

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Equal Opportunity and Inclusion
(Final; Action)

EQ.18.02 Resolution on Native American Imagery and University Climate

Whereas after ten years it is time for the University of Illinois to move on from offensive Native American imagery, and

Whereas the Chancellor's office has undertaken welcome steps in this direction and anticipates a "Critical Conversation" to address campus divisions over the issue, and

Whereas the Illinois Student Government in a November 2017 resolution expressed concern that certain Native American imagery is deeply harmful and offensive to many students and runs counter to our values of inclusion and our Non-discrimination Statement, and

Whereas over time such imagery has been connected to the phrase "Oskee-Wow-Wow" used by student organizations, campus units, and private entities, and

Whereas repeated appearances of individuals dressed in "Chief" regalia at athletic events perpetuate a climate that undermines the inclusion of American Indian students, faculty and staff at these events and perpetuates racism,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Senate advocates that the proposed "critical conversations" on Native American imagery, which follow on many previous conversations on this issue sponsored by administrators, the Senate, faculty, and students, provide a springboard to further action putting the "Chief" in the institution's past, and

Be it further resolved, that these actions include support for the re-building of American Indian Studies on campus and a robust commitment to incorporating the scholarship of this unit's faculty and students into educational programs about American Indian history and culture as a context for understanding the role of Native American mascots in misrepresenting that history, and

Be it further resolved, that to further support the enhanced and welcomed presence of a robust American Indian Studies program and indigenous students, the Senate calls upon the University to enforce its rights in relation to imagery related to "Chief Illiniwek" and "Oskee-Wow-Wow" and to better regulate uses of racist mock "Indian" and related imagery by University organizations, and

Be it further resolved, that the Senate supports additional efforts to remove vestiges of offensive Native American imagery in order to make all University facilities truly inclusive of all students, faculty, staff and community members.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND INCLUSION

Kathryn Oberdeck, Chair
Kendall Brooks
Tara Chattoraj
C.L. Cole
Nicole Cooke
Tina Cowsert

Jadyn Harris
Yih-Kuen Jan
Harley Johnson
JJ Pionke
Rolando Romero
Assata Zerai, *Ex officio*