



FR18-15

**A Resolution to Support the Gradual Cessation of Dissection at the University**  
**Sponsored by:** Ellie Brasacchio (Chair of the Representative Body), Brian Cameron  
(Representative for the College of Arts and Sciences)

**WHEREAS:** The University of Virginia has an obligation and opportunity to lead the way in compassionate teaching and research as a major research institution; **AND,**

**WHEREAS:** Dissection integrates violence into the classroom not only through supporting an intrinsically violent industry that manipulates, exploits, and kills sentient beings, but also through current pedagogy that inaccurately instructs students that such violence is necessary and just; **AND,**

**WHEREAS:** Alternatives to dissection, such as virtual reality and anatomical models, would provide students the opportunity to gain equitable anatomical education, as well as experience with high-tech, innovative means of learning, while also reducing the cost of these programs through the elimination of single-use “specimens;” **AND,**

**WHEREAS:** At a university with legacies of violence defended in the name of tradition, it is our responsibility as students to insist that the pursuit of knowledge be rooted in compassion and dignity; the alternative is a university that perpetuates its own oppressive history; **THEREFORE BE IT.**

**RESOLVED:** The Student Council Representative Body fully supports the motion to phase out the practice of animal dissections at the University by 2023, most notably in the Biology and Psychology Departments, through incremental steps, such as establishing a student-choice policy, creating dissection-free pilot programs which explore the most appropriate alternatives to dissection for all courses involving dissection, and eventually providing fully dissection-free courses with the annulment of existing and future contracts with animal distributor(s); **AND BE IT FURTHER,**

**RESOLVED:** The Student Council Representative Body condemns violence in all forms, against both humans and animals, and will continue to seek justice for those who are the victims of such violence.

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Chair Date

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Sponsor(s) Date