

RESOLUTION FOR EMERITUS STATUS

WHEREAS, for nine years, Kevin Concannon, Ph.D., faithfully served Virginia Tech as the director of the School of Visual Arts (SOVA) in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS); and

WHEREAS, as director he provided intellectual, creative, and administrative leadership to the school with 32 full-time faculty, instructors, and staff serving approximately 275 students in art and design majors; and

WHEREAS as director he made significant efforts towards promoting SOVA, its students and faculty at Virginia Tech and beyond, particularly through the efforts aimed at intra-university curricular partnerships including Computer Science/Human Computer Interaction, Communications/Advertising, the Calhoun Honors Discovery Program, and Creativity and Innovation Destination area/Creative Technologies; and

WHEREAS, as director he expanded the teaching and research capacity of the school, expanding the number of full-time faculty in the school from 19 to 29 while consistently increasing enrollments and meeting or exceeding all enrollment targets; and

WHEREAS, as director he led the school to distinction and growth by overseeing the transition from concentrations within a BFA in Studio Art to separate majors in Studio Art, Creative Technologies, and Graphic Design, a change which dramatically increased the number of undergraduate applications and demand for all BFA disciplines; and

WHEREAS, as director he championed SOVA's capacity to offer a practice-based art experience to the university community by introducing classes for non-majors so that between 2012 and 2020 the number of non-SOVA Virginia Tech students taking non-major studio classes increased from zero to 500, and furthermore, he supported the transition of many SOVA classes to Pathways to General Education and oversaw the introduction of one of the first Pathways minors, The Visual Arts and Society; and

WHEREAS, as a champion of the visual arts he fought tirelessly to ensure that the visual arts were included in university-level discussions, serving as the first chair of what is now the Arts@VT Board, and his leadership in this arena advanced conversations that contributed to the building of the Creativity and Innovation District's Living Learning Community which opened in August 2021; and

WHEREAS, as a scholar with a Ph.D. in Modern/Contemporary and African art history, he maintained an active scholarly agenda, focusing on art of the 1960s, particularly the work of Yoko Ono; and

WHEREAS, his scholarly publications are widely cited by peers, and a seminal article "Yoko Ono's Cut Piece (1964): From text to performance and back again," in *PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art* (2008, vol. 30, no. 3) has been cited over thirty times, standing as the critical source on the work of Yoko Ono; and

WHEREAS, his connections in the contemporary art world, his prior experience as a museum administrator, and his commitment to visiting artists brought unprecedented art and artists to campus through exhibits by artists such as Yoko Ono, Kehinde Wiley, Marilyn Minter, and Laurie Anderson; and

WHEREAS, as an instructor of contemporary art history he introduced undergraduate and graduate students to the world of contemporary art, delighting students with first-hand stories of artists, art dealers, and gallerists; and

WHEREAS, because of his many professional accomplishments he was awarded the CAUS Career Achievement award in 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors recognizes Dr. Kevin Concannon for his distinguished service to the university with the title Professor Emeritus of Art History.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution recommending Kevin Concannon, Ph.D., for emeritus status be approved.

April 4, 2022