


Committee on Multicultural Affairs
Student Union Senate
University of Notre Dame
SS-0607-11

Resolution For Enhancing Student Life For Native American Students

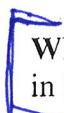


WHEREAS in his Inaugural and Faculty Addresses last year, Rev. John Jenkins C.S.C., President of the University of Notre Dame, expressed the importance of diversity within our campus community;

WHEREAS the University's far-reaching goal for diversity is not only to increase the enrollment of historically underrepresented students, but also to foster an educational environment that is inclusive and supportive of all students, regardless of racial, ethnic, or cultural background;

WHEREAS the mission statement of Notre Dame states, "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 the acknowledgement and acceptance of all people made in the image of God, regardless of race, creed, color, economic class, political power, social status, culture, personal abilities, gender, or other category used for discriminatory purposes;



WHEREAS the UNDERC (University of Notre Dame Environmental Research Center) in Montana illustrates the University's support of Native Americans communities;

WHEREAS the Committee on Multicultural Affairs of Student Senate received a letter from a graduating Native American student in May 2006 describing the lack of available resources for Native American students as well as the explicit and implied insensitivity of the student body and administration to the unique needs of Native American students;

WHEREAS several University publications and speeches referencing University history have in the past neglected the Potawatomi Indians who lived on the campus prior to the establishment of the University;

WHEREAS the only official source on campus solely dedicated to serve as an academic and social resource for Native American students is the student club NASAND (Native American Student Association of Notre Dame);

WHEREAS most of the courses dedicated solely to the study of Native American history and culture are currently available only to those students majoring in those disciplines;



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RECOGNIZING the diversity of the Native American experience both within society and within the Notre Dame community;

RECOGNIZING that many Native American students come from secluded communities, or reservations, and so adjusting to the large university setting where they are less than one percent of the student population can be especially difficult and can require additional guidance and support than is currently available;

WHEREAS a positive experience for current Native American students, the existence of targeted academic opportunities related to Native cultures and histories, and a campus atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation stands not only to increase the recruitment of talented Native American students but also to enhance the holistic diversity of the student body;

WHEREAS the educational experience for all students is enriched by the diversity of the student body;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that academic departments be strongly urged to free a minimum number of seats for non-majors in all courses dedicated solely to the study of the history and culture of Native Americans; **AND**

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate academic departments within the College of Arts and Letters seriously explore creating a contemporary Native American issues course; **AND**

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the President be strongly urged to appoint a permanent member of the faculty or staff to serve as an official advisor to Native American students and that this person devote the necessary time to Native American student affairs; **AND**

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that official campus literature and publications as well as formal addresses by university officials describing the history of the University render an overall sensitivity and respect for the Native Americans previously inhabiting the University area; **AND**

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the student body stands in solidarity behind the inclusion of all Native American students in all spheres of the Notre Dame experience.

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