

Urging the Mt. SAC Board of Trustees to Retire the Moniker “Mountie” Resolution 2022-08

Whereas, the actions by the Board of Trustees during the September 14, 2022 meeting included:

- a split vote to change Mascot Joe Mountie without changing the moniker “Mountie”
- a unanimous vote to approve the updated College’s Mission, Vision, and Core Values which pledges “to support and empower all students in achieving their educational goals in an environment of academic excellence... empowering students ... to attain success in an ever-evolving diverse, sustainable, global society” and includes a commitment to anti-racism where “we are actively and unapologetically anti-racist in all aspects of our work”¹; and,

Whereas, debate over the Mt. SAC moniker “Mountie” and mascot was before the campus previously in 1988² when students raised concerns over the mascot “Little Joe” and the moniker “Mountie” and the moniker was maintained when then Mt. SAC President Randall declared with seemingly little to no research, “I say to heck with the dictionary. Let’s continue to use Mountie as our nickname” and “I also see no reason to eliminate Little Joe...in any case. We are the Mounties³”; and,

Whereas, the moniker “Mountie” does primarily mean the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who have been responsible for upholding genocidal policies against Indigenous populations⁴ and even if “Mountie” is understood to mean "mountaineer", the term is still directly connected to legacies of racial violence in the United States⁵, and therefore this moniker should not be the namesake of our school where we uphold the Core Values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Social Justice, and Anti-Racism (DEISA)⁶, where campus leaders issued a statement on

1 Mission Vision and Core Values as approved by the Board of Trustees on the September 14, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting <https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/mtsac/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AWZQGW5E3871#> and Board of Trustees Discussion and Vote on Action Item 15.11 Recommendation to Change Mascot Joe Mountie at the September 14, 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rT8eyTFhIM0>

2 Mt. San Antonio College Struggles in Bid to Dump Little Joe for Non-Sexist Mascot <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1988-11-17-me-295-story.html>

3 Joe Mountie Mt SAC profile <https://www.mtsac.edu/profiles/jmountie.html>

4 The role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police during the Indian Residential School system <https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.692143/publication.html>

5 Manifest Destiny and Indian Removal <https://americanexperience.si.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Manifest-Destiny-and-Indian-Removal.pdf>

6 [How Changing Racist Names of School Buildings and Mascots Affects School Climate - The Education Trust \(edtrust.org\)](https://www.edtrust.org/)

June 5, 2020 “United Against Racism” stating that “the days of passive normalization of established inequities must cease”⁷, and particularly where students, including the College's Native American Inter-tribal Student Alliance have expressed their dismay over the continued use of this term; and,

Whereas, to preserve the moniker “Mountie” for the sake of tradition willfully ignores reinforcement of historical trauma reflected in the moniker while perpetuating colonialism, manifest destiny, and the oppression of diverse populations⁸.

Resolved, the Mt. San Antonio College Academic Senate stands behind the Mt. SAC Mission, Vision, and Core Values approved by the Board of Trustees on September 14th, 2022; and,

Resolved, we express support for and affirm the right of Native American and Indigenous students, staff, faculty, administrators, and communities to be treated with respect and dignity; and,

Resolved, we urge the Board of Trustees to not repeat the same mistake of 1988, by demonstrating the campus Mission, Vision, and Core Values of 2022 with a vote of solidarity and compassion for Native American and Indigenous communities to retire the moniker “Mountie” along with the mascot allowing the campus to find an appropriate image and moniker to represent Mt. SAC.

Contact: Academic Senate Executive Board

10.6.2022 Approved by the Academic Senate Executive Board

10.13.2022 Approved by the Academic Senate

⁷ [Statement - United Against Racism \(mtsac.edu\)](https://www.mtsac.edu/news/2020/06/05/United-Against-Racism)

⁸ [Sports mascots can perpetuate ‘harmful representations’ of marginalized groups \(osu.edu\)](https://www.osu.edu/news/2020/06/05/Sports-mascots-can-perpetuate-harmful-representations-of-marginalized-groups)