

CGSP RESOLUTION 2002-03A  
RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE VIRGINIA TECH-WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY  
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING M.S. AND PH.D. DEGREES

Approved by the Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies: October 2, 2002  
First Reading, University Council: October 7, 2002  
Approved by University Council:  
Approved by President:  
Approved by the Board of Visitors:  
Effective Date: Following approval by the State Council for Higher  
Education, anticipated for Fall 2003

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors of Virginia Tech recently approved the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences (SBES) to form a joint research and educational program that will advance fundamental discoveries in medicine and biology, lead to improvements in health care technologies, facilitate the formation of new collaborations between engineering, veterinary science, and human medicine, and serve as a resource for biomedical engineering throughout the region; and,

WHEREAS, a graduate degree option in Biomedical Engineering was established in 2000 at Virginia Tech to promote graduate research and education in biomedical engineering, and currently over 25 students are participating in the option, and with the recent approval of the joint school, program faculty at Virginia Tech and Wake Forest now seek approval of an independent joint degree program; and,

WHEREAS, a jointly administered and delivered biomedical engineering graduate degree program will build on strengths at Virginia Tech, which has an active group of more than 20 faculty members in its Center for Biomedical Engineering and strong research programs in other related areas throughout the university including polymer chemistry, biochemistry and molecular biology, the Center for Gerontology, and the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute; and very strong complementary faculty at the Wake Forest School of Medicine; and,

WHEREAS, nationally, interest and enrollment in graduate programs in bioengineering enrollment have increased at a much greater rate over the last two decades than graduate enrollment in all engineering fields, and employment opportunities for biomedical engineers are expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through 2010, as the aging population and the focus on health issues increases the demand for better medical devices and systems and the increased concern for cost efficiency and effectiveness; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal outlines in detail the joint administration of the program, including: enrollment by students at either Virginia Tech or Wake Forest; courses offered by the other institution treated as resident credit; courses conducted via distance learning to assure access for students on both campuses; a required clinical rotation at either Wake Forest School of Medicine or at the College of Veterinary Medicine; a joint graduate committee responsible for admission recommendations consistent with policies of each campus, and joint administration and oversight of the program and larger activities of the School;

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that the proposal to establish M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs in Biomedical Engineering be approved and forwarded to the Board of Visitors.