

SR 19/20-04

Sponsored by: Sara Saucedo, Cultural Diversity Director
McKinley James, Senior Senator
Matthew Arnold, Senator At-Large



Presented by: Zhedrick Jackson, Senior Senator

Date: March 3, 2020

Resolution to request a University announcement to eliminate “Jumpin’ Joe Indian” and embrace the Red Wolf on campus and in our surrounding community.

Short Title: A resolution that will demonstrate the student body support of the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Executive Committee Guidelines for Use of Native American Mascots and request a formal University announcement encouraging the use of Red Wolf mascot and discouraging the use of former mascot, “Jumpin’ Joe Indian.”

- Whereas, on February 1st it will mark fifteen years since the NCAA implemented its policy against “hostile and abusive” racial/ethnic/national origin mascots, nicknames, or imagery at its championships; and
- Whereas, mascots were initially thought as animals used to bring entertainment and excitement for spectators and used to strike fear upon their rivalry teams; and
- Whereas, the continued support and representation of “Jumpin’ Joe Indian” in our local community is a symbol that constitutes offensive exploitation of an oppressed culture; and
- Whereas, stereotypes illustrated such as “Jumpin’ Joe Indian” offends the indigenous culture while providing support for the perpetuation of colonial violence against Indigenous, Black, Brown, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities; and
- Whereas, the University should not allow any campus office, department, or employee to promote “Jumpin’ Joe Indian” memorabilia; and
- Whereas, the University should release a public statement encouraging all local business owners to put an end to their capitalizing on misappropriation; and
- Whereas, the University Multicultural Affairs Office is in support of this request; and
- Whereas, the constitutional object of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Arkansas State University is to consider *all matters that may concern the general interest of the student body*; and

Whereas, the continued depiction of an “Indian” infringes upon the rights of Indigenous people, contributing to the perpetuated negative stereotypes and disregard the personhood of these people; and

Whereas, appropriation is not appreciation and there are other ways to respect University traditions; and

Whereas, this resolution is in full alignment of the Strategic Plan Goal 5: Improve A-State Spirit and Campus Culture.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:

The Arkansas State University Student Government Association establish a resolution to request a University announcement to eliminate “Jumpin’ Joe Indian” and embrace the Red Wolf on campus and in our surrounding community.

1. We must begin to learn from the past and embrace the present and future of Arkansas State Red Wolves.
2. SGA representatives should be encouraged to not continue to support the misappropriation of another’s culture.
3. SGA’s Multicultural Diversity Director Staff member should encourage continued conversations of this topic and educational forums on misappropriation and misuse of another’s culture to their constituents.

Pass

Drew N. Roberson

Drew Roberson, Vice President

Fail

Erika Tuck

Erika Tuck, President

Passed, then vetoed. Veto was not overridden. See presidential veto for more information.