Resolution X.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,

Highlighting the high student demand for further academic enrichment,

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,

Noting the proposal’s commitment to Wesleyan’s existing academic standards for coursework and hours,

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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.

3 The proposal’s standards for class time meet Wesleyan’s existing requirements for credit. From Wesleyan
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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*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.”*