

Resolution of the Faculty Senate in Response to *An Increased Emphasis on Bi-Term Courses at WKU?*

January 7, 2013

WHEREAS Research into the effectiveness of accelerated learning is at best unreliable and at worst specious and/or laden with serious conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS The Faculty of WKU, experts in their respective fields who are dedicated to the education and welfare of their students, already have the option to deliver courses as bi-term classes if they deem such a format beneficial to those ends; and

WHEREAS No evidence has been provided that the semester system plays any adverse role in student retention or the time between student matriculation and graduation; and

WHEREAS Any “encouragement” given to faculty that results in the teaching of additional bi-term courses may be used as “evidence” to effect a wholesale and altogether unwelcome, unwarranted, and unwise shift in the academic calendar and tuition structure of the university as insinuated in the Provost’s bi-term document and in subsequent discussions held on campus; and

WHEREAS The institutions that utilize such academic calendars and tuition structures are by and large not institutions with which WKU ought to be associated; and

WHEREAS Changes to the academic calendar and tuition structure of the university may undermine the reputation of WKU among students, faculty, alumni, and the general public; and

WHEREAS Changes to the academic calendar and tuition structure of the university may drive current and prospective faculty to other institutions; and

WHEREAS Changes to the academic calendar and tuition structure of the university may drive current and prospective students to other institutions; and

WHEREAS Three standing committees of the Faculty Senate have reviewed available research, consulted with colleagues and peers, and have found the ideas in the Provost’s document well-intentioned but unsound; and

WHEREAS An overwhelming majority of faculty have voiced their opposition to the ideas contained in the Provost’s bi-term document both in numerous discussions held on campus and in a survey conducted by the Faculty Welfare and Professional Standards Committee; therefore, be it

RESOLVED THAT The administration must not and need not “encourage” or “increase emphasis” on bi-term classes in any way or change the academic calendar to privilege their delivery or, in turn, enact a concomitant shift to a per-credit-hour tuition structure.