

**SR005-FA20**

**Resolution Calling for the Retirement of the Crusader Mascot**

**Sponsor: Sen. Foor, Sen. Pariso**

**Co-sponsor: Sen. Pandey**

**WHEREAS** the Crusader, in name and image, represents war, violence, racism, xenophobia, and forced assimilation during one of the darkest periods of Christian history,

**WHEREAS** the university mascot should be representative of all its members and inclusive

**WHEREAS** the Crusader mascot represents actions and beliefs that stand in direct contrast to the University's publicly stated mission and values,

**WHEREAS** our nation and world face a moment of long overdue reckoning on diversity, equity, and inclusion,

**WHEREAS** the ELCA school Capital University<sup>1</sup> and Carthage College<sup>2</sup> recently retired their Crusader mascot,

**WHEREAS** the Facebook group "Coalition to Retire the Crusader" has over 2,100 members encouraging Valparaiso University to retire the Crusader nickname and related imagery,

**WHEREAS** the VU faculty senate unanimously approved a resolution, ending with "We, the Faculty Senate, THEREFORE respectfully propose that the Crusader mascot immediately be dropped and a task force be formed to create a new mascot for VU,"

**WHEREAS** Article 3, Section D of Student Senate's Constitution allows Student Senate to make recommendations to any member of the University community,

**LET IT BE RESOLVED** by the Valparaiso University Student Senate here assembled that the University executes the following actions:

1. Complete a comprehensive review of the current mascot's image and connotation to the community.

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1

<https://athletics.capital.edu/news/2020/7/13/capital-university-announces-decision-to-retire-crusader-mascot.aspx>

2

[https://www.carthage.edu/our-team/?fbclid=IwAR21-U\\_dYL4APODFVCac4eTq7AwkPM25dfeKkJzGDhd3ONQInd8DWrEMZYI](https://www.carthage.edu/our-team/?fbclid=IwAR21-U_dYL4APODFVCac4eTq7AwkPM25dfeKkJzGDhd3ONQInd8DWrEMZYI)

2. Select a new mascot through a democratic process that includes faculty, staff, alumni, and students.
3. Retire the crusader mascot by the end of the current academic year.
4. Keep the campus community informed of the progress of the selection of a new mascot via regular updates.