

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2002-03C
University Council Statement Regarding Board of Visitors Actions

First Reading, University Council:
Approved by the University Council:

March 24, 2003
March 24, 2003

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech has a long-standing culture of shared governance that involves faculty, staff, students, administration, and the Board of Visitors; and

WHEREAS, the university's shared governance consists of an array of committees, commissions, advisory councils and senates that originate resolutions to affect or change university policy, and that pass along these policy resolutions to University Council, which consists of a broad representation of administration, faculty, staff, and students, and serves as an advisory body to the president of the university; and

WHEREAS, resolutions passed by University Council are forwarded for consideration to the university president, who then presents to the Board of Visitors those resolutions that carry his endorsement and require Board approval; and

WHEREAS, the University community shares with the board a commitment to advancing the University and wishes to restate our desire to share ideas and work with the board; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2003, Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors introduced two resolutions during its meeting without prior notice, and proceeded to vote on these two resolutions without any public discussion or input whatsoever from the university community, thereby deviating from the Board's own established procedures, disregarding the university's shared governance system, and precluding any opportunity for input from members of the university who would be directly affected by those policies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University Council of Virginia Tech hereby formally expresses to the Board of Visitors its concerns as to the manner in which the following two resolutions were presented and passed by the Board, specifically: 1) the resolution establishing a policy for the approval of speakers/meetings within university facilities; and 2) the "Resolution Commending the President, Senior Administrators, and Legal Counsel of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Articulating the University's Policy Against Discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Council requests the Board of Visitors reconsider the second resolution.