Resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends the continuation of the undergraduate Appalachian Studies Minor

Rationale for Continuation of the Minor:

- The interdisciplinary Appalachian Studies Minor has been in place at Radford University since 1981. It has been revised as appropriate through the years and is currently being restructured by Appalachian Studies faculty following recommendations from Academic Program Review in 2008. The specific aim is to strengthen the program and to increase the number of students completing the Minor.
- The Minor serves as a corollary to majors in a variety of disciplines and as an academic foundation for multiple outreach programs to the community and region.
- Virtually all courses serving the Minor may also be used either within major disciplines or as part of Core requirements. These courses are generally fully enrolled.
- Among the co-curricular programs that the minor enhances and interacts with are AASIS (Appalachian Arts and Studies in the Schools), the Highland Summer Conference, the Farm at Selu, the Appalachian Events Committee, the Appalachian Teachers’ Network, Appalachian Folk Arts Festival, Appalachian Awareness Day, and others. These programs directly engage approximately 150 RU students per year, and through the outreach efforts they are part of, they influence hundreds more. All APST Minors participate in one or more of these programs.
- The Minor in Appalachian Studies 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 APST Minor also supports RU 7-17’s Goal 3.1 regarding the fostering of international relations. Because of close cultural ties among Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Appalachia, these are the international cultures APST students have studied most closely and have visited most often in study abroad programs. They also have the privilege of learning from international visitors on the RU campus. Two projects are currently underway in Appalachian Studies to bring international scholars and artists to RU during the 2009-2010 academic year.
- Every APST Minor publishes at least one original research document for inclusion in the Appalachian Archives in the Appalachian Regional Studies Center.
- Every APST Minor is encouraged to present research in professional venues. As an example of this process in action, on March 27-29, 2009, 23 Radford University students presented research at the annual national Appalachian Studies Association Conference. All students currently enrolled in the APST Minor were part of the various presentations.
- With support from the Dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences, the interdisciplinary Appalachian Studies Minor has potential to grow and increase its value to Radford University students as they seek ways to navigate local to global cultures.

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