

Approved by the Board of Trustees,
June 17, 2004

Board Meeting
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RESOLUTION CONCERNING CHIEF ILLINIWEK

Whereas, Chief Illiniwek has been a treasured symbol of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since its introduction in 1926;

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

Whereas, Chief Illiniwek was created and intended as an honorable and respectful representation of the indigenous people whose name is commemorated in the name of this State and its flagship university;

Whereas, Chief Illiniwek has symbolized the dignity, strength, intelligence, and grace to which athletic teams at the Urbana-Champaign campus have aspired;

Whereas, at the Board's request, the Honorable Judge Louis B. Garippo prepared a comprehensive report titled The Chief Illiniwek Dialogue – Intent and Tradition vs. Reaction and History - A Report to the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, which contains a historical record of Chief Illiniwek and many opinions about the tradition;

Whereas, Trustee Roger Plummer delivered a report to the Board concerning the varying views on the matter of Chief Illiniwek, as well as the historical support for the terms "Illini" and "Fighting Illini" as they pertain to the athletic teams at the Urbana-Champaign campus;

Whereas, as representatives of a great 136 year-old land grant university, the diverse people and cultures of Illinois, the university's nearly 71,000 students and its 300,000 proud in-state alumni, the Board of Trustees affirms that these constituencies are deserving of a conclusion to the Chief Illiniwek matter that is based upon a consensus among concerned parties;

Whereas, through dialogue, the Board of Trustees acknowledges that opportunities exist for consensus to be reached;

Whereas, such a conclusion provides an opportunity to resolve the Chief Illiniwek matter in a manner that is in the very best interest of the University and not of any particular constituency or interest group, that is consistent with the values espoused

and practiced by the University, that has a compelling rationale found acceptable by a large majority of the University's constituencies, and that brings finality to the subject;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board shall seek a consensus conclusion to the matter of Chief Illiniwek; and

Further Be It Resolved, that the Board shall next consider and approve guidelines pursuant to which a consensus conclusion will be based.