SUMMARY

Reappointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (7)

November 17, 2025

Each college has formal procedures for the reappointment to endowed chairs, professorships, and fellowships that include review by a college honorifics committee or promotion and tenure committee.

After review by the appropriate college committee the college dean makes recommendations for approval by the provost and the Board of Visitors. Such an appointment may continue through the active career of the professor at the university, unless it is relinquished in favor of some other honored or administrative appointment or unless the appointment has specific term limitations that may be renewable.

The following faculty members are recommended for reappointments to endowed chairs, professorships, or fellowships at Virginia Tech.

College of Engineering (7)

Masoud Agah	Virginia Microelectronics Consortium Professorship
Luiz A. DaSilva	Bradley Professorship of Cybersecurity
Saifur Rahman	Joseph R. Loring Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Padma Rajagopalan	Robert E. Hord, Jr. Professorship in Chemical Engineering
Hesham A. Rakha	Samuel Reynolds Pritchard Professorship
Jeffrey H. Reed	Willis G. Worcester Professorship of Electrical Engineering
Yue Joseph Wang	Grant A. Dove Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
The Virginia Microelectronics Consortium (VMEC) Professor

The Virginia Microelectronics Consortium (VMEC) is a group of colleges and universities including George Mason University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Old Dominion University, the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, the College of William and Mary, and Norfolk State University. This group was created in 1996 to serve the microelectronics industry in the Commonwealth and to leverage the state's diverse industry and educational microelectronics resources for mutual benefit. Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Dr. Masoud Agah for reappointment as the VMEC Professor, concurring with the recommendation of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department Head and Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Agah has a long and consistent record of research funding. He has carried out outstanding research in the field of microelectromechanical systems (MEMS), microfluidics, wearable sensors, and microanalytical chemistry. He served as the principal investigator for a major grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) grant totaling $2.3M, titled *Intelligent Wearable Analyzer for Vapor Exposure (iWAVE) in the Transportation Sector.* This achievement was recognized by Virginia Tech's Office of Research and Innovation for receiving the university's largest award. He is also the co-founder and chief technology officer (CTO) of a startup company that is using technology developed in his laboratory.

Dr. Agah has authored 93 publications in refereed journals, 86 refereed conference publications, and one book chapter. Since joining Virginia Tech in 2005, he has supervised or is currently supervising 12 Ph.D. students and 15 M.S. students, and has supervised three postdoctoral fellows.

Dr. Agah has been a singular leader for microelectronics research in Virginia. He serves as the founding and executive director of the Virginia Alliance for Semiconductor Technology (VAST), was an initiative recognized and announced by Governor Glenn Youngkin and endorsed by Senator Mark Warner. Dr. Agah won the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award in 2008, the College of Engineering Outstanding New Assistant Professor Award in 2009, the College of Engineering Dean's Faculty Fellow Award in 2011, and was named a faculty fellow with the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation in 2019.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Masoud Agah be reappointed to the Virginia Microelectronics Consortium Professorship, effective December 10, 2025, for a renewable period of five-years, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Bradley Professorship of Cybersecurity

The Bradley Professorship of Cybersecurity in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was created with the support of the Bradley Endowment, which was established by a generous gift from Mrs. Marion Bradley Via. The creation of this professorship enables the department to recognize and support outstanding faculty. Dr. Julia Ross, the dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Dr. Luiz A. DaSilva for reappointment as the Bradley Professor of Cybersecurity, based on the recommendations of the Departments Honorifics Committee.

Dr. DaSilva has a long and consistent record of research and scholarship. He has an international reputation for his contributions to adaptive resource management in wireless networks. This includes cognitive networks and the application of game theory to wireless networks. He currently serves as the executive director of the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI) and as director of the National Science Foundation Industry-University Cooperative Research Center for Wireless Innovation Between Smart and Programmable Environments (NSF IUCRC WISPER), which is pioneering transformative wireless and networking technologies. His research has resulted in two books and more than 300 peer-reviewed articles.

Dr. DaSilva is the recipient of the 2023 Golden Geese Mentoring Award for his commitment to mentoring and excellence in graduate education and the 2024 Dean's Award for Excellence in Service. He served as a distinguished lecturer for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Communications Society from 2015 to 2018, is a fellow of Trinity College Dublin, and is a fellow of the IEEE for contributions to cognitive networking and to resource management in wireless networks.

