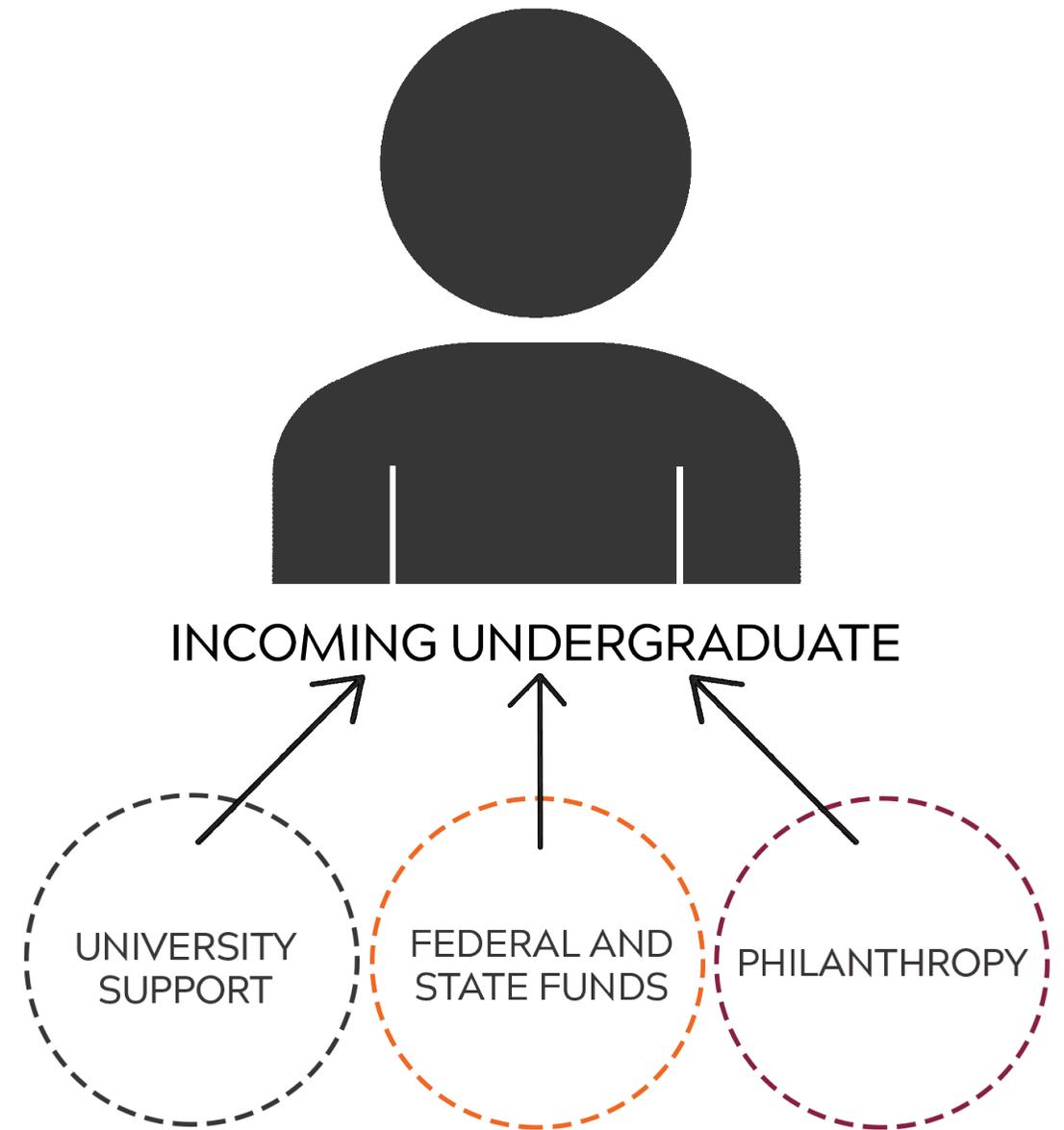
# FINANCIAL STRATEGY

- Leverage institutional support for scholarships and operations (1/3)

- Increase state and federal support (1/3)

- Develop philanthropic campaign (1/3)

  - Proposed $500 million in philanthropy commitments over a 10-year period:

    - $400 million in endowment scholarships

    - $50 million in current use dollars for scholarships

    - $50 million to support student success

      - $25 million endowment

      - $25 million current use dollars

- At steady-state increase of $51 million annually in student support.

