

Author: Spencer Hulseley, Senator Sudarshana Rao, Senator Victor Olowomeye
Sponsors: Senator Deniz Namik, Speaker of the Senate Susan Zhou, Speaker Pro Tempore Arnoldo Ayala
Endorsements: Chair Bugra Sahin, HOPE Department, Director of the Senate Marissa Finley

UIUC Kingfisher Mascot

- WHEREAS,** The Illinois Student government is committed to advocacy on behalf of the student body; and,
- WHEREAS,** The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s Diversity Statement is to “Enhance, develop, and maintain structures and services committed to diversity” and “Respect spaces that allow for the support and development of specific identities and communities”¹ ; and,
- WHEREAS,** The female Belted Kingfisher would serve as the mascot for the University of Illinois, as it features bright blue plumage with a rusty orange band across the chest, matching the university’s colors; and,
- WHEREAS,** The bird is native to Illinois all year round; and,
- WHEREAS,** The bird itself has a unique and recognizable profile: it is easily distinguished by its distinct crest and can be more than 13 inches in length. It is a predatory diving bird and, as such, offers a dynamic range of possible representations and merchandise for our sports teams and university groups; and,
- WHEREAS,** As a mascot, the Belted Kingfisher is not used by any other sports team, college, or university and would be unique² to University of Illinois; and,
- WHEREAS,** A rough draft of the Kingfisher mascot is featured below in Article 1:

¹ [UIUC Diversity Statement](#)

² [List of college mascots in the United States](#)

Article 1: A draft design of the proposed Kingfisher mascot



Article 1

LET IT BE RESOLVED, The Illinois Student Government will advocate in collaboration with the Native community on campus to endure that this change is made; and,

LET IT BE RESOLVED, That, in order to support the Native community and continued progress on campus the Illinois Student Government will submit the following question to be included on the upcoming Spring 2020 referendum:

“Should the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign adopt the Belted Kingfisher, an orange-and-blue bird native to Illinois, as the mascot for the University?”

LET IT BE RESOLVED, The ISG will promote the referendum question through all social media, email lists, and any other means both necessary and proper; and,

LET IT BE RESOLVED, the ISG will work in collaboration with other organizations on campus which promote the empowerment of Indigenous people to organize this change; and,

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, The Senate requests the President direct the Executive to take any action necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this resolution.