



February 4, 2021

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor
of English and Comparative Literature

Dear Alan:

Interim Executive Vice President and Provost, Dan Jaffe, transmitted the faculty resolution endorsed by the faculty council: Proposed Land Acknowledgement to be Adopted by the University of Texas at Austin.

I have reviewed the legislation and accept Interim Provost Jaffe's recommendation that the land acknowledgement be provided as a resource for those seeking one to use at events and meetings. As such, the acknowledgement will be added to the university's website and made available to organizations, units, colleges, and schools.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and continued support of our campus community.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Hartzell", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jay Hartzell

JAY HARTZELL, President

September 28, 2020

Jay C. Hartzell, President
University of Texas at Austin
MAI 400/G3400

Dear President Hartzell:

I have reviewed the enclosed legislation proposing a land acknowledgment be adopted by UT Austin (D 18514-18518). The proposed acknowledgement is well-crafted and reflects the careful consideration of the expert group of University of Texas faculty who formed the Committee on Land Acknowledgement. It would be an excellent resource for possible use by faculty and staff at events and meetings where it is appropriate to do so.

Sincerely,



Daniel T. Jaffe
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

Enclosure

cc: Alan Friedman, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council
Debbie Roberts, Executive Assistant, Office of the General Faculty



OFFICE OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

P. O. BOX 7816 • Austin, TX 78713-7816
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September 22, 2020

Interim Provost Daniel T. Jaffe
The University of Texas at Austin
MAI 201
Campus Mail Code: G1000

Dear Interim Provost Jaffe:

Enclosed for your consideration is a proposed land acknowledgment to be adopted by The University of Texas at Austin (D 18514-18518). At its meeting yesterday, the Faculty Council unanimously approved the legislation.

Following your review of the legislation, please provide your recommendations for approval or disapproval to Interim President Hartzell. Final approval resides with his office.

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide other information concerning this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan W. Friedman".

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative
Literature

AWF:dlr
Enclosure

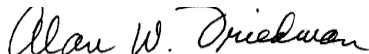
ec: Mary C. Lindholm, Chief Business Office, Office of the President
Ellen Fagin, Interim Executive Assistant to the President
Michelle K. George, Administrative Manager for Faculty Affairs, Office of the Provost
Luis Cárcamo-Huechante, Associate Professor and Director, Program in Native American and
Indigenous Studies
Circe D. Sturm, Professor, Department of Anthropology

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**PROPOSED LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE ADOPTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT AUSTIN**

Professor Luis Cárcamo-Huechante (Associate Professor and Director, Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies) and the Committee on Land Acknowledgment submitted the following proposal of a land acknowledgment to be adopted by The University of Texas at Austin.

The Secretary has classified this proposal as general legislation. It will be presented to the Faculty Council at its meeting on September 21, 2020. Final approval resides with the President.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin

Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**PROPOSED LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE ADOPTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT AUSTIN**

I. Introduction

This proposal of Land Acknowledgment is the result of discussions and deliberations of a committee formed in early July of 2020 by the seven Native American and Indigenous members of the faculty in response to the “Student Community Statement” issued in early June of 2020 which demanded to “incorporate land acknowledgements in all UT programming.”

As a self-formed Committee on Land Acknowledgment at The University of Texas at Austin, this committee brings together members of the faculty who have been actively involved in the development of the Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) in the College of Liberal Arts at UT Austin. The Committee is composed of,

Luis E. Cárcamo-Huechante (Mapuche), Director of the Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) and Associate Professor of Spanish, College of Liberal Arts
 Hi‘ilei Julia Hobart (Kanaka Maoli), Assistant Professor, Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts
 Kelly McDonough (Anishinaabe/White Earth Ojibwe, and Irish descent), Associate Professor, Spanish and Portuguese, College of Liberal Arts
 Lorie Roy (Anishinabe; Enrolled: White Earth Reservation; Member: Minnesota Chippewa Tribe), Professor, School of Information
 Circe Sturm (Mississippi Choctaw and Italian American descent), Professor, Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts
 Luis Urrieta, Jr. (P’urhépecha), Suzanne B. & John L. Adams Professor, College of Education
 Fred Valdez (Coahuiltecan descent), Professor, Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts

In the process of drafting and discussing this Land Acknowledgment proposal, the committee engaged in a broad process of discussion and consultation. On July 27th, we had a meeting in which we had the participation of and received feedback from elders and leaders of the Indigenous community in Central Texas, representatives of the Indigenous student organizations, and members of the faculty and staff on campus.

