



RESOLUTION No. 2020-21-02

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SPONSORED BY: A.S. Executive Committee

ADOPTED: July 17, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution to support the former Hilltop Marketplace be designated as a Food Sovereignty Lab and Cultural Workspace

WHEREAS, The Associated Students (A.S.) Board of Directors of Humboldt State University (HSU) is the single recognized voice for over 6,500 students; and,

WHEREAS, The mission of the Associated Students of Humboldt State University serves to "assist in the protection of rights and interests of the individual student and the student body," and to "stimulate the educational, social, physical, and cultural well-being of the University community"; and,

WHEREAS, In 2018, a research project investigating national public opinion about how non-Natives perceive Native peoples (Reclaiming Native Truth, First Nations Development Institute & Echo Hawk Consulting, 2018) revealed that,

“Most people believe that the Native population is declining, and most do not think about Native people much, if at all... Native people are misrepresented if they are even mentioned and are invisible in American society... Invisibility is in essence the modern form of racism used against Native Americans. It is this invisibility that leads to a college access and completion crisis among Native American students. When a student is invisible, his or her academic and social needs are not met. This leads to students feeling alienated and alone, derailing their matriculation and the realization of their dreams and potential... Invisibility prevents many young Native people from even thinking college is a possibility; others entertain the idea but are stopped from enrolling in college because of negative experiences with admissions processes or on college campuses... Removal is one method in which Native Americans are rendered invisible on campuses.”¹

¹ Reclaiming Native Truth Project. “Research Findings: Compilation of All Research.” First Nations Development Institute, 2018. <https://rnt.firstnations.org/research/>

WHEREAS, Current Indigenous representation on Humboldt State University's campus is lacking substance. There are areas where Humboldt State has already succeeded, including the Native American Forum and recent lobby remodel project within the Behavioral and Social Science building.

WHEREAS, The Office of the President at Humboldt State University lists the following commitments on their website: “We will commit to increasing our diversity of people and perspectives” and “We will be exemplary partners with our communities, including tribal nations” and “We believe we have a special opportunity to learn from the Native American cultures, the unique ecosystem and special communities of our region, and to apply that knowledge.”²

WHEREAS, In Fall 2019, the students of NAS 331: *Indigenous Natural Resource Management Practices* imagined a class project that would have lasting benefits for the campus community beyond the scope of one semester. Students worked collaboratively to conduct interviews, research, and identify potential funding. Students interviewed Indigenous faculty and staff and asked how they would (re)Indigenize the Humboldt State University campus. Interviewees expressed the need for workshops and space for making traditional foods, regalia, baskets, and medicines. The proposed project from the class is a Food Sovereignty Lab and Cultural Workshop Center. In November 2019, a space request was submitted to the University Space and Facilities Advisory Committee to implement the Lab/Center in the former Hilltop Marketplace in the BSS building. Beginning Spring 2020, two student research assistants were hired through the Sponsored Programs Foundation to pursue further work on this project. We have partnered with the Native American Studies Program (NAS), Indian Tribal and Educational Personnel Program (ITEPP), the Council of American Indian Faculty and Staff (CAIFS), the Environmental Studies Program, and students from across majors/disciplines at HSU to complete the beginning phase of this research project. The students in our class who helped to design the first phase of this project represented twelve different majors from both the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Natural Resources & Sciences.

WHEREAS, The concept of food sovereignty directly relates to building community resilience and preparing for disasters such as global pandemics and climate change. The Declaration of Nyéléni, the first global forum on food sovereignty defines: “Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally-appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the

² Office of the President. “Mission, Vision and Values.” Humboldt State University. Accessed March 30th, 2020. <https://president.humboldt.edu/vision>

aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.”

WHEREAS, The Food Sovereignty Lab will function as a workshop and research center for practicing food sovereignty in multiple innovative ways. Centering food sovereignty through Indigenous pedagogies and enhancing academic resources for multiple disciplines across campus, this lab will illuminate respect for learning with Native American cultures and help build the future of how we address climate change, food insecurity, and social justice.

WHEREAS, The lab will include a commercially certified kitchen, storage cabinets, large work tables, office space for research and studying, a white board, a large television for use in presentations, and a sound system. In addition a native plant and food garden to be installed around the BSS building to supplement the Food Sovereignty Lab.

WHEREAS, The Food Sovereignty Lab is seeking to create a more sustainable, socially just, and welcoming campus by promoting education and research with food sovereignty. Food sovereignty teaches us that the relationships between people and nature are fundamental to our existence. A Food Sovereignty Lab can provide a platform to educate people on how to repair that relationship and to build decolonized futures.

WHEREAS, The space request for this Lab/Center was denied April 22nd, 2020: "The committee has considered the former Hilltop Marketplace space for a function that will serve as a general student space that may be accessed by all." (i.e a student lounge)

WHEREAS, The Food Sovereignty Lab, as designed by the students, is envisioned as a space that can be accessed by all, not only by our diverse student population, but also by our surrounding communities, tribal nations, and national and international scholars and community leaders. It truly opens up a space at our University that can build excitement and true connection which can only serve to increase our impact for recruitment, retention and enrollment at Humboldt State. There is potential for this project to partner with organizations across the world who are working on these issues and as we look at how HSU can strategically "tell our story" and build opportunities for students this project would answer so many of the ongoing calls to action for shaping the future of our university.

WHEREAS, Considering the history of both the BSS building as being originally designed to honor Native peoples and space on campus, and the ongoing discussions from the President's office and administration at HSU to continue to "Indigenize Humboldt State", this is precisely why a continuity of Indigenous space near the Native forum, Goudi'ni Gallery and NAS Department is a step in the right direction for our University.

WHEREAS, We request the support of the Associated Students to advocate the Food Sovereignty Lab be implemented in the former Hilltop Marketplace to support student success, professional development, inclusivity, social and environmental justice.

RESOLVED, That the Associated Students of Humboldt State University are requesting the inclusion of the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Lab in the upcoming new HSU Academic Master Plan.

RESOLVED, The A.S President issues a 1-3 paragraph memo in support of the Food Sovereignty Lab project in the former Hilltop Marketplace location that is signed by the Board of Directors to be sent, at the latest, within 30 days of the passing of this resolution.

RESOLVED, The resolution and A.S. President's Memo is sent to but not limited to University President, Tom Jackson, Jr.; Vice President of Enrollment Management, Jason L. Meriwether; Vice President of Administration and Finances, Douglas V. Dawes; Interim Dean of Students, Eboni Turnbow; Interim Executive Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ODEI), Edelmira Reynoso; Interim Associate Vice President of Student Success, Stephen St. Onge, Department Chair of Native American Studies, Cutcha Risling-Baldy; The Humboldt State University Senate; The Lumberjack; and El Leñador.