A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A COLIN KAEPERNICK STATUE ON CAMPUS

Resolution Number: 117

Authored By: Senator Kidd, Senator Bourgault, Senator Stoddard, Senator Ramirez, Senator Chantiyanon, Senator Supple, and Senator McElhoe

Sponsored By: The Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Whereas, the African American population at the University of Nevada, Reno has been highly underrepresented and makes up roughly 3-4% of the undergraduate population on campus;¹

Whereas, since our founding in 1874, the University has had a plethora of diverse students, yet there is not a single statue on campus that is dedicated to underrepresented and marginalized populations in the Reno area;²

Whereas, the University of Nevada, Reno’s 2019 Climate Survey reported that, “By racial identity, Black/African American respondents reported being significantly less comfortable with the overall climate than White respondents or Other Respondents of Color.” Indicating the serious issues on campus surrounding racial equality among African American students;³ ⁴

Whereas, it is imperative that the University makes deliberate and intentional steps towards inclusivity and should seek to recognize political activists such as UNR alumni Colin Kaepernick;

Whereas, during his time at the University of Nevada, Reno, he played football for the university football team where he set the record of being the only college football player in history to pass for 10,000

² http://nevadasagebrush.com/blog/2015/09/29/unr-strives-to-build-on-recent-history-of-ethnic-diversification/
yards and rush for 4,000 yards, earning him an induction into the University of Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame;  

*Whereas*, Colin Kaepernick has donated more than his original promise of one million dollars to at least 32 social justice initiatives and organizations since October 2016;  

*Whereas*, the specific social justice initiatives and organizations can be seen in Addendum A;  

*Whereas*, Colin Kaepernick initiated a 10k x 10k donation plan with fellow Black leaders to give back to those in need, which can be seen in Addendum A;  

*Whereas*, Colin Kaepernick has founded the *Know Your Rights Camp* to educate and self-empower the next generation of change leaders;  

*Whereas*, Colin Kaepernick was a quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers;  

*Whereas*, Colin Kaepernick knelt for the National Anthem rather than standing in order to peacefully protest for Black lives and the social justice movement;  

*Whereas*, fellow teammate Eric Reid stated that him and Kaepernick could use their “platform, provided to [them] by being professional athletes in the N.F.L, to speak for those who are voiceless;”  

*Whereas*, statues have an importance in remembering history and this statue would serve as an acknowledgement of systemic injustices in history, showcasing the values of these Black experiences;  

*Whereas*, having a statute of someone who has done a lot for the African American community is a way to support that community;  

*Whereas*, having a statute of Colin Kaepernick will be representing Black students at the University of Nevada, Reno as well as be representative of social justice movements in response to deep-rooted disenfranchisement of the Black community;  

*Whereas*, two University of Nevada, Reno students have put together a proposal for a Colin Kaepernick statue on campus;  

8 [https://www.knowyourrightscamp.com/who-we-are](https://www.knowyourrightscamp.com/who-we-are)  
Whereas, the project proposal outlines two committees (design and funding) that will spearhead the creation of the statue and are led and managed by members of the Black community;

Whereas, a statue of Colin Kaepernick would be funded by outside donations and fundraisers;

Whereas, funds to fix potential vandalism are taken into consideration by the funding committee and will be added to the total needed for the project;

Whereas, any excess donations accumulated will be directed to the local community, some options include creating an ASUN scholarship for Black students that will be created;

Whereas, once approved by University of Nevada, Reno President and Colin Kaepernick, the project is expected to take 2-4 years;

Whereas, a Colin Kaepernick Statue will serve to remind Black students on campus that their lives and their education matter and are respected;

Whereas, a statue of Colin Kaepernick will not only serve as a symbol for the Black community on campus, but will also bring the opportunity for deliberative dialogue to be conducted on campus in regard to pertinent civil rights issues;

Whereas, dialogue, discussion, and diversity of opinion are critical in the success of a college and the students attending;

Whereas, embracing and discussing diverse perspectives can lead to becoming informed, responsible citizens better prepared to work and live in a global context where being well-informed about and open to the perspectives of others is critical;10

Whereas, a statue of Kaepernick showcases the impact of peaceful protest in light of egregious forms of racism and anti-Blackness in the United States today;

Whereas, this statue will serve to bring a sense of belonging to Black students, faculty and staff as well as memorialize the lives of those who were taken as a result of systemic racism;

Whereas, Colin Kaepernick demonstrated a way in which people can exercise their right to protest against police brutality through peaceful means;

Whereas, the implementation of a project of this magnitude, although unheard of on the UNR campus, will be one of many essential steps to ensure that progress towards more inclusive, equitable learning spaces is relentlessly pursued;

Whereas, a Statement Regarding the Murder of George Floyd was released by ASUN and signed by numerous ASUN Representatives;

Whereas, student leaders who signed the statement advocated to fight for the right to an equitable education and commit to taking strides to better support and listen to the Black community;\textsuperscript{11}

Whereas, the #ListenToUS Platform was created by Black student leaders at UNR to create tangible and actionable goals for the University, the City of Reno, and the State of Nevada;

Whereas, one distinct goal from the Platform was to bring Colin Kaepernick’s image and memorabilia to the University of Nevada, Reno campus;\textsuperscript{12}