II. Proposal for Action and Resolution

As the flagship institution in our state university system, it is important that The University of Texas at Austin demonstrate respect for the historic and contemporary presence of Indigenous Peoples in Texas and, particularly, in the greater Austin area. To that end, it is incumbent upon The University of Texas at Austin to recognize that our campus resides on what were historically the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples who were dispossessed of their homelands. Land Acknowledgements are an expression of gratitude and appreciation to the Indigenous Peoples, the traditional caretakers of the land, for the use of their lands on which we work, study, and learn. Land Acknowledgements are an expression of gratitude and appreciation to the Indigenous Peoples, the traditional caretakers of the land, for the use of their lands on which we work, study, and learn. In this spirit, we encourage all the faculty, staff, students, and guests of The University of Texas at Austin to open public events and gatherings with the proposed Land Acknowledgement, and/or to include it in printed materials associated with events on campus.

The Committee on Land Acknowledgment presents the following proposal for action and resolution:

Request that the following Land Acknowledgment be adopted by The University of Texas at Austin:

Land Acknowledgment

(I) We would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America.

Moreover, (I) We would like to acknowledge the Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.

III. Endorsements

Paul Bonin-Rodriguez, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance, College of Fine Arts
 Erika M Bsumek, Associate Professor, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts
 Craig Campbell, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts
 Iokepa Casumbal-Salazar, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts
 Karma R. Chávez, Associate Professor and Chair, Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, College of Liberal Arts
 Anthony Di Fiore, Professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts
 Steven Friesen, Louise Farmer Boyer Chair in Biblical Studies, Department of Religious Studies, College of Liberal Arts
 Shiv Ganesh, Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Moody College of Communication,
 Madeline Hsu, Professor, History/Asian American Studies, College of Liberal Arts
 Miyong Kim, La Quinta Centennial Endowed Professor and Associate Vice President for Community Health Engagement, School of Nursing
 Karen M. Landolt, Associate Professor of Instruction, Business, Government and Society, McCombs School of Business
 Charles R. Martinez, Jr., Lee Hage Jamail Regents Chair in Education and Sid W. Richardson Regents Chair; Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, College of Education
 John Morán González, Director, Center for Mexican American Studies, College of Liberal Arts
 Lisa Moore, Archibald A. Hill Professor, English and Women's and Gender Studies, College of Liberal Arts
 Deborah Parra-Medina, Professor Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, College of Liberal Arts
 PJ Raval, Associate Professor, Department of Radio-Television-Film, Moody College of Communication
 Richard Reddick, Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy, College of Education
 Soo Young Rieh, Associate Dean for Education, School of Information
 Stephen T. Russell, Flawn Regents Professor in Child Development, Director, School of Human Ecology
 Sarah Sloan, Clinical Associate Professor, Steve Hicks School of Social Work
 Christen Smith, Director of the Center for Women and Gender Studies (CWGS); Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies and Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts
 Raji Srinivasan, Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion; Sam Barshop Centennial Professor in Marketing Administration, McCombs School of Business
 Pauline Turner Strong, Professor of Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies; Director of the Humanities Institute, College of Liberal Arts
 Eric Tang, Director, Center for Asian American Studies, College of Liberal Arts
 Anthony K Webster, Professor, Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts
 Jennifer M. Wilks, Associate Professor of English, African and African Diaspora Studies, and Comparative Literature, College of Liberal Arts

