



February 25, 2021

On February 23, 2021 at the Full Student Senate Meeting, the Interim Provost Dr. Davenport presented her proposal of “two changes to nomenclature in all forms of communication” asking the Student Senate to support. The Student Senate unanimously voted in support of these nomenclature changes. We look forward to promoting awareness of differing backgrounds and moving ahead on honoring those who rightfully deserve it as a University.



Katharine Campion

President Katharine Campion



Anthony Agrifolio

Vice President Anthony Agrifolio

Proposal:

As you know, the Board of Trustees has charged the University to increase our efforts related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

We have made great strides in these areas over the past six months across the institution, including changing how we award merit scholarships, designing our new Multicultural Center, changing curriculum, and creating programming on anti-racism and social justice. More can be found here:

<https://stockton.edu/president/response-to-racial-justice-concerns.html>

In working to “cultivate an awareness of differing backgrounds, focuses, and needs among the student body and broader community” and to “foster a campus community free of racism,” we have proposed two changes to nomenclature in all forms of communication.

1) **Transition from the use of Freshman to First-year students.** The use of gender-neutral language demonstrates our commitment to be more inclusive and is a step many institutions have already taken. We have taken small steps in this direction already, including changing the name of our freshman seminars to first year seminars that include first-year students and first-year transfers. In addition, the state of New Jersey uses first year students for its reporting.

2) **Change the name of the second Monday in October holiday from Columbus Day to Indigenous People Day.** More than 10 states have made this change to “end the celebration of the Italian explorer in favor of honoring Indigenous communities and their resiliency in the face of violence by European explorers like Christopher Columbus.”
<https://www.npr.org/2019/10/14/769083847/columbus-day-or-indigenous-peoples-day>

While New Jersey has not made this change yet, we can make the change locally.

In our efforts to increase shared governance, I ask that the Student Senate discuss these issues, and if in favor, endorse moving forward.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Susan Davenport
Interim Provost

Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff