To: Educational Policy Committee & The Wesleyan Faculty
From: Grant Tanenbaum, Chair, WSA Academic Affairs Committee
Subject: In Support of the Winter Session Pilot Program at Wesleyan

To Whom It May Concern:

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Wesleyan Student Assembly wishes to voice our support for the proposed pilot program of a Winter Session at Wesleyan. The committee, after hearing the proposal and deliberating on its merits, investigating similar programs at our peer institutions, bringing the matter to the General Assembly, and surveying student interest and support across campus has resolved to support the proposal.

The Committee feels strongly that increasing the number of options that students have to take advantage of the Wesleyan Education can only positively impact our campus community and academic climate. Moreover, a Winter Session survey would offer students struggling to gain entry into high demand courses an additional chance to participate. The Committee is excited by the opportunity that the unique classroom environment Winter Session courses offer. We feel that the intimate nature of these intensive courses offer an experience that will be exciting for faculty and students alike. The Committee feels that students would not be constrained by the format of these courses; in fact we believe they would thrive. The University should continue to experiment with new ways to educate its students, as it has throughout its history.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of the proposal.

Signed,
Grant Tanenbaum, Chair
Nicole Brenner, Vice-Chair
Jason Schatz
Rebecca Hutman
Benjamin Marvin- Vanderyn
Resolution 3.35: Resolution Supporting a Wesleyan Winter Session

Sponsors: Grant Tanenbaum ‘15 (Principal), Nicole Updegrove ‘14, Nicole Brenner ‘15, Jacob Musinsky ‘15, Alton Wang ‘16,

Addressing the proposal brought to the faculty for a two-week-long Winter Session,\(^1\)

Highlighting the high student demand for further academic enrichment,\(^2\)

Indicating the steady increase in number of course offerings for the Summer Session since its creation as an indicator of high interest in additional academic options,

Further highlighting the challenge faced by students in attempts to successfully enroll in high-demand courses during the fall and spring semesters,

Underlining further challenges posed by the full-course load for students also engaged in work-study jobs or other extracurricular activities,

Concerned by the difficulties faced by some students to remain engaged through a five-plus-week break in the academic calendar,

Pointing to the benefits of academic engagement throughout the calendar year,

Pointing to the success of Wesleyan’s peer schools in creating similar programs during their winter terms,

Supporting the drive for innovation to increase Wesleyan’s diversity of available academic options,

Further supporting the addition of new options for students already staying on-campus over winter break,

\(^1\) From the EPC proposal:

“We propose a 4-year pilot project to offer a Winter Session, featuring two-week courses, beginning January 8-21, 2014. Four or five courses would be offered in the first year. Course offerings in the following years will scale up or down depending on student interest. Course offerings could include popular gateway courses; off-site field-based courses; and once-in-a-lifetime courses co-taught by Wesleyan faculty and prominent experts in emerging fields, distinguished writers, filmmakers, leaders in the non-profit and political sectors, activists, and journalists. Our vision is that students would begin coursework during winter break: before the first meeting of class, they would read the majority of class materials, engage in online discussions with other students on questions posted by the instructor, and submit one or two written assignments.”

\(^2\) From the all student survey: 88.98% of students surveyed support the creation of a Winter Session. 70.42% of students surveyed expressed some interest in taking a Winter Session course.
Noting the proposal’s commitment to Wesleyan’s existing academic standards for coursework and hours, the Wesleyan Student Assembly (WSA),

1. Urges the faculty to vote in favor of the Wesleyan Winter Session, 
2. Strongly supports faculty interest in keeping Winter Session entirely voluntary for both students and professors,
3. Urges EPC to commit to establishing firm guidelines about the type of course that may reasonably be taught over the course of two or four weeks, which must be brought to the full faculty for approval,
4. Resolves to remain actively seized of the matter.

Introduced 6 October 2013 / Adopted 13 October 2013

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3 The proposal’s standards for class time meet Wesleyan’s existing requirements for credit. From Wesleyan regulations: “One unit of Wesleyan credit requires 120 to 160 hours of academic work. This work typically consists of 40 hours of scheduled class time, which is made up of 39 hours of class meeting time,* and one scheduled final exam or the equivalent of at least one hour of additional work. In addition, 80 to 120 hours of out-of-class work are expected. A one-credit course that does not conform to a standard meeting pattern of at least 40 hours must still require 120 to 160 hours of academic work. For courses that award more or less than one unit of credit, the required hours of academic work are normally prorated to conform to the above formula.”
## Winter Session Survey Data

### 1. Are you in support of the creation of a Winter Session?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. Would you be interested in taking a course during Winter Session?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Very Interested</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Somewhat Interested</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Uninterested</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>