

CGSP Resolution 2005-06B
Resolution for Establishment of a Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Rhetoric and Writing
in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Approved by the Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies:	October 21, 2005
First Reading by University Council:	December 5, 2005
Approved by University Council:	February 6, 2006
Approved by the President:	February 6, 2006
Approved by the Board of Visitors:	March 27, 2006
Effective:	Following approval by SCHEV, anticipated for Fall 2007

WHEREAS, writing, deliberation, and the texts that result facilitate thinking, knowing, negotiating, decision making, and acting in public, academic, and corporate settings; and

WHEREAS, academic and professional interest in rhetoric and writing has increased with the development of new technologies for communication and with awareness that meaning is negotiated through language; and

WHEREAS, the strength of this proposed doctoral program—the study of texts as they mediate knowledge and action in the public sphere—is an emerging area of study in rhetoric and writing; and

WHEREAS, the growth of academic programs nationwide in rhetoric and writing has created an unmet demand for faculty prepared in this field; and

WHEREAS, the Department of English has a long tradition of excellence in teaching and research, established undergraduate programs in composition and professional writing, and a critical mass of faculty who specialize in rhetoric and writing and who have experience in doctoral programs at other universities; and

WHEREAS, because rhetoric and writing touch all disciplines, the proposed program will build partnerships with a number of programs and departments at Virginia Tech, both drawing on and contributing to the vitality of these programs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed doctoral program is consistent with the strategic plan of Virginia Tech, especially as the plan “embraces innovation and technology while honoring traditional values associated with a land-grant institution”; and

WHEREAS, the proposed doctoral program in Rhetoric and Writing will contribute to Virginia Tech’s goal of increasing the number and breadth of doctoral programs and will enhance the reputation of Virginia Tech in the humanities;

THEREFORE be it resolved, that the proposal to establish the Ph.D. degree program in Rhetoric and Writing be approved by University Council and forwarded to the Board of Visitors and the State Council for Higher Education for their subsequent review and approval.