# VIRGINIA TECH ADVANTAGE

The university will **regularly review progress and monitor inputs** including internal and external resources, cost of attendance, increase in wage rates, student need, philanthropy, and student success.

VIRGINIA TECH.

# VIRGINIA TECH ADVANTAGE

## DR. MENAH PRATT and DR. MATT HOLT

**Report from the Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors - Jamal D. Ross**

Good morning, Rector Long, Vice Rector Baine, board members and guests. I come before you today with much pleasure and honor to submit the final constituent report of my term on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. As I reflect on this bittersweet time, I can't help but feel a feeling of excitement and joy for the great ride we've had. Throughout my tenure on this great board, I have watched each and every member's dedication, passion, and steadfast commitment. This board's collaborative efforts have helped develop Virginia Tech into the remarkable institution that it is today. Your diligent labor has left a stamp on the university's legacy, from enhancing academic achievement to encouraging innovation and establishing a supportive atmosphere for students. Before embarking on the next chapter of this great journey, I'd be remised if I didn't take a time to reflect on the incredible stories and experiences, we had at Virginia Tech during the 2022-23 academic year. As I turn the page to tell the story of our Hokies, it is important to remember the foundation we created in August when I revealed my guiding principles for my tenure.

At the start of my term, I identified four pillars that would guide my work on the board: accessibility, food insecurity, representation, and mental health initiatives and outreach. These values were more than just words; they were a call to action, a pledge to make a real impact in the lives of our students, professors, and staff. These were the items identified by the undergraduate student body as the "most important" or "most pressing." But I assure you that these are not the only issues that our students face on a regular basis. I would like to thank the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, campus partners, and stakeholders on behalf of the undergraduate student population for their consistent dedication to our success and well-being. The resources, assistance, and advocacy you have offered have made a significant impact in our lives, and we are grateful. Our campus experience has seen a transformation in the last year. We have seen the realization of countless outcomes because of your persistent efforts, which have greatly influenced our everyday life as students. The sensation of gratitude and joy that pervades us attests to the significant shift we have undergone.

We are appreciative for the increased resources made available to us, which ensure that we have the skills we need to excel academically, emotionally, and personally. Your dedication to our overall well-being has been extraordinary, from enhanced tutoring and academic support programs to increased mental health resources. Let us reflect on the manner of representation that has guided my approach during my time here, one that includes the collective voice of the Hokie community, as we continue this future path. We have embraced the potential of "we" to tell the tale of so many outstanding Hokies by eliminating the "I" and transcending personal experiences and preconceptions. I have frequently included personal anecdotes of specific students in prior reports, shedding light on their unique experiences and challenges. These have been quite helpful in highlighting the various points of view that define our community. Today, though, I'd want to change the focus to our collective story as Hokies. By claiming our "we," we

recognize the power and solidarity that comes from recognizing our common experiences and accomplishments.

Now to highlight some of the great experiences and milestones that have marked our journey together in this reflection. We have watched our student body's perseverance and tenacity as we navigated the obstacles of higher education's ever-changing terrain. We have adapted and thrived in a variety of settings, from virtual classrooms to hybrid learning, displaying our dedication to academic success. We have celebrated our Hokies' accomplishments, both on and off the field, as we have experienced moments of triumph and success. Our athletes have demonstrated their exceptional abilities, inspiring us with their devotion and sportsmanship. Our undergraduate student researchers have conducted ground-breaking research that has pushed the limits of knowledge and innovation. Furthermore, as a community, we have banded together to confront critical concerns and advocate for good change. Our collective voice has echoed across our campus and beyond, from talks about social justice and equity to organizing programs that promote sustainability, environment, and overall engagement with safe and brave spaces being at the forefront. "We" has so much strength and drive, and it draws us all together.

