

Board of Regents (BOR) Quarterly Meeting
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)
February 23, 2022
9:08 AM – 1:44 PM (MDT)
via ZOOM

Minutes

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Acting Chair Begaye called the meeting to order at 9:08am and welcomed meeting attendees.

B. Welcome and Invocation

Dr. Bush volunteered and provided the invocation.

C. Roll Call

Esther Peterson called roll. The following were in attendance:

Mr. Adam J. Begaye, Acting Chair/Vice Chair, Navajo Nation-New Mexico
Ms. Esther Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer, Navajo Nation-Arizona
Dr. Sherry Allison, President Emeritus, SIPI
Dr. John Bush, Member, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-South
Dr. Curtis Chavez, Southern Pueblos Council
Dr. Damon Clarke, Member, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-North
Mr. Darrell Flyingman, Vice-Chair, Oklahoma Tribes
Ms. Olowan Gordon, President, Student Government Association, SIP
Mr. Francis Tafoya, Eight Northern Pueblos
Mr. Monte Monteith, Interim President, SIPI (Ex-Officio)

Absent:

Mr. Owen Little, Mescalero Apache Tribe
Vacant, Jicarilla Apache Nation

Quorum established.

The following non-Board members were in attendance:

Alena Chalan, SIPI	Val Montoya, SIPI
Karen Coffey, SIPI	Darlene Waseta, SIPI
Dr. Cecelia Cometsevah, SIPI	William Lohr, Board Office
Edward Hummingbird, SIPI	Denver Romero, Board Office
Bella, Lujan, SIPI	Abby Webb, Board Office

D. Approval of the Agenda

Acting Chair Begaye asked Board members to review the agenda and provided any edits. He also noted Item E. will be delayed until Mr. Little joins the meeting around 10:30am. Dr. Chavez noted he need to leave the meeting at 10:30am and requested items needing his vote to be moved up in the agenda. Acting Chair Begaye will excuse Dr. Chavez at 10:30am

After discussion, it was determined the following items will be moved up in the agenda:

H.1. Update: SIPI President's Search
H.2. Update: Admission for Freedman

- I.1. Action: SIPI/ BORMOU
- I.2. Discussion/Action: Chair Vacancy

Dr. Allison motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Dr. Chavez. Call for questions. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

H. Reports (Action)

1. Update: SIPI President Search

Jackie Shamblin informed the Board that he would provide an update on behalf of Director Tony Dearman. He reported five candidates were recommended to the Senior Executive Service (SES) panel however none of the candidates were moved forward, by the panel, for interviews. The BIE is ready to re-advertise. Mr. Shamblin also informed the Board that Dr. Tamarah Pfeiffer, a current SES employee, requested to be non-competitively reassigned to the SIPI President's position. He presented her request to the Board for consideration and asked for feedback. She is the current Acting President at Haskell Indian Nation's University and doing a great job. She has thirty-six years of education experience and has held several post-secondary positions.

Board members conveyed their concern for the hiring process. The Board and BIE leadership are entrusted with making good decisions. On the onset of the SIPI Presidential, the Board expressed the importance of stakeholders being part of the process. Director Dearman and the Board assured stakeholders that this would happen. If the Board accepts Dr. Pfeiffer's request this will not honor what was told to stakeholders. Board members also noted that for many years the Board has expressed the need for stakeholders be part of the process to pick the right person.

Dr. Bush commented on his good experience working and communication with Dr. Pfeiffer as the Acting President of Haskell. His comments were appreciated however it was once again conveyed that the formal hiring process needed to occur along with stakeholder input. This process will ensure tribal and student need are met- and the right person is selected for the President. Board members recommended to re-advertise the position. It was recommended that Dr. Pfeiffer apply for the position and go thru the process. The Board also recommended a Board member be a part of the SES review panel to review the candidates.

Francis Tafoya motioned to re-advertise the SIPI President's position and to ensure SIPI staff, students and stakeholders remain involved in the process. Seconded by Dr. Chavez and Dr. Clarke. Motion approved. 8 in favor and 1 abstention

Jackie Shambling informed the Board the position will be re-advertised this week.

2. Update: Admission for Freedmen

Jackie Shamblin noted he was not a part of the process but BIE did hold Tribal consultations with the Oklahoma tribes and each tribe will determine if the Freeman are an enrolled member of their tribe. So far two tribes have made determinations.

Mr. Shamblin asked for any other comments or questions:

Dr. Allison requested that Mr. Shamblin to follow-up with Director Dearman regarding the funding formula for SIPI and Haskell. Federal funding for both schools are under one line item but there aren't any written guidance or policies which states how funding is divided. Past practices have been that Haskell receive 2/3 of the funding line item and SIPI receives 1/3. How was this determined and will this be amended. The last Dr. Allison heard was that the Office of Policy and Post-Secondary were working on the process.

