



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## 73<sup>rd</sup> STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

**Resolution #:** 72

**Primary Sponsor:** DuChêne

**Co-Sponsor(s):** Bowling, Hunter, Lessard, Marcus, Pfeuffer-Ferguson, Roy, Tackett

**Whereas:** The City of Tallahassee, Leon County, and the broader community of North Florida and Southern Georgia are situated on the traditional and ancestral land of the Apalachee Nation, the Muscogee Creek Nation, the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida – land that remains scarred by the legacy of settler colonial violence, removal, and cultural erasure, and

**Whereas:** On January 20, 1851, the year of this institution's founding, the legislature of the State of Florida passed a bill calling on support from the federal government for the "speedy and final removal of the remnant of Seminole Indians now remaining in Florida," and

**Whereas:** The Florida State University prides itself on its longstanding relationship, "built on respect," with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and

**Whereas:** The Florida State University has systemically benefited and profited as an institution, not only by using this land from which Indigenous peoples were forcibly removed, but too by using the imagery and cultural traditions of Indigenous cultures in promotion of its sports programs, and

**Whereas:** Despite the Florida State University's unique entanglement with Indigenous culture and history, this university, with few exceptions, fails to offer a robust set of courses dedicated to Native American history, customs, culture, or literature, and

**Whereas:** The Florida State University further fails to have any Indigenous faculty, nor any Indigenous Student Union, Department of Native American Studies, or similar center for Indigenous scholarship, and

**Whereas:** The Florida State University remains in a distinct minority group of R1 Doctoral Universities that have yet to adopt a university-wide native land acknowledgment, and

**Whereas:** European-American Theatre and Opera have historically depicted Indigenous peoples and cultures in ways that are harmful and inaccurate, and that have contributed to harmful treatment and inaccurate perception that persist today, and

**Whereas:** The College of Fine Arts and College of Music at Florida State University have systemically benefited from these harmful and inaccurate depictions of Indigenous peoples and cultures through the centering of Whiteness in coursework, curricula, and performances over the course of this University's history, and

**Whereas:** The United Kingdom, Canada, and Canada's First Nations communities have entered a period of reckoning and mourning after the recovery of more than 1,600 remains of Indigenous children from multiple grounds of that country's former Indigenous Residential Schools – sites of cultural genocide that operated from 1883 to 1996, and

**Whereas:** The United States of America has begun to examine our own history of cultural erasure and genocide through the Secretary of the Interior, Debra Haaland's order to begin searches of the grounds of our own country's former Indigenous boarding schools, and

**Whereas:** The Department of Art History and Museum of Fine Arts – two entities of the College of Fine Arts at Florida State University – have already adopted land acknowledgements as a central part of their respective websites, and have furthermore, begun the work of recognition and reconciliation with Indigenous communities and their art,

**Be it resolved by the Seventy-third Student Senate at Florida State University that:**

The Florida State University School of Theatre, School of Dance, and College of Music are strongly encouraged to develop and incorporate unique Native Land Acknowledgments for their respective organizations that can be read aloud and printed in the programs of all official performances, concerts, and similar presentations, and

**Be it further resolved that:** The Florida State University School of Theatre, School of Dance, and College of Music are strongly encouraged to centrally display their unique Native Land Acknowledgements on their respective websites, and

**Be it further resolved that:** The Florida State University School of Theatre, School of Dance, and College of Music are strongly encouraged to pursue meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities who are the past, present, and future caretakers of the land on which Florida State University sits, as well as adjust their curricula and recruitment in ways that appropriately represent and honor the lives and art of these Indigenous communities, and

**Be it further resolved that:** A copy of this Resolution be sent to:

Dr. Richard McCullough, President, Florida State University  
Dr. Sally E. McRorie, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Nastassia Janvier, Student Body President  
Colbi Thykadavil, Student Body Vice President  
Dr. James Frazier, Dean, College of Fine Arts  
Dr. Scott A. Shamp, Senior Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts  
Dr. Michael D. Carrasco, Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts  
Anjali Austin, Chair, School of Dance  
Russel Sandifer, Associate Chair, School of Dance  
Dr. Kris Salata, Chair, School of Theatre  
Dr. Brad Brock, Executive Director, School of Theatre  
Dr. Aaron C. Thomas, Assistant Professor, School of Theatre  
Dr. Todd Queen, Dean, College of Music  
Dr. Gregory Jones, Associate Dean for Outreach and Engagement, College of Music  
Heather Mayo, Assistant Director of Production and Community Engagement, College of Music  
Matthew Lata, Professor and Stage Director of the Florida State Opera, College of Music

DocuSigned by:

*Alexander Harmon*

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10/8/2021 | 9:13 AM EDT

OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Senate President**

**Senate Vote: 28y-0a-0n  
PASSED: September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**