During my term, addressing the pillars of the "Ross Result" has been an extremely fulfilling and enriching experience. Each pillar has offered a chance for a more in-depth understanding of our Hokie community's needs and objectives. Allow me showcase some of the milestones, beginning with Mental Health. To ensure that we were fulfilling our students' mental health needs, I went out on the ground with fellow student leaders, connecting with students and soliciting feedback on the services given. Students expressed deep gratitude for Cook Counseling's expansion and options, as well as the emphasis on prompt assistance and the incorporation of Timely Care. However, I discovered that some off-campus college Hokies felt left out. This resulted in beneficial relationships, ensuring that the excellent materials we provide are not only available but also actively promoted to all of our students. Combating food insecurity has been one of the most enjoyable jobs I've undertaken throughout my service.

I wanted to make something real, something I could see, feel, and hear that would help the larger undergraduate community. I am delighted to announce that the first-of-its-kind "A Pop-Up food pantry" served Virginia Tech students during the final month of the academic year. Without the incredible collaboration of VT Engage, Market at Virginia Tech, VTDITC, and the Undergraduate Student Senate, this effort would not have been feasible. My project's co-lead and workhorse had a significant statement: "We don't want to open a door and then come back and close it." Let us all work together to promote and support these venues so that we may be the door wedge stopper, keeping the door open for our Hokies. Throughout my time, accessibility and representation have worked in tandem, allowing me to purposefully engage with many students. Being able to provide answers to their queries and serve as a leader within our flock has been really rewarding. As we move forward, bear these points in mind to ensure that Virginia Tech is a place to call home for all students, not just one. In contrast, representation has strengthened underrepresented groups and our special populations by allowing their opinions to

be heard and appreciated. Together, these pillars have strengthened our community's feeling of belonging and inclusion. Undergraduate students are aware of potential and projected tuition rises, and I want to share their reserves and express my concern on their behalf. We understand that tuition increases are the result of a variety of causes, but we must consider all of our students, not just undergraduates, as they go through our university. Cost is a big element in both attending and going through the university, and I urge that we all think about how we can make education more accessible and affordable. We have been able to knock down obstacles but need to guarantee that every Hokie has equal opportunity to succeed by prioritizing accessibility.

Reflecting on my experience and lessons gained, I am reminded of the powerful influence we can have when we sincerely listen to our students and aggressively explore methods to meet their needs. The "Ross Result" has served as a foundation for this transformational effort, allowing us to effect substantial change. As we move forward, let us continue to build on the gains gained while keeping mental health, food security, accessibility, and representation in mind. Let us be the leaders who open the way for our Hokies, ensuring that each student gets the resources, support, and opportunity they require to flourish. We can create a university experience that encourages development, diversity, and steadfast support for everyone if we work together. Finally, I would like to thank the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors for their consistent support and guidance. You have not only been my mentors and advisors, but you have also welcomed me with open arms into the board family. Thank you for giving me the honor of representing the undergraduate student body and for believing in my abilities to make a difference.

I am deeply grateful and honored to have served as your Undergraduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors for the academic year 2022-2023. It has been an honor to listen, advocate, and work relentlessly on your behalf. Every meeting and conversation I've had with you has deepened my awareness of the different experiences and ambitions that make our Hokie community so unique. I encourage you to embrace the power of meaningful interactions with one another when you move outside our beautiful campus. Remember Jamal's favorite phrase when in doubt or looking for common ground: "How the Hokie are you?" This simple phrase may build a sense of togetherness and shared purpose by opening doors to connection and understanding. Today is my last meeting, but the journey we've taken and the legacy we've created together will live on inside our Virginia Tech community. I am certain that everyone of you will take the torch of empowerment, representation, and Hokie pride with you in your different efforts, making a great effect. Finally, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to everyone in this room and supporters who helped shape this incredible experience during the Ross term. Your unfailing encouragement, support, and collaboration have been critical to our collaborative success. We have made a difference as a group, and we will continue to thrive and prosper as a group. So, as we I say my farewells, let us carry the Hokie spirit with us wherever we go. Let us live long and prosper, taking advantage of the possibilities and challenges that await us. Above everything, let us always say, "Let's Go Hokies!" Thank you for a fantastic experience, one and all.