IV. Historical Background and Context

Land Acknowledgement: An Opportunity for Land Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin

As part of broader institutional efforts toward diversity, inclusion, and equity, Land Acknowledgements have emerged as an important step against Indigenous erasure within academic spaces. At a basic level, Land Acknowledgements express gratitude, respect, and recognition toward Indigenous Peoples as the original stewards of their traditional lands. Given as a formal statement at the beginning of gatherings, such as public events, graduations, and presentations, it draws attention to the colonial histories, ongoing

Indigenous presence, and the ethical and historic responsibilities that educational institutions have to the territories that they occupy.

Land Acknowledgement is not new at The University of Texas at Austin. For many years, the Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) at the College of Liberal Arts has been delivering a Land Acknowledgement in all of its public events. A Land Acknowledgement is also posted on the University Writing Center's webpage (<http://www.praxisuwc.com/praxis-blog/2019/10/18/university-writing-center-land-acknowledgement>); and at the School of Information website (<https://www.ischool.utexas.edu/indigenous-land-acknowledgment>).

By adopting a Land Acknowledgment, The University of Texas at Austin joins peer institutions in making a substantial step in supporting and valuing Native American and Indigenous members of our academic community as well as recognizing the rich Indigenous history of the very land on which we work, study, and learn.

Land Acknowledgments have been already adopted as standard protocol at many universities nationwide, such as:

- Iowa State University (<https://www.diversity.iastate.edu/dei-resources/land-acknowledgement>);
- Ohio State University (<https://odi.osu.edu/land-acknowledgment>);
- Portland State University (<https://www.pdx.edu/cultural-resource-centers/>);
- Oregon State University (<https://diversity.oregonstate.edu/feature-story/land-acknowledgement>)
- University of Arizona (<https://diversity.arizona.edu/loi>);
- University of California-Los Angeles, UCLA (<https://chancellor.ucla.edu/messages/acknowledging-native-peoples-ucla-events/>);
- The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (https://chancellor.illinois.edu/land_acknowledgement.html);
- University of Kansas (draft) (<https://diversity.ku.edu/2019visitorinfo>);
- University of New Mexico (<https://diverse.unm.edu/#:~:text=Equity%20and%20Inclusion-,%20Land%20Acknowledgement,to%20the%20broader%20community%20statewide>);
- University of Washington (<https://www.washington.edu/diversity/tribal-relations/>);
- University of Wisconsin (<https://allcentennialgarden.wisc.edu/uw-madison-land-acknowledgment/>) and its campuses including:
 - University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (<https://www.uww.edu/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/land-acknowledgment-statement>)
 - University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (<https://www.uwgb.edu/student-affairs/uwgb-land-acknowledgment/>);
- Yale University (<https://secretary.yale.edu/services-resources/land-acknowledgment-statements>)

For deeper reading on the benefits and the limits of Land Acknowledgment statements, we recommend the following articles and guides:

- “Acknowledging Native Land is a Step Against Indigenous Erasure”
<https://www.insightintodiversity.com/acknowledging-native-land-is-a-step-against-indigenous-erasure/>
- “Beyond Territorial Acknowledgement”
<https://apihtawikosisan.com/2016/09/beyond-territorial-acknowledgments/>
- “Guide to Indigenous Land and Territorial Acknowledgements for Cultural Institutions”
<http://landacknowledgements.org>
- “A Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgement”

https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/?fbclid=IwAR0CKuVdxDYLu3Ed_1WhlB4ppFneoEHOWPDWTfiuSIiB9_gWXjm2DDH9jxk

V. Supporting Materials

The Committee on Land Acknowledgment at The University of Texas at Austin has created a Prezi show as a companion to the Land Acknowledgment. The Committee also will create an Audio Guide on the pronunciation of the tribal names included in the text of the Land Acknowledgment.

The Program in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS), in collaboration with the Office of Diversity at the Provost's Office, will generate a webpage to have a central website with all the information on Land Acknowledgement.