# Senate

of the

# Student Government Association

of

# The Johns Hopkins University

## { *S. Resolution 17-18, 09* }

**A Resolution Calling for The Recognition and Support of Indigenous History and Indigenous Students on the Homewood Campus**

Introduced By: Senator **Joshua Bertalotto** of the Senior Class

Sponsored By: Vice President **AJ Tsang** of the executive board

Senator **Kwame Alston** of the **senior** Class

Referred to the senate by the **COMMITTEE ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT** which recommends its **PASSAGE** by a vote of **6** to **0**.

**Whereas** The Johns Hopkins University, in its Roadmap on Diversity and Inclusion states that "Diversity of people, thought, and experience and the inclusion of all members of the Johns Hopkins community are vital to the fulfillment of our university's purpose of critical inquiry and discovery;" and,

**Whereas** Columbus Day celebrates the false "discovery" of America, negating centuries of Indigenous History; and,

**Whereas** The arrival of Columbus to Indigenous Territory began the slaughter of Indigenous People in the Americas, including, but certainly not limited to, the scalping of Indigenous Ancestors, the spreading of many foreign infectious diseases, forced boarding schools, and the Trail of Tears; and

**Whereas** The Johns Hopkins University has failed to provide an inclusive environment for Native students on campus, including:

1. Currently employing NO Indigenous faculty on the Homewood campus, which leads to a complete lack of research and discovery aimed at Indigenous students on campus; and
2. Not having an Indigenous Student Group on campus through the Office of Multicultural Affairs, up until student action aimed to create one; and
3. Offering very few courses or tracks involving Indigenous knowledge, despite JHSPH having a Center for American Indian Health that currently offers courses to graduate students; and

**Whereas** Johns Hopkins lacks services and offices equipped to handle the unique lives and passions of Indigenous Students; and

**Whereas** the community of Indigenous Students at the Johns Hopkins University have historically been underserved and rendered invisible on campus; and

**Whereas** the Johns Hopkins student group "Indigenous Students at Hopkins" has worked in its first year on campus to improve the University for our current and future Indigenous Students; and

**Whereas** the academic achievement and sense of belonging that Indigenous Students on campus is limited by the lack of resources and awareness on campus; and

**Whereas** The Johns Hopkins University claims the Institution is a gift from Johns Hopkins, but fails to recognize the Indigenous land the University was wrongfully given; and

**Whereas** The Johns Hopkins University has made considerable plans to increase Diversity and Inclusion for all on the Homewood Campus, and Indigenous Students demand to be included in these plans, despite lack of inclusion in the Roadmap itself; and

**Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Johns Hopkins Student Government Association encourages President Ronald Daniels, Provost Sunil Kumar, Vice Provost Kevin Shollenberger, and Associate Dean Moses Davis to:

A. Officially recognize the land that the Johns Hopkins University is built on was first owned and occupied by the original tribes of Maryland, including the Piscataway, the Susquehannock, and the Powhatan; and,

B. Officially discontinue the use of Columbus Day on the Homewood Campus, and allow the day to be officially redesignated and celebrated as Indigenous People's Day, in order to recognize and empower Indigenous Students on Campus; and,

C. Establish the first Indigenous People's Day, on Monday October 8, 2018, on the Homewood Campus, with a celebration of Indigenous History, and invite community partners such as the Baltimore American Indian Center, Native American Lifelines - Baltimore, and the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health and student partners such as Indigenous Students at Hopkins, at which the Administration will recognize the Indigenous land on which it stands, and officially abolish the use of Columbus Day; and,

**Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to President Ronald J. Daniels, Provost Sunil Kumar, Vice Provost Kevin Shollenberger, and Associate Dean Moses Davis

THE RESOLUTION HEREBY **PASSES** BY A VOTE OF **23** TO **0** WITH **0** ABSTENTIONS.

UPON ADOPTION, WE HAVE HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE SENATE TO BE AFFIXED TO THIS RESOLUTION INDICATING THE SENATE'S ASSENT AND THUS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATING THE RESOLUTION'S ADOPTION AS THE POSITION AND IS WILL OF THE SENATE AND THE STUDENT BODY OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY..

Signatures of Enactment:

_____

AJ Tsang
President of the Senate
Executive Vice President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

_____

Noh Mebrahtu
Executive President of the Johns Hopkins SGA

_____

Rushabh Doshi
Executive Secretary of the Johns Hopkins SGA

_____

Mi Tu
Executive Treasurer of the Johns Hopkins SGA

Signatures of Ceremony:

_____

Joshua Bertalotto
Senior Class Senator