



Student Government Resolution 116.007

A Resolution Designating Columbus Day be Observed as Indigenous Peoples' Day

Sponsored by Christy Crouse, Chair of Diversity Committee, and Cory Hogan, Vice-Chair of Diversity Committee

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission;¹ and
- Truman State University is geographically located on land historically belonging to the Missouri tribe and demonstrated by petroglyphs dating back 1,500 years at Thousand Hills National Park that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places;¹ and
- The Student Association approves the enhancement of diversity on Truman's campus by maintaining a primary standing committee devoted to a wide array of diversity facets on Student Government; and
- The Truman Student Government Diversity Committee supports and stands in solidarity with the minority and marginalized populations of Truman and the world; and
- Indigenous Peoples' Day is a day that aims to recognize and "commemorate the contributions of Native people";² and
- The Native American population and other Indigenous groups enhance the diversity that makes Truman's campus a unique and welcoming university; and
- The idea of replacing Columbus Day with a day celebrating the indigenous people of North America first arose in 1977 by the United Nations in Geneva from the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas;³ and
- Nationally, multiple universities are officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of Columbus Day, such as Cornell University⁴, University of California, Berkeley, and Tufts University;⁵ and
- Several states with particularly unique histories concerning Indigenous populations do not observe Columbus Day, such as Hawaii, South Dakota, Oregon, and Alaska, and many other states are considering renaming it Indigenous Peoples' Day.⁶

¹ <http://www.native-languages.org/missouri.htm>

² <http://ipdpowwow.org/IPD%20History.html>

³ http://ipdpowwow.org/Archives_1.html

⁴ <http://assembly.cornell.edu/SA/20111201R28v2>

⁵ <http://ase.tufts.edu/faculty/meetings/2014-2015/ase/02-04-2015/indigenousPeoplesDay.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/columbus-day>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- That the Student Government urges Truman State University to recognize Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day on any calendar distributed by the university every year from this day forward; and
- Encourages Truman State University to offer programming on the history of Indigenous People in the Americas on Indigenous Peoples' Day, with Student Government being willing to assist as best it can.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTS THAT,

- Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to University President, Troy Paino; Vice President of Academic Affairs, Susan Thomas; Vice President of Student Affairs, Lou Ann Gilchrist; Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs, Carol Bennett; Program Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs, Jerad Green; Program Advisor for Campus Activities, Kayla Loper; Program Advisor for Service and Leadership, Shelby Sims; Institutional Compliance Officer, Jamie Ball; Chair of Department of Society and Environment, Dr. Amber Johnson; President of Student Activities Board, Lauren Darter; President of Minority Ambassadors Program, Valeria Toles; Anthropology Club President, Allison Kelly; Students for Social Change Student Contact, Taylor Bequette; President of Cultural & Societal Honor Society, Hope Berntsen; the Truman Media Network; and the Department of Special Collections.

FAILED October 4, 2015

Some of many Reasons:

“As a group whose existence and contributions to this country have been historically silenced, Indigenous Peoples’ Day would provide a platform through which the lives of Indigenous peoples can be properly celebrated. Some of the reasons why other cities and states have chosen to recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day is because of the historical legacy of Christopher Columbus. Today it is known, particularly within the academy, that Columbus’ practice of colonization detrimentally impacted the lives of Natives. Additionally, Columbus never stepped foot within the geographic borders of the United States. Reconstituting Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples’ Day is not just replacing one perspective with another; it is acknowledging that all of our histories intersect to create a more complete picture.

[Truman State] University should take a leadership role within institutions of higher education and recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day for it will not only broaden the scope of diverse dialogue among [Truman State] students, but also encourage students to take courses that reexamine the history of the Americas and its peoples. It would also build upon the substantial efforts moved forward by the university for diversity, active citizenship, and social justice to further goals set out by the Diversity Committee. Aligning ourselves with these goals would reflect positively on the University by demonstrating a more inclusive understanding of diversity and an acknowledgement towards historically underrepresented groups.”

An excerpt from the Tufts University Senate Resolution on Indigenous Peoples’ Day
<http://ase.tufts.edu/faculty/meetings/2014-2015/ase/02-04-2015/indigenousPeoplesDay.pdf>

