

Resolution for Observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Commission on Student Affairs
Resolution CSA2001-02C

Approved by the Student Government Association:	March 19, 2002
Approved by the Graduate Student Assembly:	March 28, 2002
Approved by the Commission on Student Affairs:	April 11, 2002
First Reading by University Council:	April 15, 2002
Approved by University Council:	
Approved by the President:	
Effective: Immediately, for calendars not yet approved by the Committee on Academic Support	

WHEREAS, the third Monday in January is recognized by both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Federal Government¹ as a holiday in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., and

WHEREAS, this holiday is of great significance to members of the university community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States, and

WHEREAS, many members of the university community dedicate their time on this day to celebrating the life and accomplishments of Dr. King, holding informative programs on issues that greatly impact minority and majority populations at Virginia Tech, and

WHEREAS, the university calendar criteria, as approved May 3, 1993, does not currently provide for the observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, and

WHEREAS, out of the twenty-five institutions in our S.C.H.E.V. peer group, Virginia Tech is one of three universities who do not recognize this day as a holiday, and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Student Affairs believes that the current university policy, which simply requests that faculty make reasonable efforts to accommodate students who wish to participate in commemorative events,² neither adequately recognizes this day nor provides a sufficient opportunity for students, faculty, and staff who wish to attend and participate in commemorative events, and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Student Affairs believes that by not holding classes on this holiday, Virginia Tech will take a significant and necessary step to ensure that members of the university community have the opportunity to attend commemorative events and celebrate the holiday, and

WHEREAS, the current failure of the University to adequately recognize this day as a holiday inadvertently fosters the appearance of racial insensitivity at Virginia Tech, in direct opposition

¹ VA. Code/2.2-3300, and 61 USC 6103, respectively.

² Virginia Tech Presidential Policy Memo #163

to our commitment to diversity, and prevents many students, faculty, and staff from participating in significant educational experiences, therefore let it be,

RESOLVED, that the university calendar criteria, as approved by University Council, May 3, 1993, be amended to include the following:

- The third Monday in January shall be designated a holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There shall be no classes on this holiday.