CONGRESS RESOLUTION NO. 09-2-9

Sponsor(s): Nicole Hakes (Willkie), Jordan Abrams (University Division), Mark Shadiow (Education)
Co-Sponsor(s):

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PURSUIT OF A WEEK-LONG THANKSGIVING BREAK FOR
A START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR THAT OCCURS 3 DAYS EARLIER

WHEREAS, The current state of the IU academic calendar is such that the fall semester contains two less
days than the spring semester; and,

WHEREAS, the fall semester is not symmetrical with the spring semester in that the spring semester
contains a full week for a spring break and an additional day off for Martin Luther King day; and,

WHEREAS, The Bloomington Faculty Council has indicated in the past that an “ideal” academic
calendar would include “fall and spring breaks of five weekdays each;” and,

WHEREAS, The fall semester contains a broken week during the Monday and the Tuesday of
Thanksgiving week; and,

WHEREAS, There is generally confusion among students during the Monday and the Tuesday of
Thanksgiving week due to the fact that some professors cancel class while others do not, thus making it
difficult for students to know when they should plan to go home for the break; and,

WHEREAS, These two days are usually not utilized effectively as teaching days by the faculty; and,

WHEREAS, A week-long Thanksgiving break would address some of the concerns of the Bloomington
Faculty Council in attempting to find an idea calendar, along with benefitting IU students who would be
sure that Thanksgiving week would be free; and,

WHEREAS, An effective way to compensate for this lost time that has not been considered before by the
IU Calendar and Scheduling Committee, or the Bloomington Faculty Council, is starting school 3 school
days earlier in August, on a Wednesday instead of a Monday,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, That the Student Body Congress recommend to the IU
Calendar and Scheduling Committee, along with the Bloomington Faculty Council, that the IU academic
calendar be revised to include a week-long Thanksgiving break and a start of the fall semester that occurs
3 school days earlier than is presently the case (on a Wednesday instead of a Monday).