



A forum for discussion on retiring Chief Illiniwek

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Chief Illiniwek Retained - for now

Resolution to Retire Chief to be Re-Introduced in March

Ten Reasons to Retire The Chief

- 1. DIVERSITY** - much more than a goal, diversity is a stated University mandate.
- 2. STEREOTYPES** - stereotypes of the Native American of long ago are perpetuated by the Chief, on the football field and as a UI symbol.
- 3. PUBLICITY** - the Chief has been criticized by regional and national organizations and media, and reflects poorly on the University.
- 4. RACISM** - while well intentioned, the Chief is a racist symbol because of the impact and power of the stereotype on Native people.
- 5. CHILDREN** - can be greatly influenced by very strong stereotypes, resulting in lowered self-esteem and poor school performance.
- 6. ACCURACY** - let's be honest: the Chief is half-time entertainment, not genuine Native dance.
- 7. HONOR(ED)** - many Native Americans are not honored; some feel he insults their religion.
- 8. NCAA** - is not pleased with Native American sports symbols, and has called for a review.
- 9. CHOICES** - the presence of the Chief has driven away prospective students and faculty.
- 10. IMAGE** - is this the image we want to show the world? The Chief continues to be a poor representative of the University of Illinois.

When the resolution is again brought forward, we encourage the U. I. Board of Trustees to do the right thing and **retire the Chief**. To do so is truly *in the best interests* of a great University.

THE RESOLUTION TO RETIRE CHIEF ILLINIWEK

Whereas, Chief Illiniwek has been a treasured symbol of the Urbana-Champaign campus since the inception of Chief Illiniwek in 1926;

Whereas, many students have performed well and ably in the role of Chief Illiniwek;

Whereas, Chief Illiniwek has been intended as a representation of the indigenous people who gave their name to this State and its Flagship University;

Whereas, Chief Illiniwek has represented the dignity, strength, intelligence, and grace to which Illinois athletic teams have aspired;

Whereas, The native Illinois people, the Peoria, requested by resolution on April 20, 2000, that the University discontinue the Chief Illiniwek tradition;

Whereas, The continuation of the controversy centering on Chief Illiniwek would undermine the very unity of the Illini family that the symbol fostered so well for so long; and

Whereas, The controversy also diverts critical attention and resources away from the core missions of teaching, research, service, and economic development; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Chief Illiniwek be honorably retired at a time and in a manner to be determined by the Urbana-Champaign campus in consultation with faculty, students, staff, alumni, and other members of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign family, and with concurrence of the Board of Trustees;

Resolved, That the University discontinue its use of the graphic image and likewise discourage others' use of that image; and

Resolved, That at the same time we, the Board of Trustees, declare our full support for the name Fighting Illini for the athletic teams at the Urbana-Champaign campus. This is a part of our heritage. We take pride in the association that the University has through this name with the people of Illinois.

WELCOME This site exists to *give a voice* to those who believe Chief Illiniwek should be retired, to promote discussion between those who are pro- and anti-Chief, and to encourage a change in policy - to retire the Chief. We want to help *turn up the volume* on the Chief debate. Regardless of your stand on this divisive issue, **welcome**. Much more may be found at our web site, www.RetireTheChief.org. We welcome your letters on the subject.