

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Senate Executive Committee
(Final;Action)

SC.10.11 Response to Illinois Student Senate Unity Resolution

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois Student Senate on March 3, 2010, approved a resolution calling for the Interim Chancellor "to assemble an inclusive and diverse committee of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members with proven commitment and undeniable loyalty to our University to . . . be charged with the responsibility of proposing a campus mascot"; and

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate voted on March 9, 1998, "that the University Administration and Board of Trustees retire Chief Illiniwek immediately and discontinue licensing Native American Indian symbols as representations of the University," and this remains the Senate's position of record on this matter; and

WHEREAS, the University Board of Trustees voted on March 13, 2007, "that the Board hereby directs the immediate conclusion to the use of Native American imagery as the symbol of the University of Illinois and its intercollegiate athletics along with the related regalia, logo, and the names 'Chief Illiniwek' and 'Chief'; and

WHEREAS, any effort to reopen or reconsider this decision will embroil the campus in further discord over the "Chief" issue, at just the time when we should be working to put it behind us; and

WHEREAS, reinstating a Native American mascot would subject the University of Illinois to the same national scorn and NCAA sanctions we suffered before;

BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate strongly supports the Student Senate's call for a participatory and inclusive process to consider the establishment of a new campus mascot or symbol. However, any such effort must begin with the premise that we will not return to any mascot or symbol that involves Native American imagery or rituals. Accordingly our position is that should the Interim Chancellor convene a working group to offer recommendations in this regard, it must be explicitly charged with the constraint that no Native American mascot or symbol will be considered.

Senate Executive Committee
Joyce Tolliver, Chair

ILLINOIS STUDENT SENATE
Senate Resolution (03-03-2010-02)

Unity

By Senator Carey Hawkins Ash, Vice-President Internal and Senator David Wall, Vice-President External

With the support of Senator Nolan Drea, Senator Nick Esterman, Senator Cindy Alkass, Senator Tracey Klees, Senator Gregg Thompson, and Senator Melanie Cornell, and the Committees on Student Life and Academic Affairs

Whereas, in 2006, the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois retired the symbol of “Chief Illiniwek” as the official symbol of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and

Whereas, in 2008 the Student Body voted to support the reinstatement of “Chief Illiniwek” by a vote of 7,718 in favor and 2,052 against, and

Whereas, since that time, the absence of an official University emblem has created an undeniable rift amongst the students on this campus, seemingly dividing us into three distinct groups: “pro-chief”, “anti-chief”, and ambivalent, and

Whereas, this resolution does not take a stance neither for, nor against the “Chief”, but instead acknowledges the underlying tension created by the absence of an official university emblem, and

Whereas, such a disharmonious environment disserves and disrupts the learning process of every student enrolled by creating an antagonistic atmosphere that is not at all conducive to scholarly growth, and

Whereas, these unfortunate economic times have presented *our University* with record budget deficits and faculty and staff furloughs, and with a potential increase in tuition on the horizon, this body finds truth in the fundamental fact that “a house divided against itself cannot stand”,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Illinois Student Senate, the official voice of the Student Body of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, does hereby call upon the Interim Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to assemble an inclusive and diverse committee of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members with proven commitment and undeniable loyalty to our University to deliver us from the symbolic strife that has plagued our campus these past four years, and

Be it further resolved that this taskforce be charged with the responsibility of proposing a campus mascot, and

Be it finally resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the Student Trustee of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Interim President and Chair and Members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, the Interim Chancellor/Provost and Chair and Members of the Academic Senate Executive Committee of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as well as this campus’ director of the Native American House and President of the Registered Student Organization, “Students for Chief Illiniwek”, in addition to the Student Governments of our sister campuses at Chicago and Springfield.