

**Resolution of Support for
Okanagan Charter from the
Kansas State University
Faculty Senate Committee on Justice, Equity, Diversity, Access, Inclusion, and
Identity (JEDAI)**
Approved by JEDAI on February 14, 2023
Approved by Faculty Senate on April 11, 2023

Context:

In March 2022 Kathleen Hatch, Morrison Family Associate VP for Student Well-being presented documents for consideration by Faculty Senate to support Kansas State University's adoption of the Okanagan Charter. In her executive summary she stated:

Kansas State University is poised to build on a distinguished land-grant history with a mission *"to foster excellent teaching, research, and service that develop a highly skilled and educated citizenry necessary to **advancing the well-being of Kansas, the nation, and the international community.**"*

The Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges (2015) is an aspirational vision and guiding framework that provides an opportunity for Kansas State University to advance this mission. The aim of the Charter is to enhance institutional success through three interlocking goals: "create campus cultures of compassion, well-being, equity, and social justice; improve the health of the people who live, learn, work, play and love on campuses; and strengthen the ecological, social, and economic sustainability of our communities and wider society." A central premise of the Charter is the unique role of higher education in "improving human and environmental health and well-being, which are determinants of learning, productivity and engagement." Some of the key principles for action include: "a settings and whole system approach; transdisciplinary collaborations and cross-sector partnerships; research, innovation and evidence-informed action; building on strengths; valuing local and indigenous communities' context and priorities."

In spring 2022 the Kansas State University Student Government Association passed Resolution 22/23/07 - KSU SGA Support of the Okanagan Charter.

JEDAll Committee Proposal:

We support the adoption of the Okanagan Charter by Kansas State University.

- 1. A TRANSFORMATIVE VISION of infusing health into everyday operations, business practices and academic mandates**
 - a. Enhances the success of our university
 - b. Creates instructional cultures of compassion, well-being, equity, and social justice
 - c. Improves the health of the people who live, learn, work, play and love on our campuses
 - d. Strengthens the ecological, social, and economic sustainability of our communities and wider society
- 2. Health and well-being are at the foundation of the K-State's institutional values**
 - a. Benefits of adoption include
 - i. University wide action such as
 1. A more inclusive K-State
 2. Sustainability and protecting earth's resources
 3. Research, teaching, curriculum development, service, and creative inquiry
 - ii. Leadership in growing U.S. network including
 1. BIG XII conference, regionally, and state of Kansas as we would be one of the first to adopt
 2. There are currently 110+ USHPCN participating campuses

Responsibilities of Adoption and Next Steps

1. Codify the aspirations outlined in the Okanagan Charter by signing the USPHCN Statement of Adoption and submit a campus plan of action. This is not a formal or legal adoption, nor are there any fees associated.
2. Identify and appoint a university liaison and/or designated person/office to lead the implementation of related actions.
3. Remain active and a contributing member of the U.S. Health Promoting Universities & Colleges Network (USHPUCN)

Resources

[Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges \(2015\).](#)

[U.S. Health Promoting Campuses Network – Okanagan Charter](#)

[The International Health Promoting Universities & Colleges Network - Okanagan Charter](#)