

**S.16-7 A Resolution Calling for Tufts University to Support the Movement for Indigenous Peoples Day Boston**

WHEREAS on December 6, 2015, the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate unanimously passed *S.15-4 A Resolution to Recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day in Place of “Columbus Day”*;[[1]](#footnote-1)

WHEREAS on February 15, 2016 the TCU Senate passed *S.16-1 A Resolution Calling for Tufts University to Recognize the Historical and Present Day Significance of Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day in Place of “Columbus Day,”* further articulating the historical and present day significance of Tufts recognizing Indigenous Peoples’ Day in place of “Columbus Day”;[[2]](#footnote-2)

WHEREAS the Tufts University School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering, and the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy voted to recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day in place of “Columbus Day”;[[3]](#footnote-3) [[4]](#footnote-4)

WHEREAS Tufts University was the first, and remains the only, school in the Boston area to recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day;

WHEREAS Tufts University sits on lands that historically belonged to the Massachusett people;[[5]](#footnote-5)

WHEREAS the 2013 Diversity Report states that “over the next 10 years, Tufts will demonstrate unprecedented institutional commitment to diversity, inclusion and cultural competency”;[[6]](#footnote-6)

WHEREAS Tufts University has made improvements in the past 4 years to incorporate the narratives of Indigenous peoples, including the establishment of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy and the Consortium of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora;

WHEREAS the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life has committed to “support and encourage students and faculty members to work with partner communities in addressing community-identified needs”;[[7]](#footnote-7)

WHEREAS according to Mahtowin Munro, Indigenous activist, leader of United American Indians of New England, and organizer of the movement to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day Boston, “We need to have a day that honors our ancestors who were slaughtered as a result of not only Christopher Columbus but all of the other European invaders who came, and that day is called Indigenous Peoples’ Day”;[[8]](#footnote-8)

WHEREAS Cambridge, Massachusetts City Council unanimously voted in favor of recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day;[[9]](#footnote-9) therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the TCU Senate urges Tufts University to support the movement for Indigenous Peoples Day Boston on the second Monday of every October;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCU Senate acknowledges that the historical oppression of Indigenous peoples in the United States continues to exist today;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCU Senate acknowledges the role Tufts University has played and continues to play in perpetuating the oppression of Indigenous peoples;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCU Senate urges Tufts University to acknowledge its responsibility as an educational institution which places great importance on civic engagement to promote the understanding of present day oppression of Indigenous peoples and its role in it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCU Senate urges Tufts University to continue to be at the forefront of efforts to work against, and recognize its continued role in, the oppression of Indigenous peoples;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCU Senate recognizes that supporting the movement to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day in Boston is an active decision to continue shifting the institutional and academic conscious of Tufts University to one that acknowledges the connections between the oppressed histories and present day oppression of Indigenous peoples;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TCU Senate asserts that this is only one step in continuing to recognize its continued role in settler colonialism on its campuses.

*Respectfully submitted by Parker Breza A19, Anna Del Castillo A18, Benya Kraus A18, and Gauri Seth A17 on October 2, 2016.*

1. <http://tcu.tufts.edu/senate/resolutions> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://tcu.tufts.edu/senate/resolutions> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://tuftsdaily.com/news/2016/02/25/faculty-committee-passes-resolution-instituting-indigenous-peoples-day/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://friedmansprout.com/2016/05/01/may-the-sprout-be-with-you/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/NathanParksBrochure10-23.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://president.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/Council-on-Diversity-Final-Report-December-2013.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/communitypartnerships/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/cambridge-ma-declares-indigenous-peoples-day> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/cambridge-ma-declares-indigenous-peoples-day> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)