Resolution X.36: Resolution Supporting the Wesleyan Intensive Semester Pilot Project
Introduced: September 28th, 2014
Sponsors: Rebecca Hutman ’17 (Principal), Grant Tanenbaum ’15, Henry Vansant ’18, Sadasia “McCutcheon ’17, Key Session ’17, Bruno Machiavello ’16, Lizzie Shackney ’17, Arron Luo ’18, Nicole Brenner ’15, Serene Murad ’18

Citing Wesleyan’s commitment to academic exploration and innovation

Commending the desire that Wesleyan students and faculty share for academic depth and rigor

Recognizing that each student has a unique way of learning; each faculty member has a unique way of teaching

Asserting that, when possible, students and faculty should be granted the freedom to create environments most conducive to their learning and teaching

Applauding the University’s precedent for fostering innovative academic environments, as evidenced by the implementation of Winter Session, Summer Session, and the College of Integrative Sciences

Noting the value of the academic environment in the “Intensive Semester”: where one topic is studied, in depth and uninterrupted, for a condensed time period

Appreciating the potential here to create intellectual community: a community of faculty and students from diverse years and majors

Appreciating that the program’s cumulative and project-based learning fosters critical thinking

Appreciating the way in which this program asks students to connect course material with real-world application

Citing Wesleyan’s established support of academic exploration within an open curriculum

Realizing that students are more willing to explore fields outside their comfort zone for a short period of time rather than for a full semester

Noting that the program gives students valuable support and guidance for navigating the open curriculum
Acknowledging that the condensed course format is suited for some, not all courses; for some, not all students; for some, not all professors

Further acknowledging that the program is voluntary. Thus, it would benefit the students interested and would not negatively impact students outside of the program

Aware that this pilot, like any, will have flaws, but will be instructive in shaping future academic programming

Positing that students, once familiar with the depth of learning in the program, would bring that depth to all subsequent classes, benefiting a larger swath of the Wesleyan community

Asserting that the Intensive Semester epitomizes Wesleyan’s creative culture by implementing more learning styles into the curriculum

Believing strongly in the potential of the “Intensive Semester”

The Wesleyan Student Assembly (WSA),

  1. Recommends that the Educational Policy Committee approve a pilot of the “Intensive Semester” to run in Spring of 2015
  2. Resolves to remain actively seized of the matter.

BY A VOTE OF 20 TO 0 WITH 4 VOTES ABSTAINING ON THIS DAY OCTOBER 12, 2014