Report from the Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Visitors
Anna Buhle

Hello, Rector Long, Vice Rector Baine, members of the Board, President Sands, and other guests.

Today is bittersweet as it is my final constituent report to the Board of Visitors. In these final remarks, I want to highlight what a wonderful opportunity this position has been for me and focus on the accomplishments at the university this last year.

First, I want to share a big thank you to the faculty and leadership at the university who welcomed me into this role and collaborated with me and other graduate students to improve the student experience at Virginia Tech. It has been a pleasure getting to know each of you on the board and see the incredible amount of time, dedication, and passion that you bring to ensuring that Virginia Tech is a place where students do not just receive a world-class education but find a sense of belonging and support by the community. Thank you for everything you do here, and the difficult decisions I know you must make.

Through this role, I have had the opportunity to connect with other incredible graduate students throughout Virginia Tech. Who, despite fearing and risking retaliation, have advocated for important changes for themselves and their peers. They've drafted resolutions to improve family planning health care at the university, spoken up in the face of strong dissent about the amount of compensation that graduate students deserve to earn for their work. They've created surveys, collected and analyzed data, and created change at the university on issues ranging from food and housing insecurity amongst graduate students to clarifying expectations that PIs and professors have for graduate students' time. All this while exceling in classes, teaching, and doing incredible research. The medical school feels very separate from the rest of the university. Even though at times we work closely with TBMH graduate students, there is surprisingly little interaction between medical students and the graduate student community, even in Roanoke. I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to support and get to know these inspiring students through my position on the BOV.

I could not give a final constituent report without also bringing up the concerns of graduate and professional students.

First, I want to say thank you. There were two major issues that came to me repeatedly when I stepped into this role, compensation and housing. Since I started this position, so much progress has been made on these fronts. Committees have come up with recommendations and solutions that could change the lives of the students that contribute to and depend on this university.

There is a lot of anticipation leading up to this meeting because the graduate student stipend report will be discussed here. It is the issue I hear about the most as the BOV representative. I had the privilege of serving on this task force which consisted of both graduate students and faculty, and which created thoughtful recommendations to serve as a starting point for the university to reinvent the benefits which graduate students should receive and how they are compensated. There were eight key recommendations that the taskforce made. To establish an on-going commitment to re-evaluate graduate student compensation, to continue to study the always-changing cost of living, to immediately raise the minimum step level, and subsequently to phase in adjustments to raise the minimum cost of living, to cover comprehensive university fees, to expand summer funding opportunities as the stipend only covers 9-months of the year, to increase external support funding for students, and finally, to increase graduate student support beyond solely increasing the stipend. We are all anxious and excited to hear the discussion that the Board and the University has these next two days. We hope that this includes a discussion and ultimate acceptance of the recommendation to raise the minimum stipend to $2,420/month to address the needs of the most vulnerable students. However, while this would be a huge victory for the university, it still falls short of bringing student compensation to the cost of living in Blacksburg, calculated to be $2,734/month. My peers and I are looking forward to hearing discussion on how the university plans to bridge this gap and whether the other seven recommendations made by the task force (including covering the comprehensive fee and providing students opportunities to meet the cost of living for a full 12-months) will be accepted this week. I have brought this up at each board meeting this year and try to bring new perspectives to each discussion and I will reiterate that graduate students here have so much riding on this decision. It will be critical that graduate students remained engaged in this process. They should continue to be included on committees and have a place to go for updates on the work and progress towards providing graduate