Through his scholarship in wireless networks, Dr. DaSilva has made outstanding contributions to Virginia Tech, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation through his innovative research, exemplary teaching methods, dedicated service and outreach to the community, and prolific publications.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Luiz A. DaSilva be reappointed as the Bradley Professor of Cybersecurity, effective December 10, 2025, for a renewable period of five years, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Joseph R. Loring Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering

The Joseph R. Loring Professorship in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was created in 2003 to support a faculty position within the department. Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Dr. Saifur Rahman for reappointment to this position, in agreement with the recommendations of both the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering's Department Head and Honorifics Committee and the College of Engineering Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Rahman has a long and consistent record of research and scholarship. He is an internationally known researcher in the areas of grid integration of electric vehicles, renewable energy, Internet of Things (IoT) sensor integration, and the energy internet.

Dr. Rahman served as president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), an extraordinary honor that brought international attention and prestige to Virginia Tech. In addition to his term as IEEE president, he has an outstanding service record nationally and internationally. He served as a member of the Commonwealth of Virginia Governor's Executive Committee on Reduction of Energy Consumption in the Private Sector from June 2015 to December 2017 and has recently served on numerous international advisory committees. He also led the IEEE delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties COP27 and COP28. Since 2020, he has delivered 81 international keynote speeches.

Dr. Rahman is a life fellow of the IEEE and received the IEEE Millennium Medal in 2000 for outstanding achievements and contributions to the organization. He is a foreign fellow of the Chinese Society of Electrical Engineers. Dr. Rahman's excellence in teaching is widely recognized. He has developed eight new courses at levels ranging from 2,000 to 6,000 and has supervised 34 Ph.D. and 37 M.S. students to completion.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Saifur Rahman be reappointed as the Joseph R. Loring Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering, effective December 10, 2025, for a renewable period of five years, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Robert E. Hord, Jr. Professorship in Chemical Engineering

The Robert E. Hord, Jr. Professorship of Chemical Engineering was established by a generous gift from the late Robert E. Hord, Jr., a 1950 master of science graduate in power and fuel engineering. Mr. Hord was an enthusiastic supporter of Virginia Tech's chemical and mechanical engineering programs. The goal of the professorship is to acknowledge and reward faculty at the rank of professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering who have shown exceptional merit in research, teaching and/or service. The award may also be used to support senior faculty for preemptive retention.

Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, and the college honorifics committee have nominated Dr. Padma Rajagopalan to be reappointed as the Robert E. Hord Jr. Professor of Chemical Engineering for a third five-year term. Since her initial appointment to the professorship in March 2021, she has demonstrated truly exceptional achievements in research and scholarship, teaching and mentoring, research leadership, educational outreach to women and underrepresented groups, and professional recognitions and services. Her reappointment has been strongly endorsed by two top professional leaders who are members of the National Academies:

"I am pleased to offer a very enthusiastic endorsement of Dr. Padma Rajagopalan's scholarly productivity and accomplishments in support of her nomination for a third term of the Robert H. Hord, Jr. Professorship. She conducts world-class and highly recognized research in tissue engineering as evidenced by extensive and enviable funding and publishing records, excels at teaching and serves the profession with outstanding results." Dr. Gilda Barabina, President of Colin College of Engineering from 2020-2025; Member, National Academies of Medicine and Engineering; Past President, Biomedical Engineering Society (BES); Past President, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineers (AIMBE); Past President, American Association for Advancement of Sciences (AAAS).

"Overall, Prof. Rajagopalan is very deserving for this recognition with the Robert E. Hord Professorship. She is a star in the field of chemical engineering, and I anticipate that she would be a highly sought recruit to other universities due to her excellence in scholarship, high productivity and collegial approach. I am pleased to be able to strongly support this recognition." Dr. David L. Kaplan, Stern Family Endowed Professor of Engineering, Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Distinguished University Professor, Tufts University; Chair, NIH Study Section on Biomaterials and Biointerfaces; Editor-in-Chief, Biomaterials Science and Engineering, American Chemical Society.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Padma Rajagopalan be reappointed to the Robert E. Hord, Jr. Professorship in Chemical Engineering, effective April 10, 2026, for a renewable period of five years, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Samuel Reynolds Pritchard Professorship

Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, nominates Dr. Hesham Rakha for reappointment to the Samuel Reynolds Pritchard Professorship in the College of Engineering, in concurrence with the recommendations of the Honorifics Committee of the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and the CEE Department Head, Dr. Mark Widdowson. The Samuel Reynolds Pritchard Professorship was established by the late Walter A. Buchanan, Sr. in 1992 in honor of Pritchard, who served as the dean of the College of Engineering from 1918 to 1928. The professorship recognizes excellence in engineering research.

