

Quote from University of Illinois Officials

Lawrence Eppley

Chairman of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees

“While people differed on their opinions of the Chief, the overwhelming majority of those voices put their love for the University ahead of their opinion on the Chief. Now we have the responsibility to work together to maintain other great traditions that will unite our community for decades to come.”

B. Joseph White

President of the University of Illinois

“I support the Board of Trustees’ consensus decision on Chief Illiniwek. While I understand many people have strong feelings about this 80-year-old tradition, for the good of our student-athletes and our university it is time to come together and move on to the next chapter in the history of this distinguished institution.”

Richard Herman

Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“The resolution of this issue was important to our community, and I am pleased that the Board was able to bring their consensus process to a conclusion.”

Ron Guenther

Director of Athletics, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“This is an extremely emotional day for people on both sides of the issue, but the decision announced today ends a two-decade long struggle surrounding Chief Illiniwek on this campus. The NCAA’s decision to sanction our program certainly had a negative impact on student-athletes and coaches.

“The top focus for the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics is to compete for Big Ten and national championships while providing a positive educational experience for our student-athletes. Personally, as an alumnus and former athlete, I am disappointed, however, as an administrator, I understand the decision that had to be made.”