2016-R-5

Support for the Recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ Day

Sponsors: Matthew Campbell
Connor O’Leary
Adam Sanders
Spencer Pappas
Geneva Zoltek
Megan Potts

Yes 15  No 0  Abs 0
Date: 25 February 2016

Vote Necessary: Majority

Intent: To affirm the support of the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) for the recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ Day by Montana State University (MSU) on the 2nd Monday in October, instead of Columbus Day.

Whereas, the Montana State Constitution recognizes the distinct cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples and is committed to educational goals that preserve their cultural integrity; and,

Whereas, ASMSU opposes all forms of racism including institutional policies that subjugate Indigenous Peoples’ sovereignty; and,

Whereas, United States federal law states in 36 USC Sec. 107 that the president is requested to issue a proclamation on the 2nd Monday in October to “invite the people of the United States to observe Columbus Day [...] with appropriate ceremonies that express the public sentiment befitting the anniversary of the discovery of America,” which fails to recognize the Indigenous Peoples who have lived in these lands since time immemorial; and,

Whereas, Indigenous Peoples’ day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and,

Whereas, in 2011, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 59 Tribes from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana, and Alaska passed resolution #11-57 to “Support to Change Columbus Day (2nd Monday in October) to Indigenous Peoples’ Day;” and,

Whereas, multiple states, municipalities, and institutions of higher learning in the United States of America have ceased to recognize Columbus Day over the last 25 years.

Therefore, let it be resolved that: ASMSU supports MSU officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the 2nd Monday of October, instead of Columbus Day.

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Let it be further resolved that: ASMSU recommends that Indigenous Peoples’ Day at MSU be used as an opportunity to both celebrate the culture of the many indigenous nations throughout Montana and provide students and faculty with the opportunity to learn about their history and way of life.

Let it be even further resolved that: ASMSU values the technology, history, thought, and culture that indigenous peoples have contributed to the world, and also celebrates their integrity, survival, and resilience.

Let it be even further resolved that: a copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. Waded Cruzado, President; Dr. Martha Potvin, Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs; Tony Campeau, Registrar; Levi Birky, ASMSU President; Holly Capp, ASMSU Vice President; Dr. Matt Herman, MSU Faculty; Marsha Small, MSU Adjunct Faculty; Marianne Brough, ASMSU Director of Operations; and Erin Murdock, MSU Exponent.