

CGSP Resolution 2007-2008 A
A Resolution for Establishment of the Masters of Information Security Assurance Degree
in the Virginia Tech College of Engineering (CoENG)

Approval by Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies:	March 19, 2008
First Reading at University Council:	April 7, 2008
Approved by University Council:	April 21, 2008
Approved by the President:	April 21, 2008
Approved by the Board of Visitors:	June 20, 2008
Effective:	Spring 2009

WHEREAS, Executive leadership in information security assurance (ISA) is essential for the nation's prosperity and security; and

WHEREAS, Securing organizations from cyber attacks cannot be achieved without skilled and knowledgeable personnel at all levels of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Executives must know the engineering and management processes to effectively acquire, manage, plan, design, and evaluate enterprise-wide trustworthy information systems; and

WHEREAS, The College of Engineering has no current program that permits place-bound professionals in the Washington, DC metropolitan market whose careers or interests lie in the Virginia, national, and international efforts to protect the global information infrastructure and significantly curtail cyberspace vulnerabilities and hazards; and

WHEREAS, Professional advancement in most governmental agencies and in information security assurance (ISA) 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 as chief information security officer, vice president of technical operations in data centers, information assurance engineer, systems security compliance officer, information assurance analyst, information security engineer, systems security engineer, etc.; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for fee-based Executive delivery of courses in an accelerated manner that accommodates these place-bound professionals who have full-time jobs; and

WHEREAS, The College already has 6 qualified internal VT faculty and commitments from 5 external adjunct faculty capable of delivering the technology and pedagogy of instruction; and

WHEREAS, an Advisory Board which includes members from the US National Security Agency, the US Department of Commerce, the US Department of Homeland Security, the MITRE Corporation, Boeing, SAIC, Applied Physical Laboratory, SAP, IBM – Zurich, Fraunhofer Institute of Secure Information Technology in Germany, Ecole Superieur National de Telecommunication in France as well as other US and European organizations have endorsed this proposal; now

THEREFORE be it resolved, that the proposal for a Master's degree in Information Security Assurance in the College of Engineering be approved and the proposal forwarded to the President, Board of Visitors, and the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) for approval.