Resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends the continuation of the post-baccalaureate Certificate in Appalachian Studies

Rationale for Continuation of the Certificate:

- The certificate offers the **only graduate-level program in Appalachian Studies in the Commonwealth of Virginia.**
- The certificate was established at the request of Southwest Virginia teachers in public schools and community colleges seeking an 18-credit advanced study program in Appalachian Studies. (SCHEV requires 18 credits in a specific discipline in order to teach in that discipline at college level.)
- The certificate program, therefore, supports **RU 7-17’s core values of “being an active partner in the viability of our region” and providing “diversity and the richness it adds to our University.”** It helps to fulfill Goal 3.2: “Develop a strong relationship between RU, the surrounding region, the Commonwealth, and the nation that fosters academic opportunities, good citizenship, ethical behavior, and civic engagement….”
- The certificate program began in summer of 2005 – thus in **existence only 3.5 years.**
- The program **takes 2 years to complete** for part-time students who typically enroll in only one course per semester, including summer.
- Since May of 2007, **8 students have completed the certificate** (verified by Registrar’s office). **5 students are enrolled at present or for summer** (verified by Graduate College). **2 additional requests for admission are pending in the Graduate College.**
- The certificate is offered at **no additional cost** to the university. All courses, other than directed study, are already taught in disciplines supporting other degree programs.
- The university **realizes income** from certificate students who take additional courses beyond degree requirements to complete the certificate.
- Every certificate student **publishes** at least one original research document for inclusion in the Appalachian Archives in the Appalachian Regional Studies Center.
- Every certificate student is encouraged to **present research** in professional venues. To date, **85% of those who have completed the program or are currently enrolled have presented in international, national, and regional professional conferences on behalf of Radford University.**
- The certificate program is in the process of being restructured with expansion of course offerings in a wider array of disciplines and colleges.
- With support from the Dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, the Certificate in Appalachian Studies has potential to grow and increase its value to citizens of Southwest Virginia, particularly teachers in public and private institutions, health care providers, and social workers.

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