Resolution 1718 – AU – 002
A Resolution Calling Upon the University to Reconstitute Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples’ Day
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WHEREAS The Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all students enrolled in graduate programs at The Ohio State University (established by Article II.1 of the CGS Constitution); and

WHEREAS the Indigenous people of the lands which would later be known as the Americas were not discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492; and

WHEREAS a true and accurate account of the residence and occupation of the Americas by Indigenous people since time immemorial, and long before Christopher Columbus sailed, is necessary to set the historical record straight and to respect the culture, language and traditional life ways of our Indigenous ancestors; and

WHEREAS Indigenous Peoples day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegate of Native Nations to the International Conference of Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas sponsored by the United Nations; and

WHEREAS the states of Alaska, California, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Vermont all recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day; and

WHEREAS cities across the United States, including Phoenix, AZ; Los Angeles and Berkeley, CA; Lawrence, KS; Ann Arbor, MI; Minneapolis- St. Paul, MN; Oberlin, OH to name a few, have adopted or recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day; and

WHEREAS having the citizens of the United States of America recognize and celebrate the heritage of indigenous peoples is necessary to respect their history and unite all peoples together; and

WHEREAS The Ohio State University presently observes Columbus Day; and

WHEREAS CGS values the many contributions made to the University through the labor, technology, science, philosophy, art and the deep cultural contributions of Indigenous People all of which have helped to shape the character of Ohio State; and

WHEREAS the second Monday of October is observed as Indigenous Peoples’ Day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Indigenous Peoples’ Day shall be dedicated to the remembrance of the Indigenous peoples who have contributed greatly to the Tribes and the United States of America;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CGS calls upon the university community to engage in educational activities around the history and contributes of Indigenous Peoples on Indigenous Peoples’ Day;

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that CGS calls upon The Ohio State University Administration and Board of Trustees to adopt Indigenous Peoples’ Day as the second Monday of October.

Approved: Yes NO
Date: 9/29/2017

W. Alex Wesaw, President – Council of Graduate Students