**Faculty Senate Constituency Report**
**Robert Weiss, Faculty Senate President**
**June, 6 2023**

Rector Long, President Sands, Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, and Colleagues, the faculty of Virginia Tech is excited about the accomplishments over the past Academic Year (2022-2023). Some of the key accomplishments are:

- Processed resolutions (15 total, *FS Commissions in italic*, no resolutions from Commission on Research):
    - *Commission on Faculty Affairs*: 1
    - *Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policy*: 3
    - *Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Policy*: 5
    - Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs: 2
    - Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs: 1
    - Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity: 1
    - Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies and Affairs: 1
    - Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs: 1
- Presentations:
    - Well-being of student-athletes (September 16th, 2022)
    - CVC Presentation (September 30th, 2022)
    - AAUP Presentation (October 14th, 2022)
    - Presentation and discussion on ChapGPT (March 24th, 2023)
    - Day on Democracy presentation (April 7th, 2023)
    - Presentation & Update on HR Job Architecture Project (April 7th, 2023)
    - Presentation from SSD introducing the AIM system & accommodation requests (April 7th, 2023)
    - Presentation from the Ombuds Office on activity from the past year (April 21st, 2023)
- Statements:
    - Responsible Use of Research Metrics (Spring 2023, [link)](link)

In addition to this list, faculty celebrate the statement on Freedom of Speech and Inquiry because it defines our communal commitment to each other and the exceptional relevance of academia for the country, the world, and most importantly, for our future.

We breathed a sigh of relief as this Academic Year marked the end of the public emergency that defined the COVID-19 pandemic. We are back! It feels comfortable to interact with each other in more familiar ways, but we are not back in the sense that we simply apply familiar paradigms that we employed before the pandemic changed the world. Reflecting on the last two years, it is easy to see how much we, as individuals, evolved and in what ways our community has changed. In this context, I argue that our community has become more complex. Part of the community's complexity stems from the fact that the pandemic caused our community to evolve much faster than many of us as individuals. Holding this thought for a moment, we can reflect on how much our campus community has changed and how we need to consciously think about the ways we interact with each other through collaborations and leadership. As a result of the pandemic, we have the unique opportunity to evaluate whether we challenge ourselves, as individuals and as a community, enough

and are brave enough to create the environment that is needed to have the impact that we, as Virginia Tech, aspire to create as a global land-grant university.

Evidence for the fact that our campus community has changed is the intensity with which and the scale at which some topics are discussed across campus. A prominent topic of many discussions is the impact of generative Artificial Intelligence on how we teach students and how we ensure students have learned what we intended for them to learn. . To many within our community, this new technology poses an existential threat, and to others, it represents the opportunity of a lifetime. Only together will we discover the transformational capacity of new AI technology and what it means for our future at Virginia Tech and across the world.

Vaclav Havel, the first President of free Czechoslovakia and later of the Czech Republic, summarized in his 1990 New Year's address what this constituency report is about: "Let us teach ourselves that our politics can be not just the art of the possible…but it can even be the art of the impossible, namely the art of improving ourselves and the world." Go Hokies.