

James R. Johnsen, Ed.D.  
President


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## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 8, 2017

To: Nate Bauer, Staff Alliance Chair  
Colby Freel, Coalition of Student Leaders Chair  
Tara Smith, Faculty Alliance Chair

From: Jim Johnsen, UA President 

Re: Response to Governance Resolutions in Support of Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day at UA

On April 14th I advanced to you, for the input of our system governance bodies, USUAS-JC Resolution 1617-08 and UAS Faculty Senate Resolution 2017-03. Both resolutions request that UA annually recognize Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday of October, and that UA celebrate – systemwide – Indigenous Peoples Day in a “meaningful” way. I have since received Coalition of Student Leaders Resolution 2017-05, Faculty Alliance Resolution 2017-08, Staff Alliance Resolution 2017-04 and Associated Students of UAF Resolution SR188-002, each voicing support for recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day at UA.

In response to these resolutions, I ask that university leadership at UAA, UAF, and UAS, in consultation with their respective university communities, determine the appropriate local and regional approaches to observing and celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day on an annual basis at their campuses.

JRJ

Attachment (6 resolutions)

cc: Brandi Berg, UA BOR Executive Officer  
Morgan Dufseth, UA System Governance Executive Officer  
UA Summit Team  
Robbie Graham, UA AVP Public Affairs  
ASUAF, UAS Faculty Senate, USUAS-JC



## **Coalition of Student Leaders**

### **Resolution 2017-05**

#### **Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day throughout the University of Alaska**

**Whereas:** the Indigenous peoples of the lands that would later become known as Alaska have occupied these lands since time immemorial, and Alaska is built upon the homelands and community of the Indigenous peoples of this region, without whom the building of the State, Municipalities, Boroughs, and school systems would not be possible; and

**Whereas:** individual University of Alaska campuses may already recognize and celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October; and

**Whereas:** the Honorable Governor Bill Walker of the State of Alaska has signed proclamations temporarily recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October the past two years; and

**Whereas:** the Coalition of Student Leaders ("Coalition"), representing diverse students throughout the University of Alaska system, recognizes the ongoing human rights struggles of Indigenous peoples; and

**Whereas:** the Coalition values the many contributions made to the University of Alaska and to our communities through Indigenous Peoples' intellectual authority, technology, science, literature, philosophy, arts, and all other deep cultural contributions; and

**Whereas:** the Coalition celebrates the inherent value Indigenous peoples contribute to the University of Alaska through their teaching, research, scholarship, and participation on campuses and in the community; and

**Whereas:** the Coalition mission statement and Regents' Policy 01.01.01 recognize that the University of Alaska "inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge... emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples" including Alaska's Indigenous peoples;

Coalition of Student Leaders  
Resolution 2017-05 Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day  
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**Therefore be it resolved:** that the Coalition requests the University of Alaska system ceremonially recognizes Indigenous Peoples' Day annually on the second Monday of October;

**Be it further resolved:** that this resolution be transmitted to the University of Alaska Board of Regents, President James Johnsen, Faculty Alliance, Alaska Native Studies Council; and University of Alaska Anchorage Diversity Action Council, Native Student Council; and University of Alaska Fairbanks Native Student Union; and University of Alaska Southeast Diversity Action Committee, Wooncheen Club, and First Alaskans Institute.

**Adopted unanimously by the Coalition of Student Leaders the 20th day of April 2017.**

DocuSigned by:

*Colby Freil*

Colby Freil, Chair



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*

## **Faculty Alliance**

### **Resolution 2017-08**

### **Support for Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations**

Be it resolved, the Faculty Alliance unanimously supports the adoption of meaningful celebrations of Indigenous Peoples Day at all three universities. We recommend that each university determine the appropriate local and regional approaches to observing this important day in consultation with their respective faculty, student, staff, and community members.

**Adopted unanimously by the Faculty Alliance the 28th day of May 2017.**

DocuSigned by:

*Tara Smith*

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Tara Smith, Chair





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## **UA Staff Alliance**

### **Resolution 2017-04**

#### **In Support of Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day at the University of Alaska**

*Whereas:* The State of Alaska Legislature passed HB78 "An act establishing the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day" permanently for the State of Alaska; and

*Whereas:* The Board of Regents' mission statement reads, "The University of Alaska inspires learning and advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching....emphasizing the North and its diverse people"; and

*Whereas:* The Coalition of Student Leaders unanimously passed Resolution 2017-05 Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day throughout the University of Alaska.

*Whereas:* The UA Faculty Alliance unanimously passed Resolution 2017-08 In Support of Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

*Whereas:* The UAS Faculty Senate Diversity Committee and the UAS Faculty Senate unanimously passed a Resolution Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day throughout the University of Alaska System; and

*Whereas:* The University of Alaska, with the guidance of Alaska Native peoples and their traditional ways of being and languages, has the opportunity to demonstrate the value of Indigenous peoples' history and culture to the institution of higher education by formally recognizing a day in their honor.

*Therefore Be It Resolved:* UA Staff Alliance supports recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day across the university system annually on the second Monday of October; and

*Be It Further Resolved:* All campuses will collaborate with local tribes on coordinating culturally relevant events related to history of place, culture and language; and

*Be It Further Resolved:* This resolution will be distributed to the UA Board of Regents, the UA President, and each of the University Chancellors.

