

## **Request for Authorization to Establish Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Degrees in Sustainable Development at Appalachian State University**

Appalachian State University requests authorization to establish BA and BS degrees in Sustainable Development (CIP 03.0103) effective August 2008.

### **Program Description**

ASU proposes developing existing concentrations within the current Interdisciplinary Studies major into separate degree programs. The proposed BA and BS degrees in Sustainable Development will utilize 23 faculty from 11 disciplines across the campus. The degree requires a focus on a geographical area and a concentration in one of three career-oriented areas: Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture; Community, Regional, and Global Development; or Environmental Studies. The BA degree will offer students broad exposure to the field within a liberal arts education context and the BS degree will offer a more concentrated pre-professional focus in a specialized area. In practice, sustainable development engages in participatory processes to ensure equitable economic and social development, while conserving natural resources and encouraging cultural diversity. It is anticipated that the program will enroll 35 full-time majors.

### **UNC Tomorrow Relevance**

The program primarily responds to UNC Tomorrow findings relating to global readiness, the environment, economic transformation and community development, and outreach and engagement. It is intended that program graduates will develop international and global perspectives, a solid understanding of local to global connections, and the ability to grasp complex environmental and socioeconomic problems. A full-time non-faculty assistant director of outreach assists students with research and service learning opportunities involving nearby localities, land conservation, regional planning, and community enrichment and development.

### **Resource Implications**

The faculty teaching courses for this degree are already located in departments across campus, and the number of faculty and assigned space are adequate for the program for the next four years. The majority of courses are now offered as part of departmental offerings. The program operates the Sustainable Development Teaching and Research Farm, a 20-acre facility nearby and a outreach office in Cove Creek, NC. Moving this and other interdisciplinary degree programs out of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (which will be dissolved) into the newly created University College will save some resources associated with a departmental infrastructure, including the department chair position.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the ASU request to establish Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Sustainable Development (CIP 03.0103) effective August 2008.