Jackie indicated he will work with Dr. Campbell and Dr. Chenault, and include Director Dearman, so they can look at budget formulation.

Old Business

1. Action: SIPI/BOR MOU

Monte Monteith reminded the Board the MOU was approved by the Board in April 2021. Signatures were obtained and the MOU was sent to DC where it under went additional review by the Solicitors office. The Solicitor returned the MOU with additional minor edits. Monte and Alena Chalan reviewed the edits and comments from the Solicitor with the Board.

Dr. Allison motioned to approve the SIPI/BOR MOU with solicitor edits. Seconded by Darrell Flyingman. Call for questions. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Discussion/Action: SIPI Chair Vacancy

Acting Chair Begaye reported the Board Chair position was vacant due to the resignation of Haeyalyn Muniz. He noted he was willing to transition into the Chair position should the Board see him fit. He then opened the floor for discussion.

Esther Peterson expressed that Vice Chair Begaye has done an excellent job as Acting Chair and motioned to appoint him as Chair of the Board. Seconded by Dr. Chavez. Call to question. No other nominations were received for the Chair position nor was there further discussion. Motion APPROVED. Eight (8) in favor one (1) abstention.

Chair Begaye conveyed his appreciation. He noted the Vice Chair position was now vacant and asked for nominations. Dr. Allison nominated Dr. Chavez and he accepted the nomination.

Dr. Allison motioned to appoint Dr. Chavez as the Vice Chair of the Board. Seconded by Francis Tafoya. Call for question. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Esther Peterson expressed her interest to remain as the Secretary/ Treasurer.

(Dr. Chavez was excused at 10:33am)

E. Action: Appointment of New Board Member Mescalero Apache Tribe – Owen Little

Noted that he will join the meeting at late due to council duties. Moved to end of the meeting

F. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

1. December 1, 2021

Board members reviewed the December 1, 2021 draft minutes and noted typos in Item E.

Francis motioned to approve the December 1, 2021 draft minutes with noted typos to be corrected. Seconded by Esther Peterson. Call for question. Motioned APPROVED unanimously.

G. Introduction of New Employees

- Darlene Wasweta, Program Support Assistant for Grants and Sponsored Programs, provided a self-introductions and noted she was happy to be at SIPI.

- Edward Hummingbird, informed Board members that Dr. Vicki Putman was hired as the Director of Assessment.
- Denver Romero, Board Vista Corp, provided a self-introduction.
- Monte and Val provided informed the Board about the visiting Fulbright scholar Dr. Patcharin Kangkha. She is from Thailand and will be at SIPI for the Spring 2021 trimester.

H. Reports (Action)

3. SIPI Quarterly Report

a. Overview

Monte Monteith provided the following SIPI Highlights:

- He thanked the SIPI staff for their resiliency. SIPI started the Spring trimester in the middle of Omicron variant surge. At the onset there were several residential student cases and isolations rooms were almost at capacity but that steadily declined. Many staff members were in isolation due to exposures. Overall the staff came together and helped other divisions with work coverage. Overall the campus was fairly safe, some staff indicated campus felt safer than out in the public. Residential staff did an excellent job with meet the needs of the residential students in isolation.
- New Mexico lifted the mask mandate however SIPI will maintain its mask mandate for campus. SIPI is a federal facility and will follow federal guideline. Currently the Bernalillo County community spread is still high. SIPI will rely on the community spread and positive case data to determine future decisions.
- Hotspots and Laptops continue to be provided to students this trimester.
- The BIE is working to help students and their families of all students by providing N95 and medical grade masks. SIPI gym served as the distribution center for this effort.
- SIPI will assist the Navajo Nation by providing a venue for the Nation to provide assistance to their tribal members for ARPA and enrollment applications.
- SIPI will be fully in person for the Summer 2022 trimesters. There will only be one residential hall due to renovation and delays, resident rooms will house 2 students per room.

b. Appropriated Funds

Bella Lujan reviewed the federal appropriated funds hand-out provided to Board members.

c. Grant Funds

Karen Coffey reviewed the grant funding report provided to the Board.

Dr. Allison questioned whether the grants were monitors for expiration and if the will be a likely hood for Apple computers can be purchased. Karen noted that she sends grant usage reports to different departments. Monte Moneith inform the Board that Dell computers are the only computers allowed for purchase by BIE. If there was good justification for an apple computer it could be purchased.

Monte Monteith also reported to the Board that SIPI is working with AIHEC who trying to get legislation passed to use care funding balance for construction and renovation. SIPI has a large CARES balance which may be able to use for this need.

