

**APPROVED BY SENATE**  
**09/24/2018**

**RS.19.01.revised**  
September 24, 2018

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**  
**URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
Prefiled Resolution

**RS.19.01 Resolution in Support of the Peoria Tribe of Indians**

Whereas, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma is the only federally recognized tribe consisting of the descendants of the original Illinois Indians, Confederation, or Tribe of Native Americans, who once lived on the land now occupied by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and

Whereas the Chief Illiniwek sports mascot and symbol was intended to represent, honor and memorialize those very same Native Americans; and

Whereas the Peoria Tribe released a statement in May, 2018, which reads in part, relative to Chief Illiniwek: **“The image portrayed by Chief Illiniwek does not accurately represent or honor the heritage of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and is a degrading racial stereotype that reflects negatively on all American Indian people;”** then

Be it resolved that:

- 1) the Academic Senate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign fully supports the Peoria Tribe’s May, 2018 statement about Chief Illiniwek, as well as all efforts by the Peoria Tribe to end the public use and appearances of the Chief Illiniwek symbol, logo, or mascot, and
- 2) a copy of this Resolution be placed as an information item on the University of Illinois Senate webpage and distributed to the Illinois Student Senate, the Office of Public Affairs, the News Bureau, the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Office of the Chancellor, the University Senates Conference, the University of Illinois Foundation, the University of Illinois Alumni Association, the Office of the President, and the University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Submitted by Senators,

Jay Rosenstein  
Teresa Barnes  
Bruce Rosenstock  
Carol Symes  
Kristin Wilcox

\* Appendix, (the complete statement by the Peoria Tribe)

**Statement from the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, May 2018**

“The Business Committee of the Peoria Tribe passed a Resolution on April 4, 2000, that the University of Illinois would cease any use of ‘Chief Illiniwek’ as their mascot, as “the image portrayed by Chief Illiniwek does not accurately represent or honor the heritage of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and is a degrading racial stereotype that reflects negatively on all American Indian people.” (R-04-04-00) The Peoria Tribe of Indians does not endorse or sanction the characterization of Chief Illiniwek as mascot for the University of Illinois, nor do they have any future plans to rescind the tribal resolution, which was approved by a unanimous vote.

The Peoria Tribe, our past Tribal Leaders and newly elected Chief Harper, have all had great working relationships with the University of Illinois. From the Chancellor’s Office, Administration, IBC, Genomic Biology Department, Native American House and other departments. We hope to continue to build on this relationship/partnership, and move beyond this issue from the past.”