

## RESOLUTION FOR EMERITA STATUS

**WHEREAS**, Mary Marchant, Ph.D. first came to Virginia Tech (VT) in 2006 to serve as associate dean and director of academic programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) and a full-time faculty member in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. Her academic career spans 34 years—17 at VT and 17 at the University of Kentucky (UK).

**WHEREAS**, she authored over 80 articles in over 20 different refereed journals and publications, one sole-authored book, seven edited journal volumes and conference proceedings; and built a research/teaching program funded by more than \$4.5M in grants and external funding, including highly competitive national grants--two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural and Food Research Initiative grants and five USDA National Research Initiative grants; and

**WHEREAS**, she brought national visibility to Virginia Tech through her award-winning research on U.S.-China agricultural trade including national awards from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA), where co-editors Marchant and Wang received the 2019 AAEA Quality of Communication Award for their “U.S.-China Trade Dispute and Potential Impacts on Agriculture” 2018 *Choices* theme issue. More recently, co-authors Grant, Arita, Emlinger, Sydow and Marchant received the 2021 AAEA Outstanding *Choices* Article Award. Marchant served as co-editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics* and also received a Fulbright Distinguished Chair (Italy), AAEA Teaching Award, and the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Lifetime Achievement Award; and

**WHEREAS**, as CALs associate dean she promoted the scholarship of teaching and learning by sponsoring college teaching mini-grants, hosting innovative teaching workshops and providing additional financial support for faculty to develop national teaching grant proposals. She and her team promoted the use of innovative teaching methods including student engagement, active learning, critical thinking skills, undergraduate research, service learning, experiential activities, international experiences, and internships; enhanced college diversity efforts and STEM projects; worked with departments to award a record number of scholarships; and provided support for enrollment growth in the college; and

**WHEREAS**, she made early contributions to diversity at the national level within her discipline, through her book *Achieving Diversity: The Status and Progress of Women & African Americans in the Agricultural Economics Profession*, a series of national AAEA workshops, and numerous refereed journal articles. While at VT, Marchant served as principal investigator for the Food and Agricultural Information System (FAEIS), a nationwide database of student enrollment and degrees awarded by gender and race in agriculture and related sciences for over 200 higher education institutions. Under her leadership, her team distributed 60 FAEIS newsletters to over 1,800 national leaders in agriculture, of which 26 focused on diversity; and

**WHEREAS**, over her career, Marchant taught 16 different courses at VT and UK to

nearly 3,000 students. Her teaching philosophy sought to enhance students' academic success and professional development. For undergraduates, this meant incorporating classroom activities that highlight in demand workforce skills, including communication and teamwork. For graduate students, this meant working with students to publish papers in academic journals and present results at scholarly conferences. She co-authored articles with 34 students on 47 peer-reviewed publications, including 31 journal articles, and over 60 presentations at professional meetings.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Mary Marchant for her distinguished service to the university with the title of Professor Emerita of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above resolution recommending Mary Marchant, Ph.D. for emerita status be approved.

August 28, 2024