**Adopted by the Staff Alliance on the 3rd day of May 2017.**

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

Nate Bauer, Chair Staff Alliance



## **UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS**

**Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks**

P.O. Box 756640 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-6640 • (907) 474-7355 fax: (907) 474-5157

### **SR188-002 A Declaration of Support for Indigenous Peoples' Day**

**Sponsors:** Mann, O'Scannell

**First Considered:** 6 April 2017

**Whereas** The Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, or ASUAF, is a student-owned Student Government;

**Whereas** The function of ASUAF is to represent and act on behalf of the students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks;

**Whereas** The purpose of ASUAF is to provide an official voice in which student opinion may be expressed;

**Whereas** The purpose of ASUAF is to foster awareness of the students' role in the campus, local, state, national and international communities;

**Whereas** The Mission Statement of the University of Alaska Fairbanks states that UAF is a Land, Sea, and Space Grant university and an international center for research, education, and the arts, emphasizing the circumpolar North and its diverse peoples;

**Whereas** UAF integrates teaching, research, and public service as it educates students for active citizenship and prepares them for lifelong learning and careers;

**Whereas** Students of Alaska Native and Native American descent comprise about 20 percent of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' student body;

**Whereas** Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored International conference on the Discrimination Against Indigenous populations in the Americas;

**Whereas** in 2011 the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 57 Tribes of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana and some Alaskan Tribes, passed resolution #11-57 to "support to Change Columbus Day (2nd Monday of october) to Indigenous Peoples' Day,"; **now therefore be it**



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P.O. Box 756640 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-6640 • (907) 474-7355 fax: (907) 474-5157


**Resolved, That** The ASUAF Student Government request the entire University of Alaska system ceremonially recognizes Indigenous Peoples' Day annually on the second Monday of October; **Be it further**

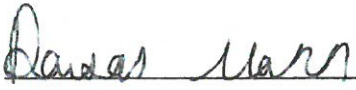
**Resolved,** that this resolution be transmitted to the University of Alaska President James Johnsen, the University of Alaska Board of Regents, the University of Alaska Faculty Alliance, The University of Alaska Fairbanks Faculty Senate, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Nanook Diversity and Action Council, the University of Alaska Anchorage Faculty Senate Diversity Committee, First Alaskans Institute, University of Alaska Anchorage Native Student Council, University of Alaska Fairbanks Native Student Union, and University of Alaska Southeast Woonah Club.

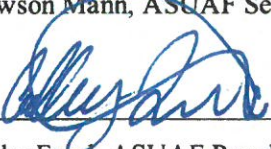
**Statement of Purpose:** To request the University of Alaska to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$0

*Passed 16 April 2017 by a vote of 5-0-2.*

 17 April 2017  
Diane Murph, ASUAF Senate Clerk Date

 17 April 2017  
Dawson Mann, ASUAF Senate Chair Date

 April 20, 2017  
Colby Freck, ASUAF President Date





*The United Students of the University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau Campus*

**Second Reading**

## **Resolution 1617 — 08**

### **Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day throughout UA**

**Sponsored by:** President Russell-Jensen

**Date of introduction:** March 24, 2017

**Purpose:** Requesting that the University of Alaska system recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October;

**Whereas:** Indigenous peoples have occupied the lands that are now known as Alaska since time immemorial;

**Whereas:** UAS and other individual UA campuses already recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October;

**Whereas:** the Honorable Governor Bill Walker of the State of Alaska has signed proclamations temporarily recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October the past two years;

**Whereas:** the USUAS-JC values Indigenous peoples' diverse intellectual, philosophical, technological, scientific, artistic, literary, and deep cultural contributions to the University of Alaska and to our state;

**Whereas:** per the UA mission statement and Regents Policy 01.01.01, the University of Alaska "inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge... emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples" including Alaska's Indigenous peoples;


**Be it enacted that:** the USUAS-JC requests that the University of Alaska system recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October each year;



**Be it further enacted that:** the USUAS-JC requests UA campuses across the state meaningfully celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day;

**Be it further enacted that:** this resolution be transmitted to the University of Alaska President James Johnsen, the University of Alaska Board of Regents, the University of Alaska Coalition of Student Leaders, the University of Alaska Faculty Alliance, the University of Alaska Southeast Faculty Senate, the University of Alaska Southeast Staff Council, the University of Alaska Southeast Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Equity and Cultural Safety, the Alaska Native Studies Council, First Alaskans Institute, University of Alaska Anchorage Native Student Council, University of Alaska Fairbanks Native Student Union, and University of Alaska Southeast Woonch.een Club.

**This resolution was passed on: March 31, 2017**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DRJ', is written over a horizontal line.

David Russell-Jensen, President

## **Faculty Senate**

### **RESOLUTION 2017 - 03**

*Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day throughout UA*

**Sponsored by:** Glenn Wright

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Native peoples were present long before contact with Europeans, and these people possessed and continue to possess rich and impressive languages, cultural traditions, and intellectual achievements, and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Native peoples and cultures have been resilient to efforts to eradicate their cultural traditions and languages, and

**WHEREAS**, UAS and other individual UA campuses already recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October, and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Governor Bill Walker has temporarily recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October the past two years, and

**WHEREAS**, UAS Faculty value the intellectual and creative contributions of Alaska's Native Peoples, and of our Native faculty and students, to the cultural and intellectual life of the University, the State of Alaska, the United States and the World, and

**WHEREAS**, per the UA mission statement and Regents Policy 01.01.01, the University of Alaska "inspires learning, and advances and disseminates knowledge... emphasizing the North and its diverse peoples" including Alaska's Indigenous peoples, now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the UAS Faculty Senate joins USUAS-JC in requesting that the University of Alaska system recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October each year, and requests that the University of Alaska celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day in a meaningful way.

**Adopted unanimously by the UAS Faculty Senate on April 07, 2017**

**Lisa Hoferkamp**

Digitally signed by Lisa Hoferkamp  
DN: cn=Lisa Hoferkamp, o=University of Alaska  
Southeast, ou=Natural Sciences,  
email=lahoferkamp@alaska.edu, c=US  
Date: 2017.04.10 12:37:20 -08'00'

Lisa Hoferkamp; President