

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number: SSR0220F
Date of Senate Approval 10/08/2020

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

IDC 1: Sense of the Senate Resolution to institutionalize and implement the [Land Acknowledgment Statements](#) with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI)

Whereas, UNC Asheville holds as its core values diversity and inclusion, innovation, and sustainability; and

Whereas, UNC Asheville acknowledges, with respect, that the land we are on today is ancestral land of the *Anikituwagi*, more commonly known as the Cherokee, and recognize the Cherokee as the native people and original stewards of this land; and

Whereas, UNC Asheville communities are dedicated to building and maintaining strong partnership with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI);

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the following recommendations are made to institutionalize and implement the [Land Acknowledgment Statements](#) with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI):

Short to Mid term action items:

- A statement of the [Land Acknowledgment Statements](#) be included in the Faculty Handbook as a recommended item for faculty adoption on their syllabi
- A plaque or framed version of the [Land Acknowledgment Statements](#) be placed in the Student Union
- A Banner publicizing the [Land Acknowledgment Statements](#) be placed at a prominent location on campus (Ramsey Library, Sherrill Center, etc.)
- A learning circle on Cherokee culture and traditions be offered for faculty members
- The director of the Admissions office be invited to give an annual report on efforts to recruit
- historically underrepresented population, including but not limited to Indigenous people, Latinix, Black population
- Questions regarding matters of Indigenous people and their representation be asked when reports are given by senior leadership

Long term action items:

Hiring:

- Recruit and retain two Indigenous tenure-track Faculty members in the next five years
- Recruit and retain indigenous staff members to work with students and act as liaison between the university and the tribe - active in both communities (not a faculty member)

Curriculum:

- A required course in the First-Year Experience curriculum that focuses on American Indian and Indigenous studies that engages the [Land Acknowledgment Statements](#) and its history specifically (consider Diversity Intensive, or Service-Learning)
- Continue to reexamine structure and content of Humanities Program to incorporate different epistemological frameworks and modes of thought
- Work with UNC system institutions and COPLAC *vel sim* to develop consortium offering courses on indigenous topics (language, history, culture, etc.) and involving indigenous faculty that would count as credit for UNCA students

Research and Scholarship:

- A Scholarship dedicated to recruit and retain outstanding students with Indigenous backgrounds
- Joint-host bi-annual conferences with tribal communities on American Indian and Indigenous studies, research, and cultural practices
- Develop collaborations focused on current and erstwhile Cherokee land and the study of its natural resources

Spatial Recognition of the [Land Acknowledgment Statements](#):

- Develop space on campus that acknowledges Cherokee history, tradition, customs, cultural practices, etc. and presence on the site - e.g. name of building, hearth, stickball field, etc. Emphasis on visual presence
- Art installation with focus on indigenous artists (in place of School of Athens painting in Highsmith)