

Resolution SS2021-05

April 22, 2020

Kaya Lawrence, *Director of Diversity and Inclusion*

Lauryn Pugh, *Director of Academic Affairs*

**A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE INCORPORATION OF NATIVE CULTURE
AND NOTRE DAME'S HISTORY WITH NATIVE PEOPLE IN THE MOREAU FYE
COURSE**

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame recognizes in its mission statement that “The intellectual interchange essential to a university requires, and is enriched by, the presence and voices of diverse scholars and students”;

Whereas, Catholic Social Teaching calls for each person to commit himself or herself to the care and the good of all others, Native and non-Native, who comprise a common global family, and Pope Francis recognizes a need to acknowledge and apologize for the Church’s history with indigenous people;

Whereas, Natives play an integral role in the Catholic church past and present, and especially in Notre Dame’s identity as a Catholic institution, and allowing Native voices to permeate campus discussions would align with Notre Dame’s Catholic identity inasmuch as it allows students to better care for the indigenous members of their global family;

Whereas, the Notre Dame Moreau curriculum calls for students to be presented with “diverse if not controversial opinions and research” in a quest to foster critical and independent thinking and provide an opportunity for considering the views of others;

Whereas, the Notre Dame Moreau curriculum seeks to cultivate “formation of [one’s] mind, body, and spirit; by enriching the integration of [one’s] intellectual, extracurricular, and residential experiences”;

Whereas, including Native voices and culture in the Moreau curriculum would increase students’ cultural awareness, exposing them to valuable and unique opinions with which they could develop

enhanced intellectual and critical thinking abilities and open their minds and hearts to the voices and cultures of Native peoples;

Whereas, interest in learning Native culture has been demonstrated on many occasions and in myriad ways, with over 70 students attending a Potawatomi Language and Culture Night at Notre Dame, 2 faculty-led conferences on Native issues across multiple disciplines organized over the past 6 years, approximately 100 students enrolling in classes about Native history and culture in the 2019-2020 school year, and a growing number of students doing service in Indian country through the Center for Social Concerns and ACE in the past couple of years;

Whereas, significant interest exists, although these students must currently work diligently to seek out these opportunities themselves and it would behoove all to learn about Native culture, and this opportunity to learn should be made readily available to all students;

Whereas, the Pokagon band of the Potawatomi has a meaningful history with the University of Notre Dame and the land on which it sits that Notre Dame has an obligation to acknowledge;

Whereas, the Natives living self-sufficiently and devoutly on the land on which Notre Dame currently sits were foundational to the development of a robust Catholicism in the area, the arrival of Notre Dame's founders to the site of our campus, the success of the Notre Dame founders as they pursued a vision of Catholicism and education in an unfamiliar area, and the inspiration of those who made the University of Notre Dame a reality;

Whereas, Native voices are often left out of national and educational conversations, despite their critical function in enriching dialogue on all levels;

Whereas, history shapes the present, and Notre Dame's interactions with Native communities, both on administrative and student levels, will be shaped by how it acknowledges Natives in light of a shared history in which Natives played an active role;

Resolved, the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac supports that Notre Dame's Native history and a greater discussion of Native culture be included in the Moreau FYE course curriculum.

I acknowledge my presence on the traditional homeland of the Pokégnek Bodéwadnik / Pokagon Potawatomi, who have been using this land for education for hundreds of years, and continue to do so.

Rachel Ingal
Student Body President