

THE COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND
DIVERSITY FULL COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2018 AT 10:30 A.M. Torgersen Hall,
Room 1120

Present: Kimberley Homer (chair), Marcy Schnitzer (OID), Menah Pratt-Clarke, Yolanda Avent, Ellen Banks for Bryan Garey, David Clubb, Renée Byrd for Kelly Oaks, Diana Bairaktarova for Bevelee Watford for Julia Ross, Khaled Hassouna, Deyu Hu, John Gray Williams, Ellington Graves, Mae Hey, Christa Miller, Elizabeth Spingola, Davon Woodard, Christine Tysor, Chris McCullough, Andrew Alston (OID)

Absent: Sara Leftwich, Anthony Scott (with notice), Pamela Vickers (with notice), Polly Middleton (with notice), Tracy Newton, Maia Greene-Havas (with notice), Maria del Carmen Caña Jimenez (with notice), Nikos Harasty, John Livingston

***** Kimberley Homer welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the following agenda:

1. Conduct a second reading of the Indigenous Peoples' Day Resolution.

SECOND READING OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY RESOLUTION

Chair Kimberley Homer conducted the second reading of the Indigenous People's Day resolution.

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke and John Gray Williams both suggested changes to the resolution.

A motion was made by Dr. Pratt-Clarke to approve the resolution with the new revisions. Ellen Banks seconded this motion.

The motion was passed with 17 ayes, and the meeting was adjourned. The resolution text is attached.

The next full CEOD meeting will be on February 4, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. in the GLC Room B, and via Zoom.

Resolution to Observe Indigenous Peoples' Day at Virginia Tech

Whereas, Virginia Tech, Virginia's land grant institution founded in 1872, recognizes and honors the Monacan-Tutelo people, the historical stewards and traditional custodians of the land now occupied by Virginia Tech; and,

Whereas, race integrity laws in Virginia discouraged American Indians from attaining public education until 1963; and,

Whereas, tribes from across the United States and Canada are represented among the students, faculty, and staff at Virginia Tech; and,

Whereas, Indigenous students at Virginia Tech study in nearly every college on campus and represent at least 16 Indigenous communities, including the Anishinaabe, Blackfeet, Cherokee, Chickahominy, Coharie, Delaware, Diné (Navajo), Eastern Band of Cherokee, Hawaiian, Lumbee, Monacan, Osage, Peepeekisis Cree, Quechua/Aymara, Shinnecock/Unkechaug, and Tohono O'odham; and,

Whereas, the American Indian Studies Program was established at Virginia Tech in 2000 and students from a vast majority of majors enroll in American Indian Studies courses every semester; and,

Whereas, the Native at Virginia Tech student organization was formed in 2008 and has been an invaluable community for Native American and Indigenous students at Virginia Tech; and,

Whereas, Virginia Tech's motto, *Ut Prosim* (that I may serve), is foundational to many Indigenous cultural identities and it is in the spirit of *Ut Prosim* that the Native at Virginia Tech student organization calls on Virginia Tech to serve and support the Native American and Indigenous community; and,

Whereas, in 2017 and 2018, the Native at Virginia Tech student organization hosted the Virginia Tech Pow Wow -- a symbol of cultural survivance that brought traditional dancers, singers, and visitors from across the mid-Atlantic region to share their culture with the Virginia Tech community; and,

Whereas, the Native American and Indigenous Community Alliance was founded in 2012, with a mission of activism, engagement, and support around Native American and Indigenous community issues; and,

Whereas, the American Indian and Indigenous Community Center was dedicated in 2016 and serves as a place of relationship building among Native and Indigenous communities at Virginia Tech, the greater Virginia Tech community, and tribal and Indigenous communities across the United States and the world; and,

Whereas, Virginia Tech has hosted tribal summits, including most recently in 2017, to strengthen reciprocal partnerships with the eleven tribal communities of Virginia which include the Cheroenhaka [Nottoway], the Chickahominy, the Eastern Chickahominy, the Mattaponi, the Monacan, the Nansemond, the Nottoway, the Pamunkey, the Patawomeck, the Rappahannock, and the Upper Mattaponi; and,

Whereas, Virginia Tech's Principles of Community state that "We take individual and collective responsibility for helping to eliminate bias and discrimination and for increasing our own understanding of these issues through education, training, and interaction with others"; and,

Whereas, University Council passed a resolution in 2017 authorizing a revision to Pathways General Education Curriculum to require a new core area of Critical Analysis of Equity and Identity in the United States to increase education and awareness; and,

Whereas, in January 2018, Native at Virginia Tech collected over 1,200 petition signatures from the community in support of a resolution for Virginia Tech to officially recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day; and,

Whereas, the public recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day provides an opportunity for education and engagement, and reduces the historical invisibility

and erasure of Native American and Indigenous people; and,

Whereas, in response to a proposal by Native at Virginia Tech to University Council in May 2018, President Timothy Sands issued a Presidential Policy Memorandum declaring Monday, October 8, 2018 as Indigenous Peoples' Day at Virginia Tech; and,

Whereas, Indigenous Peoples' Day was celebrated on October 8, 2018, with cultural programming hosted by Native at Virginia Tech, and the American Indian and Indigenous Community Center; therefore,

Be it resolved, that Virginia Tech will officially and permanently recognize and designate on the university event calendar (www.calendar.vt.edu) (and other appropriate materials) the second Monday in October each year as "Indigenous Peoples' Day"; and,

Be it further resolved, that Virginia Tech, in consultation with the American Indian and Indigenous community, will support the development and distribution of culturally appropriate materials to educate faculty, staff, and students about Indigenous Peoples' Day; and,

Be it further resolved, that Virginia Tech recognizes the value and contributions of Indigenous communities and commits to continuing to support the American Indian and Indigenous Community Center and the American Indian Studies program; and,

Be it further resolved, that Virginia Tech calls on the Virginia Legislature to adopt Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of Columbus Day as an official state holiday.