

**CONGRESS RESOLUTION NO. 09-2-9**

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

Co-Sponsor(s):

Filed on Feb. 20, 2009. Considered on 2/24/09 with a final disposition of Adopted 24-11.

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

1   **WHEREAS**, The current state of the IU academic calendar is such that the fall semester contains two less  
2 days than the spring semester; and,  
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4   **WHEREAS**, the fall semester is not symmetrical with the spring semester in that the spring semester  
5 contains a full week for a spring break and an additional day off for Martin Luther King day; and,  
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7   **WHEREAS**, The Bloomington Faculty Council has indicated in the past that an “ideal” academic  
8 calendar would include “fall and spring breaks of five weekdays each;” and,  
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10   **WHEREAS**, The fall semester contains a broken week during the Monday and the Tuesday of  
11 Thanksgiving week; and,  
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13   **WHEREAS**, There is generally confusion among students during the Monday and the Tuesday of  
14 Thanksgiving week due to the fact that some professors cancel class while others do not, thus making it  
15 difficult for students to know when they should plan to go home for the break; and,  
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17   **WHEREAS**, These two days are usually not utilized effectively as teaching days by the faculty; and,  
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19   **WHEREAS**, A week-long Thanksgiving break would address some of the concerns of the Bloomington  
20 Faculty Council in attempting to find an ideal calendar, along with benefitting IU students who would be  
21 sure that Thanksgiving week would be free; and,  
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23   **WHEREAS**, An effective way to compensate for this lost time that has not been considered before by the  
24 IU Calendar and Scheduling Committee, or the Bloomington Faculty Council, is starting school 3 school  
25 days earlier in August, on a Wednesday instead of a Monday,  
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27   **THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, That the Student Body Congress recommend to the IU  
28 Calendar and Scheduling Committee, along with the Bloomington Faculty Council, that the IU academic  
29 calendar be revised to include a week-long Thanksgiving break and a start of the fall semester that occurs  
30 3 school days earlier than is presently the case (on a Wednesday instead of a Monday).  
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