

**Author:** Indigenous Studies Student Association (ISSA)  
Yamina Sfiat, Co-Chair of ISSA  
Alicia Swimmer, Co-Chair of ISSA  
Steve Laravie, Jr., Treasurer of ISSA  
Philip Duncan, Faculty, KU Indigenous Studies

**Senate Resolution 2023-302**

**Student Council Assignments:** Social Justice Council and Finance Council

**Sponsors:** Anthony Hudson, Off Campus Senator  
Samuel Sokoloff, Chief of Staff  
Joseph Kamseu, Chair of Social Justice Council  
Nicole Norvell, Secretary of Social Justice Council  
Rosbel Garza, Chair of DEI Fund, Vice Chair of Social Justice Council  
Hollie Hall, Graduate Student Body President  
Fabiana Salas, Social Justice Director  
Angela Davis, Policy Director  
The Social Justice Council  
Sadie Williams, Student Body President  
Alessia Regiana Garcia, Student Body Vice President

**A Resolution to ensure adequate representation and support of the Indigenous Students, Staff, Faculty, and Administrators in and around the University of Kansas**

**WHEREAS**, the preamble of the Student Senate Rules and Regulation states, “The Student Senate shall ensure that the learning opportunities at KU are open to all students without exception. This includes but is not limited to race, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, color, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital or parental status, socio-economic status and to the extent specified by law, age or veteran status,” and

**WHEREAS**, the Indigenous community has members who find themselves as students, faculty, staff, and administrators on the KU campus, and

**WHEREAS**, the land that the University of Kansas sits on belongs to the Kansa (Washtage), Osage, and the Kickapoo (Kiikaapoi) Indigenous tribes, and

**WHEREAS**, the Indigenous community has historically had their voices cut off in the governmental sphere due to unjust discrimination, and

**WHEREAS**, the Indigenous communities on campus have often been left behind in the important and pivotal ways that the KU campus has and continues to reach out to all minorities, and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging states in their mission statement, “We strive for a campus where greater fairness, care, and belonging are integrated into our learning and workplace practices and all have opportunities to meet their academic and professional goals,” and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Kansas recently announced their failure to repatriate 202 Native ancestral remains located in the same building where the Indigenous Studies program offices are held, Lippincott Hall, 1 South American ancestral remain located in Fraser Hall, and 2 Native and 1 Aboriginal ancestral remain located in Spooner Hall, and

**WHEREAS**, the Indigenous Studies program authored a letter in partnership with the Indigenous community on campus that explains their concerns and recommendations as follows:

- I. A full explanation as to why ancestral remains were held in the same space as the Indigenous Studies Program without our knowledge.
- II. Immediately put adequate signage up to warn students from entering the buildings in which the remains are held.
- III. The University administration should hold a public press conference to apologize to all enrolled Indigenous students, as well as alumni, for not disclosing details of Native American ancestors being housed in Lippincott - the former home of the Indigenous Studies Program.
- IV. The Indigenous Studies Program should have a new dedicated office space for faculty and students along a major section of campus.
- V. The University should regularly update the campus community via an online platform about the status of repatriating the remains of Native American and Indigenous peoples.
- VI. Close the University for a day (or longer) except for work and gatherings related to the ancestors. Classes canceled and buildings closed. All the focus must be on the ancestors. For those outside our community this would be similar to a moment of silence, and an opportunity for learning. For the Indigenous community, this will give time for ceremony.
- VII. Return all potential data collected from these ancestors to families and Tribal leadership.
- VIII. The University must provide dedicated, Indigenous spaces across campus to allow Indigenous students to feel welcome and safe.
- IX. The University must establish the Indigenous Studies Program as a fully functioning department, therefore becoming the Indigenous Studies Department.
- X. The University should fully fund multiple GA/GTA/GRA positions within the Indigenous Studies Program.
- XI. All incoming Indigenous students should receive full scholarships within their desired program.
- XII. The University should make every effort possible to hire more permanent Indigenous mental health counselors, staff and faculty within all undergraduate and graduate programs, at the discretion of the Indigenous community on campus.
- XIII. An annual mandatory training like the DEI and sexual harassment trainings for all non-Native students to educate about the specific histories of Indigenous dispossession and removal on KU-owned lands and in Lawrence.
- XIV. The University should fully financially support tuition and fees for Indigenous students to learn their languages at other institutions and receive course credit for this work. These languages are often endangered and are only taught at specific places.
- XV. Ongoing conversations between ISP students and Provost or Chancellor about KU's commitment to these demands.

**WHEREAS**, additional funding or grants should be provided by the university in order for Indigenous students to travel back home to participate in rituals, required by close contact with ancient remains without their knowledge, and

**WHEREAS**, the KU Student Senate seeks to support the wishes of the Indigenous communities on campus and express a desire to see the KU Chancellor Doug Girod and the KU Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer follow through with the requests and concerns stated above by the Indigenous Studies department and the Indigenous communities on campus, and

**WHEREAS**, this should not be seen as a goal to reach for but a basic list of equal justices that is deserved by the Indigenous communities on campus.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the University of Kansas Student Senate here assembled that **A Resolution to ensure adequate representation and support of the Indigenous Students, Staff, Faculty, and Administrators in and around the University of Kansas** be enacted.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be sent to the following entities:

KU Chancellor, Doug Girod

KU Provost, Barbara Bichelmeyer

NAGPRA and Repatriation Media Contact, Erinn Barcomb-Peterson

University Daily Kansan

All University students, faculty, staff, and administrators as a show of support for the Indigenous communities on and around the KU Campus, through campus government letter or any other means possible.