FSU HOMECOMING CHANGES NAME OF PEP RALLY TO “HOMECOMING LIVE”

TALLAHASSEE, FL -- The FSU Homecoming Spring 2021 Executive Council announces the official name change of their student pep rally from “Pow Wow” to “Homecoming Live”.

The FSU Homecoming Council wants to ensure that all members of the community feel welcome and valued. With this name change, we want to fully demonstrate our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This new name is more in line with what the Homecoming Council wants to accomplish with this event: a student-focused, live event spotlighting the accomplishments of our students, alumni, and community, and showcasing what makes FSU the best university. The efforts to examine and change our use of the name “Pow Wow” began with the Homecoming Leadership Team and has continued to evolve internally in the succeeding councils.

After examining the historical context of the word “powwow”, it is not possible to justify its previous use by FSU Homecoming. The term should solely apply for an occurrence celebrating the cultures of Indigenous people while being led by Indigenous people. By comparing the pep rally led by FSU Homecoming to a powwow, we, intentionally or not, disregard the history of why powwows exist. The cultural significance of the term and the years of improper use by FSU Homecoming led to the decision by the FSU Homecoming Council to change the name from “Pow Wow” to “Homecoming Live”.

As the Homecoming Council, we are students first, and as students, we see the harm this name has caused our fellow student body, alumni, and especially members of the Indigenous community. We do not seek to erase or ignore our use of the word “powwow”, but we recognize how its use was inappropriate for the context of our event. We take accountability for our actions and will continue to work to make FSU Homecoming more inclusive for all students.

In the past few weeks, we have been working to reflect this name change on our website and across our social media platforms, but we recognize there is still more work to be done. Additionally, we will work with FSU’s Student Government leaders to amend statutes to reflect this name change in the descriptions for Homecoming Leadership positions. For a brief historical overview of the term “powwow”, FAQ resource on the Homecoming Live name change, and the latest updates about the upcoming events, please see our website at https://homecoming.fsu.edu/.

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About Florida State University Homecoming
The Homecoming Executive Council consists of students who plan events for the FSU campus and community each year. Each position within the council helps in coordinating events which involves working with volunteers and student groups, managing communications, and seeking sponsorships. The Homecoming celebration consists of a week of on-campus events including but not limited to the Homecoming Live pep-rally, Seminole Festival, Odds and Evens, Search for A Cause, Parade, Chief and Princess Elections, and the Garnet and Gold Tailgate. The week ends with the Homecoming football game at Doak Campbell Stadium.

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