RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN RELIGION AND CULTURE

WHEREAS, in 2009 the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies was restructured as the Department of Religion and Culture; and

WHEREAS, the bachelor of arts degree in religion and culture will prepare students to analyze and respond to several of the 21st century's most important global phenomena, including the impact of religion and religious practices on politics, economics, the arts, and everyday life, as well as the impact of cultural shifts in moral and ethical practices, the arts, the dissemination of information and entertainment, and the influence of traditional values and attitudes within the emerging postmodern environment; and,

WHEREAS, the bachelor of arts degree in religion and culture will prepare graduates for careers in education, law, judicial systems, public policy, social service, and public service in the United States Department of State, Homeland Security, and other branches of state and federal government; and,

WHEREAS, the degree is unique within the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is one of very few similar programs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the bachelor of arts degree in religion and culture supports the commitment of the Department of Religion and Culture, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and the university to diversify and internationalize the undergraduate curriculum at Virginia Tech;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the bachelor of arts degree in religion and culture be approved effective fall 2012 and the proposal forwarded to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) for approval and to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for notification.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Visitors approve the bachelor of arts degree in religion and culture effective fall 2012.

June 4, 2012

Summary
Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Culture
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

As the university's largest college, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS) is home to Virginia Tech's departments and programs in the arts, education, humanities, human sciences, Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), and social sciences.

Background. Virginia Tech has offered courses in religion since 1951. Over the years, the college has aligned the teaching of courses in religion, philosophy, culture, and the humanities with student demand and shifts in disciplinary focus. In 2009, CLAHS restructured the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST) into the Department of Religion and Culture. Consistent with the alignment of courses and faculty expertise, the proposed bachelor of arts degree in religion and culture prepares students for careers that require critical thinking and knowledge of global phenomena such as the impact of religion and religious practices on society. Graduates will be prepared for futures in foreign affairs, international and domestic law, education, public policy, and social service.

Resources. No additional resources are required to implement this degree. Existing faculty in the Department of Religion and Culture will provide all instruction for the courses associated with the degree. The B.A. in Religion and Culture will replace the B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies in the spring of 2013.

Curriculum. 120 credit hours distributed in required categories:
- 33-36 credits in the university's Curriculum for Liberal Education
- 21credits in religion and culture core courses
- 12 credits in religion and culture elective courses
- 6 credits in foreign language courses
- 18 credits (minor) or 30 credits (major)
- 15-30 credits in university elective courses

Department of Religion and Culture.
- 13 tenured and tenure track faculty, and 11 adjunct faculty in two primary areas:
  - religion and humanities
- Currently offered minors: American Studies, Appalachian Studies, Asian Area Studies, Humanities, Humanities and the Arts, Judaic Studies, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Middle East Studies, Popular Culture, Religious Studies