

**RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE FACULTY HANDBOOK REGARDING
EMERITUS OR EMERITA DESIGNATION**

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech's Faculty Handbook includes policies for all university faculty;
and

WHEREAS, section 3.2.4 of the Faculty Handbook describes the designation of emeritus
or emerita as an honorific conferred on eligible retired faculty in recognition of their
exemplary service to the university; and

WHEREAS, the categories of faculty at Virginia Tech have shifted and evolved,
expanding beyond tenured and tenure-track faculty; and

WHEREAS, the faculty wish to uphold the preeminent distinction of the emeritus/emerita
designation; and

WHEREAS, the faculty would like to clarify the process through which retired Virginia
Tech faculty may be considered for this designation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2022-23 Faculty Handbook Section
3.2.4 be revised per the following changes *noted below in red*;

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that this section of the Faculty Handbook be moved
to the chapter that addresses Employment Policies and Resources for All Faculty.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution to revise the language in the Faculty Handbook regarding the
designation of Faculty Emeritus/Emerita.

June 6, 2023

Current and *Proposed* Emeritus and Emerita language in Faculty Handbook

Current Section 3.2.4 of 2022-2023 Faculty Handbook

The title of emeritus or emerita is conferred on retired full professors, associate professors, administrative officers, Extension or libraries faculty with continued appointment, and senior Extension agents who have given exemplary service to the university and who the president specifically recommends to the Board of Visitors for approval. Their names are listed on the appropriate university website(s). Policy 4405 “Emeritus/Emerita Faculty” provides further guidance to department heads or chairs and retiring faculty members concerning emeritus or emerita status and continued involvement in the life of the university.

Proposed Faculty Handbook Language (to apply to all faculty members)

The title of emeritus or emerita is conferred on retired ~~Virginia Tech full professors, associate professors, administrative officers, Extension or libraries~~ faculty members as defined in Faculty Handbook, Chapter Two, sections 2.2 through 2.7 ~~with continued appointment, and senior Extension agents~~ who have given made exemplary ~~service~~ contributions to the university and ~~who the president specifically recommends to the Board of Visitors for approval.~~ are recommended to the Board of Visitors for approval by the provost and president. For additional information and nomination procedures see the provost’s website. ~~Their names are listed on the appropriate university website(s). Policy 4405 “Emeritus/Emerita Faculty” provides further guidance to department heads or chairs and retiring faculty members concerning emeritus or emerita status and continued involvement in the life of the university.~~

All nominations for emeritus or emerita designation should, through a draft resolution for the Board of Visitors, describe the faculty member’s exemplary contributions and academic citizenship across any of Virginia Tech’s mission areas of teaching, research or creative activity, and engagement. These contributions may, for example, be demonstrated through teaching awards, leadership or extensive service in transformative university initiatives, especially impactful community engagement, or evidence of national or international distinction. The expectation and desire is that emeritus/emmerita faculty will have ongoing engagement with Virginia Tech, however, in some instances the emeritus/emmerita designation may be conferred as a recognition of past contributions to Virginia Tech, without an expectation of continued engagement.

For college faculty, emeritus or emerita nominations may be initiated by the faculty member’s department head, chair, school director, or senior academic administrator in consultation with the faculty member. Consistent with processes for faculty honorifics, each college should have formal procedures for the nomination and appointment of faculty to emeritus or emerita status that include review by a college honorifics committee or promotion and tenure committee. After review by the appropriate college committee the college dean makes recommendations for approval by the provost, who then reviews and makes a recommendation to the president and the Board of Visitors.

For A/P faculty, nominations may be initiated by the faculty member’s supervisor or other senior administrator, in consultation with the faculty member. After review by the A/P Faculty Senate Elections and Nominations Committee, the A/P Faculty Senate President makes recommendations to either the provost or to the executive vice president and chief operating officer (EVPCOO) for A/P faculty who do not work in academic affairs. The provost or EVPCOO, as appropriate, reviews the nomination and makes a recommendation to the president. All recommendations for emeritus or emerita status are forwarded by the president to the Board of Visitors for their consideration and approval.

Note: Procedures for emeritus or emerita nominations will be outlined on the provost’s website, and will include such things as a nomination form, sample resolution(s), sample letter(s) that confirm review and support of the nomination by the college honorifics committee and dean; or, for A/P faculty, a letter confirming the review and support for the nomination by the A/P Faculty Senate Elections and Nominations Committee.