



INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 03012022_01

Minnesota State Colleges American Indian Tuition Waiver

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Membership consists of representatives of the federally-recognized Indian Tribes located within the State of Minnesota, members of the legislature, commissioners from the state department, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is a liaison between the state and local units of government in the delivery of services to American Indians in the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, American Indian populations are often identified by the various federal and state agencies as a minority and smallest ethnic group in the United States, and

WHEREAS, American Indian people are citizens of, or descendants of citizens of sovereign nations, and possess a unique political status that is not racial or ethnic in nature; and

WHEREAS, the United States took nearly 11 million acres of land from approximately 250 tribes, bands and communities through over 160 violence-backed treaties and land cessions. The Morrill Act of 1862 granted that land to states to be sold for the benefit of fledgling universities, and

WHEREAS, The Morrill Act took land from tribal nations through seizure, unratified treaties and treaties. In 1851 the University of Minnesota was established, that same year, four Dakota bands signed treaties relinquishing nearly all of Dakota, Mni Sota Makoce, and

WHEREAS, the Morrill Act of 1862 granted expropriated Indigenous land to states in order to fund universities. Minnesota sold 94,631 acres under the Morrill Act. The federal government paid \$2,309 for those parcels. The state then sold the land for \$579,430, or more than 250 times what the federal government paid for it. When adjusted for inflation, 52 universities have netted roughly half a billion dollars, and

WHEREAS, the actions under the Morrill Act were carried out throughout the U.S. and when the unscrupulousness of these activities was finally revealed it led several states and university campuses and university systems to try to make amends for these wrongs by offering free tuition to American Indian students, and

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota in acknowledging its participation in this exploitative activity for years has partnered with the eleven American Indian tribal governments within the state to establish a

system-wide tuition waiver for American Indian undergraduate and graduate students at each of its campuses; previously only the Morris campus provided a tuition waiver for American Indian students, and

WHEREAS, members of the Minnesota legislature are interested in proposing legislation this year to expand the tuition waiver benefit for American Indian students to include all schools within the Minnesota Colleges and Universities system (formerly known as MNSCU), and

WHEREAS, members of the legislature who are advancing this legislative proposal seek the support of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council affirmatively supports the concept of the proposed legislation and communicates that support to potential authors, including Rep. Connie Bernardy of New Brighton.

CERTIFICATION: We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted up by a vote of **9 For 0 Against 0 Silent** at Regular Meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a quorum present, held on February 28, 2022, at Fond du Lac, MN.

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Robert. L Larsen, Chairman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

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Chairman Deschampe, MIAA Vice-Chair
Robert Deschampe, Vice Chairman
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council