Resolution 5.34 (2012)


The Wesleyan Student Assembly (WSA),

Recognizing the demonstrated desire and need for expanded dialogue involving the greater campus community,

Recognizing community members’ vocal expression of strong interest in issues of diversity, inclusion, social justice, and other timely campus issues,

Acknowledging that course schedules and administrative responsibilities leave no available times conducive to community activities that include all students, faculty, staff, administrators, and other community members,

Further acknowledging that the Monday, November 12, 2012 community forum on “Diversity University: In Theory and Practice” attracted hundreds of attendees, and that many other interested parties were unable to attend,

Recognizing that such days can be disruptive to the academic calendar if not planned for in advance,

Noting that a current proposal for the new five-year academic calendar includes a week with only one day of class, which could lead to lower than desirable class attendance both for students and faculty,¹

1. Recommends the institutionalization of a day without classes for community building events in the academic calendar, such that the week containing Fall Break would have classes on Monday and Tuesday and no classes Wednesday through Sunday, allowing for a day for community building on a selected Tuesday during the semester and a day off from classes on the Monday of Labor Day weekend;
2. Calls upon the University to determine the form and content of such a day in consultation with students and other community members on a yearly basis;
3. Resolves to remain actively seized of the matter.

Introduced 18 November 2012 / Adopted 18 November 2012

¹ Noting the attendance issues that are seen on the short week of Thanksgiving break and the undesirability for a lost teaching day for all students involved. The structure of the week as it stands in one of the calendar options includes class on the Monday of the week of Fall Break, and a break for the remainder of that week (Tuesday-Sunday).