students the living wage they deserve. My final comment on this is that this task force was an incredible starting point and I appreciate the positive reception we have received from faculty and leadership so far. But it is just a starting point. We were charged with considering the "average graduate student". However, because this does not leave room to consider that graduates students are not average students. They are older, they have families, they are care caregivers, they have medical conditions and disabilities, they come straight from undergrad and they come to start new careers later in life. To truly address the needs of graduate students, we cannot just stop at the recommendations by this task force but continue to consider the diverse needs of this important part of our community.

The final concern I will bring up is the upcoming IT changes regarding transitioning from Google to Microsoft. There is concern among current students and alumni that the information stored on their Google drives will be lost during the transition. If there is a plan in place, students would appreciate communication regarding it. If not, a plan would prevent years of ideas, notes, and research being lost by many students.

The decision to choose a medical student to serve on the BOV, and represent the graduate and professional student population, which primarily consists of graduate students, cannot have been an easy one. I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve in this role, to represent my colleagues across every college and campus at Virginia Tech, and to end my 8-year career at Virginia Tech advocating for the Hokie community.

Thank you.

References:
1. 2021 Graduate Student Assembly Cost of Living Report: https://gpss.vt.edu/advocacy/2020-2021-advocacy/2021-cost-of-living-survey-results.html
2. http://www.collegiatetimes.com/news/students-scramble-for-affordable-housing-as-rent-prices-in-blacksburg-increase/article_66263996-198d-11ec-8de2-9baf57b7c204.html
3. HUD PD&R Housing Market Profiles – Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford, Virginia: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/USHMC/reg/BlacksburgVA-HMP-May20.pdf

4. https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/16/opinions/temple-university-labor-rights-unions-history-thompson-ctrp/index.html
5. https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2023/03/14/temple-strike-ends-after-grad-students-accept-deal

# Staff Senate Constituency Report
# Virginia Tech Board of Visitors
# June 5 -6, 2023 Presented by Serena Young, Staff Senate President

Rector Long, members of the Board of Visitors, President Sands, administrators, and guests: Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you about Virginia Tech's staff.

It's hard to believe this day has finally come, my last official report to the Board.  This is a time of mixed emotions to say the least.  Excited for new professional growth opportunities and grateful and thankful for the opportunity given me to serve these last two years.  It has been a joy and a pleasure getting to know each of you and I look forward to future opportunities to catch up with you soon.

For my final report, I wouldn't have completed my job as Staff Senate President if I didn't share concerns that Staff are still struggling with. Staff are still trying to make ends meet, fair market value/higher wages are needed, and compression adjustments still need to be made.  Retiree benefits, leave a lot to be desired.  When we have staff who have served and dedicated their lives to this university for 30+ years and they can't afford to retire, there's a problem. We've got to take better care of our people, bottom line. This would also include some type of benefits for our wage/hourly employees as well.  Something as basic as sick leave and parking pass assistance would help tremendously.  No one wants sick employees coming into work, spreading their germs because they can't afford to take a day off when needed. I ask that consideration be taken to include all non-wage worker in the stipend assistance already in place. Every little bit helps our already struggling staff. Let's make this University the best place to work for current employees and for those to come.

Based on feedback from staff finding childcare/adult care is still a major area of concern. This year's pilot is not seen as a success by many.  There have been many issues obtaining providers locally and quality care has also been part of the concern. The hope is that other viable options are being worked on to create spaces and local provider availability in the surrounding communities.

Staff need support and appreciation from their supervisors and leadership. They should feel safe to speak up about poor supervision, leadership, and issues that arise without being bullied or retaliated against.  This is not always the case. Staff need an advocate, a true advocate when issues like these arise. Accountability measures are needed for all supervisors, as well as more training on leadership and management skills.  We as a University should strive for leadership excellence in all areas. This will propel our retention and recruiting efforts!