Discussion continued on the different types of CARES funding. Dr. Allison questioned when the CARES funding will be distributed to students. Funding needs go to student as soon as possible. Karen will check with Student Services and Financial Aid.

Monte also noted that SIPI is working to bring the Adjunct Faculty contract in-house. SIPI will upgrade the human resource office to support this effort.

4. Board of Regents Development Office

Bill Lohr provided the following updates:

- United Consulting, the Board development consultants, decided not continue work with the Board. They were working on fundraising activities such as the golf tournament. These activities will be postponed
- A local group would like to use SIPI for part of their triathlon. They will make a small donation to the Board and offer four spots to students and reduced entry fees for SIPI.
- The office helped raise funding for the vision care program to purchase six iPads for hands on training.
- AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers:
 - Denver Romero is working with Ashley Tso.
 - Laura Garcia will start on March 14 and will work on retention.
 - There is a possibility for an addition VISTA.
- Informed the Board members about the Community Art Workshops in Zuni and Laguna pueblos. These community workshops were funded by an American Indian College Fund grant.

5. Student Government Association

Olowan Gordon reported on the SGA activities and meetings. She reported the SGA participated in the virtual campus tour, offered virtual game nights, new student orientation, and a Super Bowl pizza party. They also had a Go Clubbing event for SIPI student clubs and reinstated the Basketball club.

Board members commended SGA for keeping students engaged.

I. Old Business

5. Update: COVID-19 Response

a. Spring and Summer 2022 Trimesters

Dr. Cometsevah reported the following:

- SIPI is hosting booster clinics and weekly COVID testing. Students are offered a \$100 incentive gift card for receiving the booster shot.
- The COVID Response Team continues to meet on a weekly basis to monitor local conditions.
- Updates on the COVID cases for residential. There is currently one student in isolation. During
- The Omicron peak there were nine students in the isolation room.
- Student vaccinations were mandated for the Spring 2022. Students were able to request a medical or religious waiver. If students were approved they are required to undergo weekly testing.
- Rapid tests were provided to all students and staff.
- There is a possibility SIPI will be able to pilot a COVID test vending machine. Discussion are in process with the CDC.
- For the Summer 2022 trimester, there will be two students per dorm room and classes will be in person.

Dr. Allison conveyed if there was ever an award for a BIE group she would work to recognize SIPI.

4. Update: SIPI Name Change

Alena Chalan informed the Board she wasn't able to work on the SIPI Name Change due to other pressing items. Monte Monteith also informed the Board, that SIPI is hoping to host a national SIPI Stakeholder meeting and the name change will be one the agenda items.

5. Update: Trimester Change

Val Montoya indicated she hasn't been able to work on the trimester change as she had to shift priorities to hiring faculty and staff for the Academics division as well as working on the adjuncts contracts. She also needs to focus on SIPI's accreditation.

J. Introduction of New Business

1. Action: 21-22 Budget

Bella Lujan present the 2021-2022 SIPI Budget and asked the Board for their concurrence. She reported the President Cabinet reviewed and approved the budget at their February 10, 2022 meeting.

Monte Monteith conveyed the approval of the Budget and process if one of the items that SIPI is working on to get back on track. Dr. Allison requested a pie chart, showing distributions and where money is being allocated, for the next budget approval.

Dr. Allison motioned approve the 2021-22 SIPI Budget as presented by Bella Lujan. Seconded Dr. John Bush. Call for questions. Motion APPROVED unanimously.

Francis Tafoya was excused from the meeting at 12:03pm.

2. Action: Student Medical Withdrawal Policy

Dr. Cometsevah reported the policy was developed to allow for medical withdrawal and presents a codified process. The Academic Affairs Committee presented the Student Medical Policy to the President for approval.

Dr. Bushed motioned to approve the Student Medical Withdrawal Policy. Seconded by Esther Peterson. Call for questions. Motion APPROVED unanimously.

3. AIHEC Impact Week- March 14-17, 2022

Monte Monteith informed Board members AIHEC Impact Week will be March 14-17, 2022 in Washington, DC. The format was changed due to COVID. Students will not be allowed to attend and the colleges are allowed two representatives. Due to the HATCH Act, he is unable to request/lobby for support from any Congressional delegates, therefore he asked for a Board member to attend the meeting with him. The Board member will be able to speak for SIPI and make any requests.

Board members recommended Chair Begaye or Vice Chair Chavez to attend the AIHEC meeting with Monte. Chair Begaye will accept the recommendation and work with his supervisor to attend. He will provide a response to Monte or Ms. Chalan on his attendance.

