



INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 05182021_03

Appointment of Tadd Johnson to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Executive Board consists of ten of the eleven federally recognized tribes located within the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, due to the tragic passing of Kao Iliean Her, a member of the Board of Regents for the University of Minnesota, there exists a vacancy on the Board of Regents that must be filled; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Nations of Minnesota are the **only** historically under-represented group in Minnesota to have never been represented on the Board of Regents by a tribal member; and

WHEREAS, the Morrill Act of 1862 resulted in lands being taken from the Dakota and Ojibwe people in Minnesota; the lands and proceeds of which were used to build the University of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, from the taking of Dakota lands primarily in Minnesota alone, 34 additional universities were built in the United States including the University of Minnesota and all its five campuses; and

WHEREAS, the University has unique responsibilities as a land-grant institution to the Native Nations of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, President Gabel has stated she is focused on trying to build relationships with the Native Nations of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous critical matters involving tribal concerns before the University of Minnesota which are detailed in MIAC Resolutions 06262020-02 and 06262020-03; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative at this point in history that a tribal member from the Minnesota Native Nations be seated as a Member of the Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, it is an historical injustice that the Indian tribes of Minnesota have never been represented on the Board of Regents and appointment of a tribal member to the Board of Regents is long overdue; and

WHEREAS, Professor Tadd M. Johnson, Esq. is an enrolled tribal elder of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa who has a long history as a tribal attorney, policy maker, professor and currently serves as the Sr. Director of Tribal Nations Relations for the University of Minnesota and has the unanimous support of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to be seated as the first tribal member to serve on the Board of Regents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council hereby requests that Governor Walz nominate Tadd Johnson to the Board of Regents for the University of Minnesota; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council hereby requests that the State Legislature support and endorse Tadd Johnson for this position.

CERTIFICATION: We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent at Regular Meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a quorum present, held on February 18, 2020 at St. Paul, MN.

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Robert. L Larsen, Chairman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

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Shelley Buck, Vice Chairwoman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council