These concerns are not new in nature and have been brought forth many times by myself and others before me, that in itself is a concern, staff deserve better from the university.   We must stop talking about issues and put our words into action.  We all understand things take longer than we would sometimes like for them to but, many of these issues have been going on for many years now. My hope is that you will continue to keep these items on the forefront and that you will see to it, that actions are taken to greatly improve/correct the issues that have long plagued staff.

Lastly, it has truly been an honor and a privilege serving and being the voice for staff, an opportunity not soon forgotten. I will always cherish these special times. Times of pandemic/post pandemic, increased wages, childcare and mental health pilots, Revamp of Senate Constitution and Bylaws, and the list goes on. I can't forget to mention all the wonderful conversations had, all the crazy socks, and great laughs along the way too. Together, we've accomplished a lot these last two years for the staff and for the University. Thank YOU, each of you!

Each of you bring to the Board your talent, time, and spirit to the BOV and it shows. Virginia Tech is truly blessed to have each of you serving the University and community in such a profound way. Thank YOU, each of you! I appreciate you all being advocates for the staff and for always listening to the concerns with open hearts and minds, helping to put words into action, making a difference for the staff. Thank you doesn't seem to be enough but, thank YOU, each of you!

Oh wait one more thing….By now you all have come to know that I have taken the role of Staff Senate President and Representative to the Board very seriously. I am not a shrinking violet as Rector Long said. You also know by now, I love to have fun no matter what role I'm in and since this is my last report, I thought about outlining it as a Mixtape playlist representing my last two years as a representative to the BOV. My list was way too long so, I have decided to give you the top 10 songs for each year. I hope you'll find this as fun and enjoyable as I did, making it.

### Serena's Mixtape: Hits from the 70's, 80's, 90's and Today.

### 2021-2022
1. Welcome to the Jungle - Guns n' Roses
2. Ready or Not - Fugees
3. When the Going Gets Tough, The Tough Get Going – Billy Ocean
4. Another One Bites the Dust – Queen
5. I Will Survive – Gloria Gaynor
6. Livin' on a Prayer – Bon Jovi
7. RESPECT – Aretha Franklin
8. Rock the Boat – The Hues Corporation
9. The Heat is On – Glenn Frye
10. And the Beat Goes On – The Whispers

### 2022-2023
1. I'm Still Standing – Elton John
2. Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You) – Kelly Clarkson
3. About Damn Time - Lizzo
4. Don't Stop Me Now - Queen
5. Made You Look – Meghan Trainor
6. Tell Me Something Good – Chaka Khan and Rufus
7. The Final Countdown – Europe
8. Memories – Maroon 5
9. End of the Road – Boyz II Men
10. Don't You Forget About Me – Simple Minds

In closing, YOU, each of you will be missed.  I know we'll continue to support and cheer on Virginia Tech both in spirit, and in service, so this isn't goodbye but until I see you again. Always remember we are "Better Together" and the "Best is yet to Come".

In Gratitude,
Serena

**Administrative and Professional Faculty Constituent Report**
June 5, 2023
Presented by Holli Gardner Drewry, A/P Faculty Senate President

Good afternoon, Rector Long, board members, President Sands, Provost Clarke, administrators, and guests. I am honored to be here to represent Virginia Tech's administrative and professional faculty members.

Since our last meeting, the A/P Faculty Senate has held regular monthly meetings. We continue to receive monthly updates from HR on the Job Architecture Project and at our last meeting we received an overview of the changes coming to using Google Workspace.

Working with the Commission of Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs, or CAPFA, updates to Chapter 7 of the Faculty Handbook were moved through the University Council process and are being presented for final approval during the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee later today and then at the full board meeting tomorrow. These updates align the chapter with the new governance structure, add five days to the initial step of the grievance process, and create a grievance liaison to help A/P faculty navigate the process.