4. Graduation and Transfer Rates

Edward Hummingbird reviewed the Graduation and Transfer rates. The rates are submitted every year to the Department of Education. Graduation rates are based on cohorts. If a student doesn't graduate in the allotted time frame they are not included in the rate. If they start at SIPI but transfer they are included in the transfer rate. SIPI's graduation rate is down 16% and the transfer rate is in decline as well. Edward

expressed his concern for the decline in graduation rates as they are an indication whether the mission of the college is being met. He also briefly spoke on persistence rates which drive graduation rates.

Board members questioned whether the decline in Graduation rates was a national trend. This isn't a national trend for community colleges. However, per the AIHEC AIMS data there is a persistence rate decline for Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) but the overall trend is the TCUs are flourishing

Monte Monteith indicated the SIPI Leadership has been meeting on strategies to help graduates and suspended students and revisiting the student life cycle. The data shows that there is need to work with students. Leadership is also working to identify priority activities to address student outcomes such as Summer Bridge, a college survival kit. New Mexico recently approved free college tuitions. SIPI will review for possible impacts.

1. Accreditation

Edward Hummingbird reported SIPI is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Accreditation affects the ability for SIPI to receive federal funds and transfer college credits. SIPI will undergo its 10-year comprehensive evaluation site visit on September 11-12, 2023. The SIPI accreditation team will prepare an assurance argument (55k word document) demonstrating SIPI is in compliance with all criterion. This assurance argument is due on August 1, 2023. Wanda Baker, Consultant, was hired to perform an accreditation audit. She is working with team members for each Criterion. This audit will provide an insight on vulnerabilities and allow time to address these vulnerabilities.

Monte Monteith conveyed the accreditation audit will be an important document for the incoming President and it will display a clear picture of SIPI's position for accreditation.

2. Energy Consortium

Valerie Montoya provided information on the Native Energy Consortium. This idea was brought to SIPI via David Conrad (BIA). It addresses energy education for tribal communities. There are several community partners involved including Haskell and the Center for Adult Education and Learning (CAEL). The Consortium will work with CAEL to replicate their industry established program for Indian country. The hope is Haskell and SIPI will be able to take the lead. There is funding available through nineteen (19) agencies. The SIPI Board office, or Haskell Foundation, may be involved as a primary administrator and will need to hire a director for the consortium.

Board members conveyed this is a good venture and ask Ms. Montoya to keep them informed.

3. Commencement – April 14, 2022

Dr. Comsetevah provided the following information for the SIPI Commencement:

- Date/Time: Thursday, April 14, 2020 from 10am -12pm
- Location: Currently looking at venues due to water leak in the gym roof. Sandia Casino ballroom is one option.
- Graduates are from Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, and HSET. The exact number has yet to be determined as the petition to graduate deadline is March 4, 2022.
- Keynoted Speaker will be a SIPI Alumni chosen by the Student Government Association. They are considering Wendi Cole and Lorissa Garcia.
- A gift card will be provided in lieu of a SIPI community meals for graduates to celebrate with their loved ones.

Dr. Allison inquired whether the Jemez graduates would be invited to walk due to a snafu that occurred with the virtual commencement. Monte Monteith informed Board members that there was a special ceremony held for the Jemez graduates in their community. SIPI Leadership attended and presented them with their degrees and provided a donation to the school where they worked.

**E. Action: Appointment of New Board Member
Mescalero Apache Tribe – Owen Little**

Chair Begaye noted that Mr. Owen Little, Mescalero Apache Tribe, did not join the meeting and called for a motion to accept his membership to the Board. Introductions can done at the April meeting.

Dr. Allison motioned to accept Mr. Owen Little, as a new member of the Board, appointed by Mescalero Apache Tribe. Seconded by Darrell Flyingman. Call for questions. Motion unanimously APPROVED.

K. Public Comments

Chair Begaye asked for public comments. None were noted.

L. Future Meeting Schedule/Calendar

1. Quarter 2: April 13, 2022

It was noted the next meeting will be April 13, 2022, in-person at the SIPI Hogan. Virtual option will be available for those unable to attend in-person. Hope to be in person so BOR members can attend meetings. SIPI Hogan.

Dr. Bush inquired about Board reimbursement for travel expenses. He said to date, he hasn't received any reimbursements for meeting attendance. Ms. Chalan noted she worked on this reimbursement the prior year and should have received several reimbursements. Ms. Chalan will resend Dr. Bush the e-mails with deposit dates and amounts.

M. Adjournment

Chair Begaye asked for a motion to adjourn as there was no further questions or discussions.

Dr. Clarke motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Darrell Flyingman. Call for question. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Meeting adjourned at 1:44pm

Meeting recorder: Alena Chalan