Resolution X.34
Sponsors: Andrew Trexler ’14 (Principal), Sam Ebb ’13, Lydia Rex ’14, Jason Shatz ’14

Understanding that WesFest 2013 has been rescheduled from a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to a Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday,

Understanding that the administration would prefer to avoid exposing prospective students to a dangerous drinking and substance abuse environment, and that the new schedule would seem to accommodate that preference,

Acknowledging the tragically high numbers of students and prospective students that are transported to the hospital during the course of every WesFest in recent memory,

Understanding the desire for classes and academic programming during WesFest,

Understanding that classes do not occur on Saturdays,

Observing the plentitude and particular value of lectures, panels, and other highly academic events that are regularly scheduled during and contribute greatly to WesFest, and the continued opportunities for the same,

Noting that students are almost invariably most academically strained on nights prior to classes, including Wednesday and Thursday evenings,

Noting that professors and staff that might otherwise participate in WesFest events are similarly constrained on these days,

Noting that a good WesFest requires the combined efforts, collaborations, and enthusiasms of the entire campus community, and that this is maximized on days where there are fewer mundane, day-to-day tasks to be accomplished,

Noting that students and other community members would feel torn between academic work and a desire to participate in and contribute to WesFest, and that both interests would likely suffer,

Noting that student groups enjoy putting on events and programs during WesFest, and are much less capable of doing so on weekdays,

Observing that these events and programs are vital to the charm of WesFest,
Observing the existing difficulty of finding sufficient hosts for prospective students and that this new schedule would exacerbate that difficulty,

Positing the possibility that some students (though certainly not all or even most) may still seek to engage in dangerous behaviors despite pressing academics, and that this affords prospective students a poor impression of Wesleyan on additional levels, poses problems for the academic well-being of said students, present and future, and thereby potentially provides great harm to our educational mission,

Noting that the often vital initiative of hosts to take prospective students to campus events and show prospective students the charms of Wesleyan requires a relatively free schedule,

Noting that, for prospective students, it is incredibly dull to watch the host do hir homework,

Observing that Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday are all three weekdays,

Observing that prospective students also have other pressing activities and needs such as school that could prevent them from participating in WesFest on weekdays,

Observing also that the parents and guardians of prospective students similarly have pressing obligations such as work that would prevent them from participating in or transporting prospective students to WesFest on weekdays,

Concerned that these constraints are more strongly felt by prospective students whose families depend more heavily paycheck-to-paycheck income for vitality or are otherwise less privileged,

Observing that this year’s shift away from a fully need-blind model for domestic first-year students may, in the administration’s own words, have an observable and significant impact on matriculation rates for and diversity of the Class of 2017,

Observing that the alteration of the WesFest 2013 schedule may also have an observable and significant impact on matriculation rates for and diversity of the Class of 2017,

Believing strongly that the matriculation and diversity data for the Class of 2017 is paramount to understanding the viability of our new financial aid model and its effects on class diversity, regardless of disagreements about the merits and viability of this new policy before the accumulation of this data, and that this new policy should therefore be the sole major variable in the comparison to previous years,
Acknowledging that matriculation and diversity data is also vital to evaluating any major experimentation with WesFest,

Urging that these two experiments and evaluations, if they must be conducted at all, absolutely must not be allowed to interfere with each other by running concurrently,

Acknowledging the near certainty that the new financial aid model will be maintained for the 2012-2013 Budget and the Class of 2017,

Positing, therefore, that in this context 2013 is the worst possible year to experiment with the schedule of WesFest, and that 2014 and subsequent years are similarly but decreasingly poor choices,

Acknowledging the grave realities of Wesleyan and broader drinking and substance abuse culture and many admirable efforts of the Wesleyan community to combat this culture,

Lauding in particular the efforts of Wesleyan’s National College Health Improvement Project (NCHIP) team and those of many student groups in combating this culture,

Positing that ongoing efforts and other yet-untried avenues provide great opportunities to further combat this culture and eliminate dangerous behavior during WesFest and throughout the year,

Suggesting, in particular, that more WesFest events be scheduled in the late evening hours, as very successfully exemplified by particular efforts of the Wesleyan Student Assembly and the NCHIP team to provide fun and healthful late night alternatives to college drinking culture,

Concerned deeply about the ostensibly complete lack of involvement in or input on this decision to change the schedule of WesFest 2013 by the elected representatives of the students,

Concerned similarly about the ostensibly complete lack of transparency regarding the same,

Acknowledging that some student staff were consulted in this decision, in absence of the proper inclusion of elected student representatives,

Noting that these student staff also unanimously opposed the selected change,

Observing the extreme urgency afforded by the need to plan events for WesFest 2013 and distribute materials thereof to prospective students and to the Wesleyan community,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Wesleyan Student Assembly
1. **Demands** the immediate reversal of the scheduling change of WesFest 2013 to return to a Thursday, Friday, Saturday schedule,

2. **Demands** a commitment on the part of the administration to amply involve the Assembly and the Wesleyan community generally in any similar decision regarding WesFest in the future, with ample transparency after, during, and well before any such decision is made,

3. **Requests** written justification as to why this decision was made and why this decision was made without consulting with students or their elected representatives,

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

*Introduced 18 November 2012 / [Adopted/Rejected] [Date]*