



Associated Students

Resolution #1

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Signature: Mariah Moreno

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Signature: Dani Silva

Signature: Tash Buie

Signature: Manal Khan

Signature: Daniela Guevara

Signature: Tyler Lee

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Subject: Mountie Moniker Removal and Taskforce Accountability

Date: 4/24/24

Whereas:

Associated Students strive to align our college's brand and culture with the following esteemed core values: integrity, equity and diversity, community building, student focus, social justice, anti-racism, positive spirit, and effective stewardship. The current moniker of Mt. SAC, the Mountie, is in direct conflict with these core values, is harmful to our Indigenous populations, and is an insult to the land we reside on.[1] The moniker is a painful reminder of the atrocities committed by the Canadian mounted police against native Americans, in coordination with the will of indigenous students and our land acknowledgment against the Moniker Mountie in favor of a moniker in coordination with our values and mascot. We also stand with our students against the mascot committees' disregard for the student voice when crafting the new mascot to replace Joe Mountie. The committee's choice to disregard the student voice of Mountain Lion, despite asking the student body, is a clear insult to the student focus values of Associated Students.

Whereas:

After years of discussion concerning the offensive and racist symbols of Joe Mountie, Mounties, and mountaineers, we recognize the removal of Joe Mountie as a mascot as this was a significant step of progress. However, even this accomplishment is mired as the college's Mascot Taskforce subverted the popular vote of the mountain lion, showing an apparent disconnect between the will of the committee and the students they serve. Furthermore, the remaining moniker of "Mountie" and the persistent glorification of Joe Mountie throughout our campus, both physically and culturally, has yet to be effectively addressed. The name Mountie is linked to a painful past, as it derives its name from the Canadian Mounted Police, who have a history of committing atrocities against Indigenous peoples. This includes historical and ongoing oppression, violence and brutality, missing and murdered Indigenous people, land disputes, and

cultural insensitivity. [2][3]The Mascot Taskforce's new images of the bear are clearly in a nearly identical pose to Joe Mountie, creating a silhouette that may trigger Native students still haunted by his visage. Furthermore, the comparison of light fur to brown fur has been seen by many members as a blatantly racist and unnecessary comparison. Mt. SAC should not rely on the passing of the SSCCC culturally offensive mascot and moniker removal, as it is perfectly capable of aligning with its values regarding equity and diversity

Whereas:

Associated Students have been called upon to acknowledge the harm caused by Joe Mountie and the "Mountie" moniker to our indigenous students and the disregard of the student's voices as a direct result of the mascot committee's actions. The priorities of the Associated Students, which include Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Social Justice, and Anti-Racism, aim to create a more equitable world, starting with our campus. The indigenous community has demonstrated the harmful impact of the moniker on the success and retention of our indigenous students. They have expressed visceral reactions to the painful history the moniker inspires upon viewing it. The continued use of the moniker perpetuates the long history of racism faced by the indigenous community and perpetuates the cycle of oppression and cultural genocide.

The Mascot Taskforce was determined to have the student trustee and three other student body members attend. Despite this intention, the three students assigned could not participate, and the committee should have attempted to contact the A.S. president to find suitable replacements. The result of this oversight was two disastrous surveys that were insidiously designed, highly racist, and bigoted. The ability to voice opinions by participating in the study or neither option is a careful choice designed to subvert student voices. Furthermore, the decision to release the survey during Finals and Midterms while reaching their quota is selected during times when the majority of students are unable to have the time to voice their opinions.

Therefore:

Firstly, we call for a formal acknowledgment of the history of the "Mountie" moniker. This acknowledgment shall be historically accurate, it shall be researched and created by a historian. We also greatly appreciate continuing the collaborative college-wide effort to dismantle the glorification of Joe Mountie/Mountie in our college's culture.

Secondly, we call for a gradual removal of the Mountie moniker over a five-year maximum time period in which any and all depictions of the word "Mountie" be removed from all Mt.SAC material. The Native American students have voiced their continued cries for the removal of Joe Mountie and the Mountie moniker for years. They have expressed how it negatively impacts retention and images of self-worth by propagating the racism that has defined their people's cultural experience. In alignment with our land acknowledgment and the passionate voices of our students, the moniker is a dark reminder of past atrocities with which the campus should have no desire to associate itself.

We consider the campus-wide effort necessary for said removal, so we encourage and appreciate a gradual and sustainable effort. Such efforts include but are not limited to retirement of athletic jerseys, student program merchandise, and donations. We hope to sufficiently address the concerns of indigenous students, students, and allies while protecting the student experience of programs which must undergo retirement of the moniker.

This resolution is a part of many movements including but not limited to the removal of colonial mascots and monikers, truth and reconciliation, and decolonization. That began once former colonies were colonized, started, and eventually won their freedom. We recognize that decolonization is a form of healing; and in the healing, we must first educate, then acknowledge and accept, right and historical wrongs, and finally forgive and let go.

Thirdly, we demand accountability from the Mascot Taskforce in their decisions. The action to go over the students' voices shows that the committee has no interest in the actual will of the students and, as such, should not claim to represent students. The three student voices were not heard, and the apparent consequences of their absence should disqualify any decision made by the committee and their progress reset. We desire a new open mascot design contest that prioritizes student engagement and inclusivity to create a mascot that truly represents all of the groups that make up our campus and does not marginalize the voices of native students or the student body.

This proposal will benefit Associated Students and the Mt. SAC community at large since we will be reaffirming our commitment to students to create a truly equitable campus. This resolution will be a step forward in righting historical wrongdoings and respecting Indigenous sovereignty, culture, and ways of life. Through this resolution, we hope to strengthen our community through education and acknowledgment of cultural insensitivity. We seek to address these concerns outlined above and move forward to a united and respectable college community.

Be It Resolved:

That the A.S. Senate, the A.S. Executive Board, and the A.S. President approve Mountie Moniker Removal and Taskforce Accountability.

A.S. Senate		
For: _____	Against: <u>UNANIMOUS</u>	Abstain: _____
Date: <u>4/30/24</u>		
A.S. Executive Board		
For: _____	Against: <u>UNANIMOUS</u>	Abstain: _____
Date: <u>4/30/24</u>		
A.S. President		

Approve Veto Signature: Sam K. Sto Date: 5/24/24

References:

1. <https://exhibits.library.du.edu/librariespresents/exhibits/show/no-more-pios-du-exhibit/negative-impacts-of-settler-co>
2. <https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/150-years-conflict-rcmp/>
3. <https://globalnews.ca/news/5381480/rcmp-indigenous-relationship/>