

**RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF  
HONORARY FOUNDING DEAN STATUS  
OF THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
FOR PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN F. HOSNER**

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Professor Emeritus John F. Hosner established the foundation for the college that was founded in 1992, which today is known as the College of Natural Resources and Environment and commands a worldwide reputation of excellence in responding to society's emerging needs for a sustainable planet; and

**WHEREAS**, the first ever ranking of America's natural resources programs by *USA Today* College Edition (August 2015) ranked the college he essentially built as the best in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Hosner came to Virginia Tech in 1961 as first head of the newly established Department of Forestry and Wildlife with 4 faculty members in what was then called the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Hosner, a professor of forestry, strategically began to build his department by calling the heads of like programs across America to find out who their best Ph.D. graduates were so he could recruit the best of the best for his faculty to serve his students; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Hosner worked diligently to mentor them and make sure faculty members had the resources to develop into leaders of their fields; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Hosner sought industry leaders to generously support efforts to grow the program into a college; and

**WHEREAS**, he methodically expanded faculty and student enrollment to grow his department into the School of Forestry and Wildlife Resources in 1976; and

**WHEREAS**, continued growth along with the pursuit of excellence led to the school becoming the College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources in 1992 and going through other name changes that reflected the broadening scope of studies to be relevant to society's needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Hosner had grown his faculty from 4 to 62 and his student enrollment from 72 to 750 in his three decades of leadership from 1961 to 1992, and by 2016 the college had grown to 75 tenure-track faculty, 9 administrative and professional faculty, 60 research faculty, and 1113 students; and

**WHEREAS**, many alumni recognized Dr. Hosner's accomplishments for growing the natural resources program and often expressed how his students, faculty, and graduates stood out in the work place and at professional gatherings; and

**WHEREAS**, many of his students went on to become leaders in industry, government, and nonprofit organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to his administrative leadership in education, Dr. Hosner served as president of the Forest Farms Association (now the Forest Landowners Association) and on numerous boards and committees, including the Virginia Forestry Association, the Biosphere Foundation, and the Commonwealth of Virginia Board of Forestry; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1996 Dr. Hosner was honored by the Society of American Foresters with its highest award, the Gifford Pinchot Medal, for his exceptional contributions to the field of forestry during his 47-year career, having been made an SAF Fellow in 1978, and from 1990-93 was appointed to serve on SAF's council, as well as appointed chair of a committee that established the Southern Journal of Applied Forestry in the 1970s; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Hosner is a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has received many other professional and academic awards during his career; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Hosner set up an endowment fund in 1982 to ensure the college would always grow, and encouraged industry partners to contribute generously to this fund, which was named the John F. Hosner Legacy Fund in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, as one longtime college supporter summarizes the heartfelt sentiment about Dr. Hosner: "Every graduate, faculty member, and staff person within the college owes much gratitude and credit for their career successes to Dr. Hosner, whose vision, diligence, and personal sacrifice gave us this college"; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Hosner, at age 91, still comes into his office at the college every day, to continue his mentoring and interest in the well-being of the college;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Visitors recognizes John F. Hosner for his extraordinary service to the university with the title of Honorary Founding Dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution for Honorary Founding Dean status be approved.

August 29, 2016