

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee
RE: To Recognize the Second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day
DATE: 177th Plenary, October 19-21, 2017
LOCATION: SUNY Delhi
RESOLUTION #: 177-01-1
VOTE TALLY: For: 38; Against: 2; Abstain: 3

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS in 1977 the International NGO Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations in the Americas began discussing the replacement of Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS there is growing recognition and understanding in the United States that the celebration of Columbus' "Discovery of America" is insulting to indigenous peoples and directly contrary to the fact that a way of life for indigenous people was and

once inhabited by the Haudenosaunee people; and

WHEREAS SUNY is committed to creating campus communities that are inclusive, diverse and representative of all people; and

WHEREAS campuses have recognized the importance of this matter and have created resolutions supporting an "Indigenous Peoples' Day," and no longer list Columbus Day on their school calendars; and

WHEREAS the Student Assembly of SUNY unanimously passed resolution 1516-115, "Indigenous Peoples' Day" on April 16, 2016.

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the

BACKGROUND:

Definition of Indigenous Peoples: While there is no universal definition of Indigenous Peoples (Kenrick and Lewis, 2004), there is concurrence that Indigenous Peoples self-identify as indigenous and are recognized as such by their communities. Their cultural, economic, social, and political beliefs and systems are rooted in places and histories that are distinct