

**CGSP Resolution 2005-2006G**  
**A Resolution for Establishment of the Online Masters of**  
**Agricultural and Life Sciences Degree in the Virginia Tech**  
**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs)**

Approval by Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies:	March 15, 2006
First Reading at University Council:	April 3, 2006
Approved by University Council:	April 17, 2006
Approved by the President:	April 17, 2006
Approved by the Board of Visitors:	June 12, 2006
Effective:	Spring, 2007

**WHEREAS**, The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has no current program that permits place-bound professionals whose careers or interests lie in the agricultural and life science industries, governmental agencies working with agriculture, environmental professions, extension, or agricultural education to obtain broad, professional, graduate training; and

**WHEREAS**, Professionals in agriculture, life sciences, and related fields currently have no general graduate professional degree available from Virginia universities, and

**WHEREAS**, Professional advancement in most governmental agencies and in agricultural and related businesses is generally based on accomplishment and merit, and

**WHEREAS**, Professionals who hold Master's degrees in such agencies and organizations are generally viewed as more competitive for promotions than less trained peers; and

**WHEREAS**, Examples of such persons might be professionals employed in leadership and specialist positions at Southern States Cooperative, Perdue Farms, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Virginia Farm Bureau, the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, agricultural industries, or other governmental agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, There is a need for courses to be delivered in a manner that accommodates these place-bound professionals who have full-time jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has experience in developing and delivering online courses, such as ENT 2004 "Insects and Human Society" with a current enrollment exceeding 600 students per semester, and

**WHEREAS**, The College also has an IT unit, AHNR-IT, composed of 18 faculty and staff capable of assisting faculty with the technology and pedagogy of online instruction; and

**WHEREAS**, There are no other online Master's degree programs offered in the United States from a College of Agriculture that contains emphases in food safety, bioregulations, and environmental science;

**THEREFORE** be it resolved, that the proposal for a non-thesis online Master's degree in Agricultural and Life Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences be approved and the proposal forwarded to SCHEV for approval.