

Resolution of the San Diego State University Senate to Allow Smudging On Campus

Whereas: A Smudging Ceremony is the ritual use of plants and herbs in a shell or a clay bowl while prayers are said, and

Whereas: Smudging is an Indigenous tradition which involves the burning of sage, sweetgrass and/or cedar to use the lite smoke produced as purification; and

Whereas: For millennia, Native American and Indigenous cultures have practiced smudging rituals to clear away negative energy and to invite in peace, harmony, clarity and blessings; and

Whereas: Smudging is traditionally a ceremony for purifying or cleansing the soul of negative thoughts of a person or a place; and

Whereas: Other universities have developed policies and procedures that allow for the safe use of smudging in campus spaces, and these may be used as a guide for similar policies and procedures at San Diego State¹;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the University Senate urges President de la Torre and appropriate committees undertake the following actions:

- SDSU Environmental Health and Safety in consultation with the Tribal Liaison shall assess multiple campus locations for the feasibility of smudging;
- Formally allow Native and Indigenous people to smudge in designated areas and buildings as approved by the Tribal Liaison;
- Based on that assessment, SDSU public safety will generate a list of campus locations where Native people may practice their cultural traditions;
- In collaboration with the Tribal Liaison and the Director of the Native Resource Center, the Senate Environment and Safety Committee will develop procedures and policy to govern approval and practice of smudging activities.
- That Environmental Health and Safety and the Tribal Liaison would submit the designated locations as an update item to the University Senate before the end of December 2021.

¹ <https://www.umt.edu/policies/browse/facilities-security/smudging-pipe-ceremonies>