A Resolution for the Recognition of Indigenous People’s Day

Whereas, Columbus Day is a national holiday in many countries in the Americas and elsewhere which officially celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ arrival in and the discovery of the American Continent on October 12, 1492, and

Whereas, the land now claimed as the Americas was once populated by hundreds of different indigenous tribes, and

Whereas, "Indigenous Peoples Day" reimagines Columbus Day and changes a celebration of colonialism into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about the genocide and oppression of indigenous peoples in the Americas, to organize against current injustices, and to celebrate indigenous resistance.

WHEREAS, Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association recognizes the fact that various University of California institutions are built upon the homelands and villages of the Indigenous Peoples of this region, and

WHEREAS, Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association has a responsibility to oppose the systematic racism towards Indigenous people in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises; 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 some Alaskan Tribes, passed resolution #11-57 to "Support to Change Columbus Day (2nd Monday of October) to Indigenous Peoples' Day"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association recognizes Indigenous Peoples’ Day and does the following: 1. Strongly supports the proposition that Indigenous Peoples’ Day shall be an opportunity to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region.
2. The Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association strongly encourages California Public Schools to include the teaching of indigenous people’s history.

3. The Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association other businesses, organizations, and public institutions to recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

4. The Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association firmly commits to continue its efforts to promote the well-being and growth of California’s American Indian and Indigenous community.

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association retroactively and proactively recognizes the Second Monday of October as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day;” and

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association, unless and until it expresses a contrary position, ceases to recognize the second Monday in October as “Columbus Day;” and

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association shall, unless and until it expresses a contrary position, continue to recognize the second Monday in October as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day;” and

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association encourages the student government associations of University of California (UC), Berkeley; UC Davis; UC Los Angeles; UC Merced; UC Riverside; UC San Diego; UC San Francisco; UC Santa Barbara; and UC Santa Cruz to adopt similar positions; and

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the University of California Student Association encourages its members, the other members of the UC system to educate themselves regarding the systematic oppression and the continued struggles of indigenous and first peoples around the world.