

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Prefiled Resolution

RS.18.03 Resolution For Equal Enforcement of the State Farm Center and Memorial Stadium’s No Protest Policy, Including Continuing Appearances of an Unauthorized Chief Illiniwek at UIUC Sporting Events

Whereas the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) officially dropped its American Indian mascot, Chief Illiniwek, as a campus symbol in 2007; and

Whereas the rules of the State Farm Center and Memorial Stadium expressly forbid protests from being held inside of the facilities*; and

Whereas some members of the Senate are concerned with the selective and inconsistent application of the State Farm Center’s policy against protest activities within the building; and

Whereas the appearance of a person dressed in an identical costume to that of Chief Illiniwek, who walks out during the Chief’s theme music and mimics many of the Chief’s actions, is clearly an **act of protest** against UIUC’s decision to drop Chief Illiniwek and remove the Chief from the court and from the playing field; and

Whereas, if the State Farm Center and Memorial Stadium personnel are going to ban critics of the Chief from protests within the premises, then it should treat pro-Chief protestors by the same standard, including appearances of the Chief in costume; then

Be it resolved that we ask the Chancellor and Athletic Director to direct **all** State Farm Center and Memorial Stadium personnel, including UI police, **to enforce the no-protest policy equally and by the same standard for all, including enforcing the policy with respect to unauthorized appearances by a Chief Illiniwek character** in costume.

Submitted and co-sponsored by, Senators

Jay Rosenstein
Bruce Reznick
Kathryn La Barre
Rahul Raju

**Note: support of this resolution does not necessarily signify an endorsement of the actual “no protest” policy, just that it be applied equally as long as it exists*



U of I police stand with Chief Illiniwek changing out of his costume after accompanying him during his performance in the arena, State Farm Center, 1/18/15. Photo © 2015 Jay Rosenstein