



2011 Winter Conference North Bend, Oregon

RESOLUTION #11 - 02

"TO REAFFIRM SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LONGHOUSE-STYLE FACILITY ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON - SEATTLE CAMPUS"

PREAMBLE

We the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has historically supported strengthening the Universities and Colleges in the Northwest to improve their campus and program support to strengthen their support for American Indian and Alaska Native students; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has determined that a longhouse-style building on the University of Washington campus in Seattle, WA, would serve to benefit the American Indian and Alaska Natives, as well as other indigenous peoples throughout the world as a “home-away-from-home;” and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington has been in conversation with the tribal communities and consulted with sovereign tribal governments in the region, through its Native American Advisory Board (NAAB) which was established in 1992, and prior to the NAAB dating back to the 1970’s; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington, through the NAAB discussions, has determined there should be high priority given to: (a) access and recruitment of Native American students, (b) recruitment and promotion of Native staff, and faculty, (c) the planning and construction of a longhouse-style facility on campus, (d) expansion and integration of Native American culture, knowledge and history into academic programs, and (e) strengthen and expand research and economic development partnerships with tribes; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington has learned, upon review of other college and university campus longhouse examples, that a “longhouse-style facility” could assist in access and equity goals and could contribute to the promotion of academic excellence on the campus for Native students, draw and retain Native staff and Native faculty, improve the relationships between tribal communities and the University of Washington, as well as develop other inter-cultural and academic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington’s Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity has taken the lead, in cooperation with its Provost and President, in coordinating the effort to secure funding through private, individual, tribal government, local government, state government, and federal government contributions for the feasibility, development, construction and operation of a “longhouse-style facility;” and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington, with the endorsement and active support of several tribal nations, requested and received \$300,000 in capital funding from the State of Washington to fund the building’s pre-design phase; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington, under the guidance and counsel of the Elder’s Committee, held in April of 2009, a site blessing ceremony to honor and commemorate the future location of the longhouse-style facility; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington was gifted the name $w\acute{a}t\acute{e}b\text{?}altx^w$ Intellectual House for the longhouse-style facility from the late Upper Skagit tribal elder Vi Hilbert (Taq^wšəblu), who was a treasured expert in Lushootseed language; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington selected Cherokee and Choctaw architect Johnpaul Jones of the firm Jones & Jones, renowned for his work on the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, for the pre-design phase of the Intellectual House that was completed in September of 2010; and

WHEREAS, elected tribal leaders from throughout the Northwest gathered in Seattle, WA on September 11, 2010 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) further reinforcing the commitment of the University of Washington and the MOU Signatory Tribes to building the Intellectual House longhouse-style building; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington's Interim President Phyllis Wise has committed as a matching incentive, \$5,000,000 in building funds that will be used to match dollar for dollar, donations and pledges of any level made prior to December 31, 2011 that support the design and construction of the longhouse-style facility; and

WHEREAS, the Intellectual House Planning Advisory Committee composed of tribal leaders, University of Washington students, faculty and staff and community representatives strongly encourages private donors, foundations, the State of Washington and tribes to consider supporting the Intellectual House by making a financial contribution to the project; and

WHEREAS, this resolution reaffirms ATNI resolution #08-15, "To Support The Construction of a Longhouse-style Facility on the University of Washington-Seattle Campus," signed at the 2008 Winter Conference held in Yakima, WA; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby fully endorse and supports the concept and development proposals that the University of Washington in Seattle, WA, would prepare and request to construct the Intellectual House longhouse-style facility on its campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does urge its Member Tribes and tribal organizations to endorse and contribute financially to the extent possible to the Intellectual House longhouse-style facility on the University of Washington campus; and

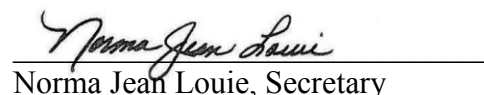
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Washington provide periodic reports and updates to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' Education Committee on the progress of the project; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI will recommend the University of Washington Intellectual House presentation for inclusion on the National Congress of American Indians General Session Agenda in Portland, Oregon from October 31 – November 4, 2011.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2011 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park, North Bend, Oregon on January 30 –February 3, 2011 with a quorum present.


Brian Cladoosby, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary