

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS STUDENT SENATE

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Sponsors: Christopher Raithel, *Speaker of the Students' Assembly*; Robert Eppler, *Internal Affairs Director*.

Council Assignments: Community Affairs Council and Student Rights & Affairs Council.

Date Filed: April 13, 2025.

A Resolution to Express Support for Haskell Indian Nations University

Summary: Express solidarity with the students, faculty, and staff of Haskell Indian Nations University following the termination of roughly 30% of its employees. Advocate for KU administration and student organizations to do the same and explore avenues of support.

WHEREAS, Haskell Indian Nations University is a tribal university in Lawrence, Kansas that serves as a vital institution for the community by providing higher education opportunities and a culturally supportive environment for Indigenous students from Tribal Nations across the United States for more than 140 years.

WHEREAS, Haskell is federally operated under the Bureau of Indian Education and is one of the few public institutions in the country dedicated to Indigenous higher education.

WHEREAS, On February 14, approximately 35–40 Haskell employees, about 25-30% of Haskell's faculty and staff, were terminated after the nationwide cuts to federal employees under the Trump Administration.

WHEREAS, These sudden terminations have raised serious concerns from community members regarding the overall stability of the institution, specifically that it jeopardizes academic programs and student support services and places additional strain on Haskell students, faculty, and staff, as well as the lack of adequate due process and job security given to the terminated employees.

WHEREAS, Students at Haskell and KU are connected through shared experiences as students in higher education in Lawrence, Kansas.

WHEREAS, Haskell and KU have a long-standing relationship of mutual support, cooperation, and respect in which they collaborate through academic initiatives and student services.

WHEREAS, Haskell and KU recently renewed their memorandum of understanding in November 2024 that formally recognizes their partnership and establishes a framework for current and future academic collaboration, exchange, and mutual support between the two institutions, in which KU agreed to “provide professional development opportunities and training for Haskell faculty, staff and students when appropriate,” and “support registered student, faculty and staff organizations of Haskell.” Both institutions jointly agreed to “conduct and coordinate

staff and faculty exchanges,” “cooperate in future endeavors that mutually benefit students, faculty and staff at both institutions,” and “explore the development of teaching or research courtesy protocol between faculties at both institutions.”

WHEREAS, Some faculty and staff have been reinstated, and Haskell has announced that many more will be returning. However, the emotional, institutional, and financial damage that these firings have caused must be addressed with restitution.

WHEREAS, The White House’s Office of Management & Budget and Office of Personnel Management issued a joint memo on February 26 that required all federal agencies to create “Agency RIF and Reorganization Plans” (ARRP), which must have “a significant reduction in the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions by eliminating positions that are not required,” and submit them by March 13.

AND WHEREAS, There is serious concern that Haskell may receive another cut to employees in the near future under the BIE’s submitted ARRP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the University of Kansas Student Senate empathizes and stands in solidarity with Haskell Indian Nations University students, faculty, and staff during this time of crisis and recognizes the historical, cultural, and familial impact of Haskell on the Lawrence community, including students at both institutions.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Student Senate urges University administration to continue to honor their MOU with Haskell and encourages the University to work with Haskell administration to find ways KU could assist it during this time, such as expanding support services or faculty exchange programs.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Student Senate encourages the KU Student Body and student organizations to show their support to Haskell and the Lawrence community as a whole during this time, such as through community service efforts — e.g., contributing to the Haskell Campus Cupboard, a Just Foods satellite campus food bank at Haskell LIGHT similar to the KU Campus Cupboard; fundraising efforts for the Haskell Foundation’s Emergency Support Fund; or organizing or donating to collection drives for urgently need items, like the one recently held by Student Senate’s Community Affairs Council.

AND BE IT ORDERED, That the Speaker of the Students’ Assembly will transmit copies of this resolution to the following persons and groups:

- Douglas Girod, Chancellor, University of Kansas.
- Barbara Bichelmeyer, Provost, University of Kansas.
- Tammara Durham, Vice Provost for Student Affairs, University of Kansas.
- Josh Arpin, President of the University Senate, University of Kansas.
- Lori Hasselman, Director of Sovereign Partnerships & Indigenous Initiatives, University of Kansas.
- The Indian Leader.
- University Daily Kansan.