Faculty Senate Resolution to Recognize the Second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day

Whereas: The Faculty Senate is “the voice of the faculty;” and

Whereas: The University of Montana is located on traditional Bitterroot Salish land; and

Whereas: Montana is home to seven American Indian reservations, eight tribal governments, and twelve American Indian tribes; and

Whereas: The University of Montana has for the past half-century or more demonstrated through its academic and student support programming a recognition of the positive contributions of American Indian students, communities, history, and culture to the university, to the state of Montana, and beyond; and

Whereas: The University of Montana is the educational home of more than six hundred American Indian students from across Montana, and beyond; and

Whereas: The second Monday in October is still generally recognized as Columbus Day in many places; and

Whereas: Christopher Columbus is a symbol, within Native American communities, of the introduction of colonial impositions that wrought massive destruction in Indian country; and

Whereas: Both the Associated Students of the University of Montana and the City of Missoula have passed resolutions supporting the substitution of a recognition of Columbus Day with a recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ Day; and

Whereas: The University of Montana Staff Senate voted to support the ASUM resolution,

Therefore be it resolved: That the Faculty Senate of the University of Montana recommends that the university administration recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day on official university calendars, and encourage educational programming on campus on that day to recognize and commemorate the contributions of Native people to the university, the State of Montana, and beyond.