



OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL CHIEF
PHILLIP MARTIN

PHONE (601) 656-5251 FAX (601) 656-7333
EMAIL: pmartin@choctaw.org
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
P.O. BOX 6010 • 101 INDUSTRIAL ROAD
CHOCTAW, MS 39350

Dr. Lee G. Royce, President
Mississippi College
Box 4001
Clinton, MS 39058

17 OCT 05

Dear Dr. Royce:

I am writing in response to your letter of August 24, 2005, wherein you request the Tribe's agreement and approval for Mississippi College, at Clinton, Mississippi, to continue using the name *Choctaw* and existing symbols that have been in place since 1920 for its athletic teams, on uniforms, in promotional print, and on its football stadium.

I am pleased to notify you that on October 11, 2005, the Tribal Council of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians formally passed Resolution CHO 06-002, *A Resolution To Affirm The Ongoing Use Of The Name Choctaw And Related Symbols By Mississippi College*. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 11 members of the Council in favor, three opposed, zero abstaining, and two absent. As you indicated during our telephone conversation earlier today, Mississippi College has already dropped the use of the mascot that depicted a Choctaw Indian wearing a large plastic headdress that was unbecoming and inappropriate. The mascot was the only item receiving voiced opposition at our recent Tribal Council meeting. I believe that if we had known then that the mascot's use had been officially discontinued by the school, then the vote for approval of the Choctaw name would likely have been one hundred percent in favor. A copy of the resolution is attached hereto for your use as Mississippi College requests an exception from mandated rules from the National Collegiate Athletic Association.


Please note that one point of discussion arising during the Tribal Council meeting was that the school's use of the name *Choctaw* is approved, but with the stipulation that the name should never be shortened to any other form, such as "Chocs." Please write an official Mississippi College policy to reflect this stipulation and forward a copy to me. Further, we would like to suggest that the name *Choctaw Warriors* be used instead of *Choctaws*.

Thank you for seeking the Tribe's action on this matter. We send you our sincere wishes for a successful remainder of the school year, and we hope that you will

Dr. Lee G. Royce, President
Mississippi College
Page 2 of 2

receive the cooperation that you are seeking from the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Sincerely,


Chief Phillip Martin

Attachment as stated

C: Ronnie Henry, Sr., Tribal Council Committee System Coordinator
Donald Kilgore, Tribal Attorney General
Bill Sones, Chairman of the Board, Mississippi College
Everett Cole
File