

## DEPAUW STUDENT GOVERNMENT

White Paper No. 6

### *A White Paper Concerning the Extension of the Lunch Hour*

The DePauw environment greatly benefits from the existence of the common lunch hour. The common lunch hour creates opportunities for students to interact, attend speakers, and ensure they are able to eat lunch at a decent hour. Because we so greatly value this common time during the day, DePauw Student Government feels that allocating more time for the lunch hour would increase the amount of benefits we receive from this time during the day. Ideally, we would like to see the lunch hour extended so that everyone has 90 minutes for lunch every day. However, recognizing the constraints of time blocks, labs, athletics, and music, we are willing to accept a schedule that has an extended lunch hour at least twice a week (on Tuesdays and Thursdays), or three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays). If possible, the most ideal situation would be for the entire lunch hour to be pushed back and not start until after 12:00. Many members of our community have complained about eating so early, and then Greek houses could also serve dinner at a later time. If dinner is served at a later time, then student athletes could eat at the same time as their respective houses.

#### 1. **Why we should extend the lunch hour**

The reasoning behind the extension can be summarized as follows:

- The time banks surrounding the lunch hour are the most popular, and most students have class immediately before and after lunch
- Decrease congestion in DePauw's dining facilities
- Decrease stress on Greek dining facilities-allow more time for student employees to finish their jobs before having to go to class
- Increase time and number of meaningful interactions between members of the DePauw community
- Increase time for scheduling meetings, speakers, and other programming and still allow time for people to pick up and eat their lunch.
  - This should increase attendance
- Create a time space for students and faculty to eat lunch together
- It will allow for students to recuperate before their afternoon classes
- It will increase movement around campus, as students will be able to accomplish tasks over the lunch hour
- It will increase mingling after class, as students will not be in a rush to eat

#### 2. **Suggestions for implementation**

We developed a few possible ways for making this occur, but recognized there is more that needs to be taken into consideration (lab times, starting too early or finishing too late, and ensuring there is enough distribution of classes to meet student demand). We will be sharing these with the appropriate administrative committees, and allow to them to make final execution decisions.

Aye    \_37\_

Nay     \_\_3\_\_

Abstain \_\_1\_\_

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This 6<sup>th</sup> day of **March, 2011**

SIGNED COPY ON FILE IN DSG OFFICE  
Christine Walker, President

Attest:

SIGNED COPY ON FILE IN DSG OFFICE  
Tyler Hess, Secretary

PASSED