TO: Purdue University Senate
FROM: Educational Policy Committee
SUBJECT: Winter Pilot Session
DISPOSITION: For Discussion

Whereas: The Provost’s office for teaching and learning and through the executive
director of digital education has requested a pilot program for a winter session.

Whereas: Timeliness to degree and a multitude of choices and availability for courses
is a concern to both faculty and students.

Whereas: Students have expressed the wish to increase flexibility of course offerings
as afforded by a proposed Winter Session though a positive vote in the PSG and PGSG.

Whereas: Several departments and faculty have expressed interest in offering such
online options.

Whereas: Academic advisors have expressed that they view a possible Winter
Session as advantageous for certain students.

Whereas: Such Winter Sessions can only be in a 3-week period and have to be online,
which may impact programs and possibly their rigor through different methods of
assessment and differences in the delivery of content and other factors stemming
from the different format.

Whereas: Such a Winter Session it will be in the period of traditional holidays and
thus may be considered to have a “Grinch” effect for many students and interfere with
“need for a break”.

Therefore be it resolved that: Winter Session pilot be instated starting in the
Winter 2018-2019 temporarily granting the necessary adaptation of rules and
regulations, so that this pilot can run, but with stringent requirement for the
monitoring, assessment and implementation.

The pilot will initially be for three (3) years with the possibility to extend it for an
additional two (2) years and is subject to the conditions and restrictions listed below.
In case of an extension to five (5) years there will be a final assessment, which will be
presented to the senate with consultation of the EPC. Beyond the five years, there will
be no extension on the basis of this resolution. Any future winter sessions or an
institutionalization of such sessions would require a new senate resolution.
The re-approval after three (3) years will be based on an assessment of the EPC based on materials provided by the provost’s office for teaching and learning or the appropriate entity responsible for the winter pilot. The EPC’s recommendation can be an acceptance or if there is no consensus in the EPC to extend the pilot a request for an additional senate vote to extend or terminate the pilot. The materials will need to address the points listed below. The method and scope of assessment shall be determined within one (1) year of the adaptation of this proposal, before the start of the second winter session, and agreed upon by the EPC and the by the provost’s office for teaching and learning or the appropriate entity responsible for the winter pilot.

The restrictions and details for this pilot and its assessment are as follows.

1. The session is a three (3) week session starting after the Finals Week of the Fall Semester and ending before the first week of the Spring Semester.
2. The maximum credits are limited to three (3) credits per student per winter session.
3. It will be ensured that student services such as DRC, CAPS and ITAP are available.
4. The funding model is to be equivalent to the one used for Summer Sessions.
5. The assessment will include
   a. A survey from the participants, that is students, staff, faculty and departments, which includes an assessment of the impact, rigor and compatibility.
   b. A survey from the non-participant students and faculty, which includes, their assessment of impact, rigor and compatibility as above, but also includes an assessment of their motivation for not participating in the program and their view of accessibility and inclusivity of a winter session, also in regard to its timing during winter break.
   c. A report on the impact of Winter Session, which includes data on the grades and rigor. This should include a comparison of grade distributions and syllabi/final exams, subjects covered, etc., between courses in the Winter Session and regular Semesters, i.e. Spring or Fall and a cohort study.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ralph Kaufmann, Chair
Education Policy Committee

Approved
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Abstain
Kristina Bross

Voting against
Ayhan Irfanoglu