The A/P Faculty senators continue to support the Beyond Boundaries Scholarship philanthropic project. We have raised $1,670 towards the minimum $3,000 needed to have a named scholarship.This initiative has been a bit more difficult than expected but in the coming weeks, I will be reaching out to colleagues to encourage donations. I remain hopeful that we can meet and hopefully exceed the goal.

The A/P Faculty Senate is continuing work on two initiatives:
● The Professional Development Leave working group is completing their fact-finding and should have a draft proposal ready this summer.
● The Constituent Group Representation and Formation Working Group is scheduled to share its findings in November 2023.

In a few weeks, we will install our newly elected senators and officers including our new president Janice Austin.

In closing, since this will be my last report to the board, I want to take a moment to thank you for welcoming me to sit with you as a representative of A/P Faculty members. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve. In my more than 30 years of work at Virginia Tech, this has been one of my most rewarding experiences.

I may never be able to make a substantial financial contribution to my alma mater but I hope as this chapter of my governance service ends, that I will be able to find new ways to serve and support the university mission.

## Faculty Senate Constituency Report

### June 2023

Rector Long, President Sands, Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, and Colleagues, the faculty of Virginia Tech is excited about the accomplishments over the past Academic Year (2022-2023). Some of the key accomplishments are:

- Processed resolutions (15 total, *FS Commissions in italic*, no resolutions from Commission on Research):
    - *Commission on Faculty Affairs*: 1
    - *Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policy*: 3
    - *Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policy*: 5
    - Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs: 2
    - Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs: 1
    - Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity: 1
    - Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Affairs: 1
    - Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs: 1
- Presentations:
    - Well-being of student-athletes (September 16th, 2022)
    - CVC Presentation (September 30th, 2022)
    - AAUP Presentation (October 14th, 2022)
    - Presentation and discussion on ChapGPT (March 24th, 2023)
    - Day on Democracy presentation (April 7th, 2023)
    - Presentation & Update on HR Job Architecture Project (April 7th, 2023)
    - Presentation from SSD introducing the AIM system & accommodation requests (April 7th, 2023)
    - Presentation from the Ombuds Office on activity from the past year (April 21st, 2023)
- Statements:
    - Responsible Use of Research Metrics (Spring 2023, link)

In addition to this list, faculty celebrate the statement on Freedom of Speech and Inquiry because it defines our communal commitment to each other and the exceptional relevance of academia for the country, the world, and most importantly, for our future.

We breathed a sigh of relief as this Academic Year marked the end of the public emergency that defined the COVID-19 pandemic. We are back! It feels comfortable to interact with each other in more familiar ways, but we are not back in the sense that we simply apply familiar paradigms that we employed before the pandemic changed the world. Reflecting on the last two years, it is easy to see how much we, as individuals, evolved and in what ways our community has changed. In this context, I argue that our community has become more complex. Part of the community's complexity stems from the fact that the pandemic caused our community to evolve much faster than many of us as individuals. Holding this thought for a moment, we can reflect on how much our campus community has changed and how we need to consciously think about the ways we interact with each other through collaborations and leadership. As a result of the pandemic, we have the unique opportunity to evaluate whether we challenge ourselves, as individuals and as a community, enough

and are brave enough to create the environment that is needed to have the impact that we, as Virginia Tech, aspire to create as a global land-grant university.

Evidence for the fact that our campus community has changed is the intensity with which and the scale at which some topics are discussed across campus. A prominent topic of many discussions is the impact of generative Artificial Intelligence on how we teach students and how we ensure students have learned what we intended for them to learn. . To many within our community, this new technology poses an existential threat, and to others, it represents the opportunity of a lifetime. Only together will we discover the transformational capacity of new AI technology and what it means for our future at Virginia Tech and across the world.

Vaclav Havel, the first President of free Czechoslovakia and later of the Czech Republic, summarized in his 1990 New Year's address what this constituency report is about: "Let us teach ourselves that our politics can be not just the art of the possible…but it can even be the art of the impossible, namely the art of improving ourselves and the world." Go Hokies.