Whereas, a letter from the President’s Council and the Academic Leadership Council was published June 10, 2020 supporting the Listen To Us Platform and goals;

Whereas, the letter states that the University will take immediate action to “bring thoughtful and prominent recognition celebrating Colin Kaepernick and those Black social justice pioneers who came before him on our campus;”\textsuperscript{13}

Whereas, the letter was signed by Provost Carman, Vice President of Student Services Ellis, Chief of Police Renwick, Vice President of Development Alumni Relations Buhlig, University Diversity and Inclusion Officer Mora, Executive Director of External Relations Gansert, and the Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Hendricks among many others;

Whereas, S. R. 88-57 A Resolution to Uphold and Protect Human Rights and Equity for Black and Marginalized Peoples at the University, Local, State, and National Levels was passed and states that the history of the University of Nevada, Reno fails to provide a safe community for Black students and students

\textsuperscript{11} \url{http://www.nevadaasun.com/statement-regarding-the-murder-of-george-floyd/}
\textsuperscript{12} \url{https://thisisreno.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/ListentoUsPlatform.pdf}
\textsuperscript{13} \url{https://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2020/addressing-racism}
of color. It continues to outline tangible actions the University could be doing to support Black students on the UNR campus;”

Whereas, a statue of Colin Kaepernick will showcase the climate the university is currently in and honor how he has chosen to speak out as a social justice influencer when others haven’t;

Whereas, a statue of Colin Kaepernick will honor not only his contributions to our university as a student athlete and NFL player (through name recognition and funding), but also because of his work as a champion of social justice whose symbol engenders dialogue and debate about the more pertinent issues of our time;

Whereas, Kaepernick and his mission promote education and diversity of opinion, which is the goal of a higher education and this is the legacy we want to uplift in our community;

Be it resolved that, the Senate of the Associated Student at the University of Nevada support the addition of a Colin Kaepernick statue on campus;

Be it further resolved that, ASUN and other campus leadership organizations are encouraged to collaborate to ensure the completion and addition of a Colin Kaepernick statue on campus;

Be it further resolved that, a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- University President, Brian Sandoval
- Vice President of Student Services, Shannon Ellis
- ASUN President, Domnique Hall
- GSA President, Will Carrasco
- Faculty Senate Chair, Amy Pason
- Staff Employee Council Chair, Tanya Wells
- UNR Development Office Vice President, Lynda Buhlig
- Alumni for Kaepernick Statue Facebook Group
- UNR Student, Wenei Philimon

Adopted in Senate on December 9th, 2020

Attest:

____________________________________
Hope Cronan, Senate Secretary

____________________________________
Keegan Murphy, Speaker of the Senate
Addendum A

List of Social Justice Initiatives and Organizations in which Colin Kaepernick has made donation to:

- October 2016
  - Silicon Valley De-Bug ($25,000)
  - Causa Justa/Just Cause ($25,000)
  - Urban Underground ($25,000)
  - Mothers Against Police Brutality ($25,000)

- November 2016
  - Black Youth Project (25,000)
  - Gathering For Justice/Justice League ($25,000)
  - Communities United for Police Reform ($25,000)
  - I Will Not Die Young Campaign ($25,000)

- December 2016
  - UCSF for “The Mni Wiconi Health Clinic Partnership at Standing Rock” ($50,000)
  - Appetite for Change ($25,000)
  - Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation ($25,000)

- January 2017
  - Black Veterans For Social Justice ($25,000)
  - 350 Global Environmental Organization ($25,000)
  - Center For Reproductive Rights ($25,000)
  - CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles) ($25,000)

- February 2017
  - Meals on Wheels ($50,000)
  - Somalia Famine Relief ($50,000)

- March 2017
  - Life After Hate ($50,000)
1. Leaders Of A Beautiful Struggle ($25,000)
2. Silence Is Violence ($25,000)

- April 2017
3. Assata’s Daughters ($25,000)
4. Helping Oppressed Mothers Endure (H.O.M.E.) ($25,000)
5. Grassroots Leadership ($25,000)
6. American Friends Service Committee ($25,000)

- May 2017
7. The Dreamville Foundation ($34,000)
8. Lower East Side Girls Club ($33,000)
9. 100 Suits For 100 Men ($33,000)

- June 2017
10. DREAM (Formerly RBI Harlem) ($25,000)
11. Coalition For The Homeless ($25,000)
12. Justice League NYC: War on Children Program ($25,000)
13. United We Dream ($25,000)

- 10x10
14. DeBug San Jose ($20,000 with Kevin Durant)
15. The Advancement Project ($20,000 with Jesse Williams)
16. United Playaz ($20,000 with Steph Curry)
17. Mothers Against Police Brutality ($35,000 with Snoop Dogg)
18. Imagine LA ($20,000 with Serena Williams)
19. Angel By Nature ($20,000 with TI)
20. Schools on Wheels ($30,000 with Chris Brown, Jhene Aiko)
21. Communities United By Police Reform ($40,000 with Nick Cannon, Joey Badass)
22. Youth Services, Inc. ($20,000 with Meek Mill)
1. H.O.M.E, linked above ($20,000 with Usher)