

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present

ASUM Student Government

9-30-2015

SB11-15/16: Reconstitute Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day

Ruth A. Swaney

University of Montana - Missoula, ruth.swaney@umconnect.umt.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum_resolutions

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Swaney, Ruth A., "SB11-15/16: Reconstitute Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day" (2015). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 493.

https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum_resolutions/493

This Institutional Document is brought to you for free and open access by the ASUM Student Government at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution to Reconstitute Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day**
3 **September 30th, 2015**

4 **SB11-15/16**

5 **Authored by: Ruth Swaney, Program Coordinator Native American Natural Resource**
6 **Program**

7 **Sponsored by: Trail Bundy, ASUM Senator; Antonio Morsette, ASUM Senator**

8
9 Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the diverse
10 interest of the University of Montana (UM) student body;

11
12 Whereas, numerous American Indian tribes constitute the largest minority group resident in the
13 State of Montana;

14
15 Whereas, UM sits on lands which historically belonged to the Bitterroot Salish people;

16
17 Whereas, American Indians on the campus of the University of Montana contribute significantly
18 to the enhancement of the education of all students;

19
20 Whereas, President Engstrom's inaugural address announced the strategic plan called "UM 2020:
21 Building a University for the Global Century" with the "core values of leadership, diversity,
22 engagement, and sustainability" as the foundation of that plan;

23
24 Whereas, It has been well-documented and historically verified that Christopher Columbus
25 authorized and presided over the brutal torture, dismemberment, and murders of many thousands
26 of Indigenous Americans in the Caribbean Islands and the northern parts of South America,
27 while in the process of confiscating their homelands and resources, which seems unbecoming for a
28 day to honor such a person;

29
30 Whereas, Indigenous Peoples' Day is a day that aims to recognize and commemorate the
31 contributions of Native people;

32
33 Whereas, Cornell University, University of California, Berkeley, and other universities are
34 officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of Columbus Day;

35
36 Whereas, Hawaii, South Dakota, Oregon, and Alaska do not observe Columbus Day;

37
38 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, ASUM implores UM to no longer recognize Columbus Day and
39 recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on any calendar distributed by the university, every year
40 from this day forward.

41
42 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, ASUM recommends that UM offer programming on the
43 history of indigenous peoples in the Americas on the aforementioned day.

44
45 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, ASUM shall continue its efforts to promote the well-
46 being and growth of UM's American Indian and Indigenous community.

47

48 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, Indigenous Peoples’ Day shall be used to reflect upon the
49 ongoing struggles of Indigenous people in our city, state, and country, as well as celebrate the
50 thriving culture and values that the Bitterroot Salish, Pend O’Reille, Kootenai, Blackfeet,
51 Chippewa, Cree, Assiniboine, Gros Ventre, Dakota, Northern Cheyenne, Crow, and other
52 Indigenous nations add to our university.

53

54 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to: Royce Engstrom,
55 President of the University of Montana; Teresa Branch, VP of Student Affairs; Peggy Kuhr, Vice
56 President for Integrated Communication; Rhondie Voorhees, Dean of Students; Governor of
57 Montana, Steve Bullock.

58

59 Passed by Committee: _____, 2015

60

61 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2015

62

63

64 _____
65 Kaitlin Hopingardner,
Chair of Relations & Affairs

Betsy Story,
Chair of the Senate