Dr. Rakha is a nationally and internationally recognized faculty member who brings visibility and notoriety to Virginia Tech. He is a member of the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, the National Academy of Artificial Intelligence, and the Canadian Academy of Engineering. He is a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Dr. Rakha is the author or co-author of 567 peer-reviewed papers in journals and peer-reviewed conference proceedings, as well as 24 books and book chapters. His publications have been cited nearly 25,000 times. Dr. Rakha has received multiple awards for research papers in the field of transportation engineering, science, and technology.

Dr. Rakha's commitment to graduate students is evident, given his role as chair or co-chair of 40 Ph.D. students and 48 M.S. students. He supports his research team through an exceptionally strong funded research base, having directed or co-directed more than $53M of external research funding at Virginia Tech, with a personal share of nearly $25M.

Dr. Rakha is a valued colleague and dedicated university citizen. He is committed to excellence in teaching and student advising and makes significant contributions to the service mission of the university and his profession.

Dr. Rakha earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with honors from Cairo University in Egypt and master's and doctoral degrees in civil and environmental engineering from Queen's University in Kingston, Canada.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Hesham A. Rakha be reappointed to the Samuel Reynolds Pritchard Professorship, effective December 10, 2025, for a renewable period of five years, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Willis G. Worcester Professorship of Electrical Engineering

The Willis G. Worcester Professorship of Electrical Engineering was created in 1983. This professorship recognizes and supports outstanding faculty. Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Dr. Jeffrey H. Reed to be reappointed to this endowed position, concurring with the recommendations of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Head and Honorifics Committee and the College of Engineering Honorifics Committee. He has held this title since 2005.

Dr. Reed has advised national leadership on telecommunications policy issues, meeting with White House staff, congressional staff, and regulatory authorities on numerous issues related to wireless communications. His advisory work on the President's Council of Advisors in Science and Technology report to the President, *Realizing the Full Potential of Government Held Spectrum to Realize Economic Growth,* contributed to reforms that will expand the availability of spectrum for wireless communication systems. He has been a leading representative and advocate for the initiative. Dr. Reed has served as the chief technology officer for the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative since 2020 and as interim executive director from 2019 to 2020.

Dr. Reed has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than 175 sponsored projects totaling over $77M. He has authored 177 journal articles and more than 220 refereed conference papers. He has co-authored eight books and contributed to or edited 38 books. Dr. Reed has supervised 43 Ph.D. students and 60 M.S. students to the completion of their degrees.

Dr. Reed is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for his contributions to software-defined radio, communications signal processing, and educational leadership. He has received several awards, including the Wireless Innovation Forum International Achievement Award in recognition of his lifetime work.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Jeffrey H. Reed be reappointed as the Willis G. Worcester Professor of Electrical Engineering, effective December 10, 2025, for a renewable period of five years, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Grant A. Dove Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering

The Grant A. Dove Professorship was established in November 2004 by a charitable gift from Comcast, formerly Media One, a company for which Grant Dove served on the board of directors. Mr. Dove spent the bulk of his professional career with Texas Instruments, from which he retired as Executive Vice President. He was also involved as a founder, investor, and director of a number of companies in the information technology sector, including Comcast. The purpose of the professorship is to attract and/or retain an eminent scholar in the field of electrical and computer engineering.

Dr. Julia Ross, dean of the College of Engineering, has nominated Dr. Yue Joseph Wang for reappointment to the Grant A. Dove Professorship, concurring with the recommendations of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Head and Honorifics Committee.

Dr. Wang is an internationally recognized leader in bioinformatics, systems biology, medical imaging, and machine learning. He has a long and consistent record of research funding. Since 2019, he has served as principal investigator on eight projects totaling approximately $9.5M, excluding projects for which he serves as co-principal investigator.

In the past five years, Dr. Wang has supervised seven Ph.D. students and two M.S. students to completion, and currently advises four Ph.D. students. During this period, he has authored or co-authored 25 publications in refereed journals and one book chapter.

Dr. Wang has been an elected fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) since 2004 and an elected fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) since 2016. His work has been highly cited, with more than 16,700 citations and h-index of 57.

Dr. Wang is active professionally and currently serves as the associate editor for *EURASIP Journal on Bioinformatics and Systems Biology* and as a member on the editorial board for *Scientific Reports and for Systems Biomedicine*. He has also served as a charter member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) BioData Management and Analysis (BDMA) Study Section.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Yue Joseph Wang be reappointed as the Grant A. Dove Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering, effective December 10, 2025, for a renewable period of five years with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment.

November 18, 2025