S21RS SGR No. 18 (Indian Mounds boundaries)

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Fifty Third Student Senate
of
Louisiana State University

AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION OF
Two Thousand and Twenty-One

S.G.R. 18
ENROLLED
AUTHORED BY SENATOR(S):
GRISWOLD, PERRODIN, QUADIR, CHEN, NGUYEN

A Resolution

To Urge and Request Louisiana State University Planning and Design, Facility Services, and Administrators to prioritize the protection and redesign of the historic “Indian Mounds” area on the LSU campus, and implement temporary boundaries until the planned redesign occurs.

WHEREAS, research estimate the age of the two mounds to be anywhere from 5000 to 11300 years old, taking about 200 years to build, and are perhaps the oldest man-made structure in the Western Hemisphere; and,

WHEREAS, during meetings with Planning and Design and Facility Services, faculty members said they are working/planning on a large project to implement a protective barrier around the mounds, and that such a project would take sufficient time and resources to complete; and,

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University has titled the mounds as “archaeological treasure”, stating on their website, “We need to work
hard to save and preserve the mounds”, and maintains a policy that prohibits individuals from “gathering on or sliding down the mounds”; and,

WHEREAS, this policy is not properly enforced, as many individuals witnessed from the numerous videos/photos posted to social media of people using the mounds as a sled ramp during the recent winter storm and countless pictures of people tailgating on the mounds over the years; and,

WHEREAS, the media, including WAFB, reported, “With classes cancelled due to the ice storm, Robbins and about a dozen other LSU students decided to pass the time sledding down the Indian Mounds on campus, using whatever they could find to help with their mission.” With a picture of student kayaking down the mounds; and,

WHEREAS, numerous student organizations, notably the Native American Student Organization, and individuals in the LSU community have issued statements that the recent actions during the winter storm are blatantly disregarding Native American heritage and that the lack of adequate signage informing people to stay off of the mounds has contributed to these actions; and

WHEREAS, the interactions people have with these mounds are known to destroy the mounds and LSU has proven they know this and are capable of providing these barriers through the implementation of barriers they began placing around the mounds for football games as a result of the damage in 2010; and

WHEREAS, LSU set a precedent for protecting the campus as seen a few weeks ago when a temporary protective border was placed around the Parade Ground as a result of the turf being damaged from cleats being worn on the grass until the area could be repaired; and,

WHEREAS, the current signage titling these mounds as “Indian Mounds” could be deemed disrespectful to some groups within Native American culture
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE, that Louisiana State University Administrators, Planning and Design, Facility Services, the Provost’s Office, and the President’s Office, prioritize and diligently work towards the planned redesign of the Indian Mounds as to complete the project in a timely manner and prevent any further damaging interactions with the mounds to take place and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE LSU Administration reconsider the term "Indian Mounds" to a name more appropriate after consultation with NASO, local tribes, and any other appropriate groups.

and:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that Louisiana State University Administrators including, Planning and Design, Facility Services, the Provost’s Office, and the President’s Office, implement a temporary protective barrier around the “Indian Mounds” until further action is taken.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SUBMITTED TO Interim LSU President, Thomas Galligan, LSU Executive Vice President and Provost, Stacia Haynie, Interim CFO Donna Torres, Planning and Design Director, Gregory LaCour, Executive Director of Facility and Property Oversight, Tammy Millican, and Director of Multicultural Affairs

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE by a simple majority (one-half plus one) vote of the LSU Student Senate and signature by the Student Body President, upon lapse of time for presidential action, or if vetoed by the President and subsequently approved by the Senate. on the date of such approval.

APPROVED

MARINA COLE 
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE 
DATE: 3/11/21

STONE COX 
STUDENT BODY 
DATE: 3/11/21

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