

ASU Faculty Senate Resolution (FSR 2003-02)
Resolution to Abolish the Use of a Native American Identity at Arkansas State University
Approved April 4, 2003

Sponsored by the English Department, History Department, Political Science, Fine Arts, Speech Communication, and . . .

Whereas, in their leaving remarks, the 2003 Higher Learning Commission accreditation team questioned the appropriateness of the use of a Native American identity at this university, and

Whereas, at the national level the NCAA's Minority Opportunity and Interests Committee recommends that the use of Native American mascots ought to be retired, and

Whereas Arkansas State University's use of a Native American identity ("Indians") perpetuates negative stereotypes of a minority culture, and

Whereas, such an identity incorporates the inappropriate use of religious symbolism, and

Whereas, the continued use of a Native American identity is in stark contrast with the goal of diversity espoused by the current university administration, and

Whereas, the use of a Native American identity hinders recruitment of Native American faculty,

Now, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Arkansas State University calls upon the University Board of Trustees to begin immediately the search for an identity more representative of an academic institution of higher learning, and to abandon the use of all references, either direct or indirect, to a Native American identity as soon as is practicable.

Be it further resolved that the search for a new identity shall be open and transparent and that it shall include the entire academic community - faculty, students, administrators, staff and alumni.