Resolution (2012): Student Activism Judicial Response Resolution

Sponsors: Nicole Updegrove ’14, Grant Tanenbaum ’15, Zach Malter ’13

The Wesleyan Student Assembly (WSA),

In light of pending judicial actions for students who allegedly disrupted the 2012 Board of Trustees Retreat,

Respecting university concerns about the nature and timing of the alleged disruption,

Affirming all students’ need to comply with Public Safety and with the Code of Non-Academic Conduct,

Acknowledging the distress of valued trustees after students entered the meeting,

Simultaneously acknowledging other trustees’ verbal support for Wesleyan’s continued history of activism¹,

Noting that many students are unaware of the nature and meaning of an Executive Session of the Board of Trustees,

Noting the importance of student input to trustee decision-making,

Appreciating the peaceful and respectful nature of the sit-in,

Pointing to inconsistencies in the language of the Code of Non-Academic Conduct about disruptions,

Gently noting that business continued as usual after fewer than twenty minutes,

Acknowledging the crucial role of the Code of Non-Academic Conduct in upholding Wesleyan’s community standards²,

Admiring the perpetuation of Wesleyan’s time-honored standard as supporting an activist subset of the community,

Concerned by potential long-term consequences of the pursuit of judicial actions in response to this issue both for the students involved and for relationships across campus,

Noting the opportunity for the administration to initiate a productive conversation about the role of and avenues for activism,

¹ In video footage of the incident taken by Benjamin Doernberg ’13, Amy Schulman ’82 P’11 is heard to say, “Students barging in is a long and time-honored tradition at Wesleyan.”
² Specifically, between Section 2, Regulation 12 of the Code of Non-Academic Conduct and Regulation 15 of the University Policy on Disruptions.
Hoping that the administration will openly recognize this incident as an example of peaceful, respectful, productive activism,

Deeply convinced that the entire community will learn more from such a dialogue than from a hearing with the Student Judicial Board,

1. **Urges** campus employers to disregard these judicial charges in decision-making about students’ employment status at Wesleyan;

2. **Entreats** the administration to drop all judicial charges against the students who entered the Board meeting;

3. **Invites** the initiation of a conversation between students, Public Safety, staff and faculty with experience in activism, and any interested local trustees, about the nature of and productive channels for activism.

4. **Resolves** to remain actively seized of the matter.