

THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

S.R. 2021/2022 – 05

A Resolution Formally Calling for the Replacement of Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day within all University Events and Calendars

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

Date:

10/18/2021

Authored by:

Nolan McHugh - Internal Affairs Chair, Chloe Cox - Director of Minority Coalition

Sponsored by:

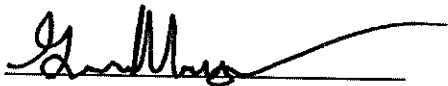
Zachary Noesen - Academic Affairs Chair, Chien Minh Tran Phuoc - International Student Senator, Hani Baltagi - Diversity Affairs Senator, Kaylee Kahl - Senator At Large

10/18/2021

Approved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body, and prepared for the presentation to the president of the Undergraduate Student Government

10/18/2021

Approved by the president of the Undergraduate Student Government, and so order into effect.



Gabriel Wagner
Speaker of the Senate



Alexander Chiarelott
President of the Undergraduate Student Government

S.R. 2021/2022 – 05

A Resolution Formally Calling for the Replacement of Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day within all University Events and Calendars

In the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body here assembled,

1. **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government represents the undergraduate student voice
2. at Bowling Green State University; and
3. **Whereas**, Bowling Green State University and the Undergraduate Student Government
4. aim to ensure all student voices are represented within the Senate; and
5. **Whereas**, Bowling Green State University is expressly committed to “providing advocacy,
6. support, and education in pursuit of a more equitable and socially just University and
7. community”¹; and
8. **Whereas**, the veneration of historical figures who exhibited bigoted, racist, or systemically
9. discriminatory beliefs or behaviors would evidently contradict the university’s commitment to
10. diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
11. **Whereas**, Christopher Columbus, the man for whom Columbus Day is named, committed
12. mass enslavement, torture, rape, and genocide of native peoples on the island of Hispaniola;
13. and
14. **Whereas**, in the modern day province of Cicao, Haiti, Columbus ordered all Arawak persons
15. aged 14 years or older to collect and present to him a large quantity of gold every three
16. months to receive a copper token; those found without a copper token had their hands cut off,
17. and those who ran away were hunted down with dogs²; and
18. **Whereas**, as Viceroy of the Spanish colony Santo Domingo on the island of Hispaniola,
19. Columbus forbade Taino natives from baptism to ensure their use as slaves within the
20. encomienda system³, and facilitated the selling of prepubescent girls into sexual slavery,
21. writing in his diary “A hundred castellanoes are as easily obtained for a woman as for a farm,

¹ [BGSU Office of Multicultural Affairs](#)

² [A People's History of the United States, 1492-present : Zinn, Howard](#)

³ [Columbus exposed as iron-fisted tyrant who tortured his slaves](#)

22. and it is very general and there are plenty of dealers who go about looking for girls; those
23. from nine to ten are now in demand.”⁴; and

24. **Whereas**, Columbus was received warmly by natives of Hispaniola who he wrote “offered to
25. share anything with anyone and when you ask for something, they never say no,” and who,
26. according to historians, worked for hours to save Columbus’ shipwrecked crew and cargo
27. upon their arrival; and

28. **Whereas**, even Columbus’ contemporaries were mortified by his actions, as his former men
29. exposed his methods of torture, most too brutal to be included here, but referenced in
30. scholarly sources, and with his sponsors Ferdinand and Isabella, the monarchs responsible for
31. the Spanish Inquisition, arresting him and stripping him of his titles as Viceroy⁵; and

32. **Whereas**, according to historians cited earlier, within two years of Columbus’ arrival, half of
33. the indigenous population of Hispaniola were dead, with the genocide continuing until no
34. original descendants of the indigenous population were found by the year 1650; and

35. **Whereas**, Columbus’ actions exported imperialism, slavery, torture, sexual assault, and
36. genocide of the indigenous peoples of Caribbean islands and pioneered these patterns to be
37. repeated in indigenous civilizations across the Americas; and

38. **Whereas**, according to a poll conducted by College Pulse in 2019, 79% of university
39. students support replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous People’s Day⁶; and

40. **Whereas**, universities like Minnesota State University, University of Utah, and Brown
41. University, among 55 forward-thinking cities and 4 states, have moved from celebrating
42. Columbus Day towards celebrating indigenous peoples⁷; and

43. **Therefore, let it be resolved that the** Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling
44. Green State University calls for Bowling Green State University to remove any celebration
45. or reference to Columbus Day from university materials and replace these instances with
46. Indigenous People’s Day; and

47. **Let it be Further Resolved**, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green State
48. University is not calling for Bowling Green State University to revoke any university
49. holidays and encourages the university to keep the floating university holiday to enable
50. students to educate themselves and celebrate indigenous cultures; and

⁴ [Columbus Day? True Legacy: Cruelty and Slavery](#)

⁵ [Lost document reveals Columbus as tyrant of the Caribbean](#)

⁶ [79 Percent of College Students Support Getting Rid of Columbus Day for Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)

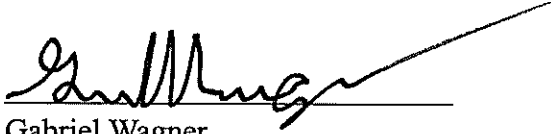
⁷ [Indigenous Peoples Day Replaces Columbus Day In 55 Cities | Time](#)

51. **Let it be Further Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green
52. State University calls for Bowling Green State University to renew its commitment to
53. educate its students on the historical atrocities committed against indigenous groups,
54. advocate for equitable treatment and opportunities for indigenous peoples, and amplify the
55. voices and cultures of indigenous peoples rather than those of their historical oppressors
56. through avenues such as social media posts, event programming, and similar educational
57. and cultural activities; and

58. **Let it be Further Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green
59. State University calls for Bowling Green State University to reach out to and collaborate with
60. local indigenous groups, non-profits, and peoples to include them in the process of creating
61. policy and programming for Indigenous People's Day in the future.

THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

Passed by the Senate and ordered presented to the president of the Undergraduate Student Body for Approval or Veto.



Gabriel Wagner
Speaker of the Senate

I do hereby approve and order this legislation into effect.



Alexander Chiarelott
President of the Undergraduate Student Government

I do hereby disapprove and order this legislation to be returned to the Senate.

Alexander Chiarelott
President of the Undergraduate Student Government
