

**Board of Regents (BOR) Quarterly Meeting  
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)  
September 15, 2021 9:00 AM – 12 Noon (MDT)  
ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**A. Call the Meeting to Order**

Chair Muniz was unable to attend due to Tribal Obligations. Vice Chair Adam Begaye presided over the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 9:18am.

**B. Welcome and Invocation By invitation**

Esther Peterson provided the invocation.

**C. Roll Call**

Esther Peterson called roll. The following Board members were in attendance.

Mr. Adam J. Begay, 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

Mr. Francis Tafoya, Eight Northern Pueblos

Monte Monteith, Ex-Officio, SIPI Interim President

**Absent:**

Ms. Haeyalyn Muniz, Chair, Jicarilla Apache Nation

Dr. Curtis Chavez, Southern Pueblos Council

Dr. Damon Clarke, Member, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-North

Mr. Darrell Flyingman, Vice-Chair, Oklahoma Tribes

Vacant, Student Government Association, SIPI (or designee)

Vacant, Mescalero Apache Tribe

Quorum Established.

**D. Approval of the Agenda**

Adam Begaye reviewed the agenda with Board members. Need to add Monte Monteith, Ex-Officio to roll call. Dr. Allison requested to move G. Old Business 1. Update: SIPI President Search to after D. Approval of the Agenda out of respect for Mr. Shamblin.

Dr. Allison motioned to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Francis Tafoya. Call for question Motion APPROVED.

**G. Old Business 1. Update: SIPI President Search**

Jackie Shamlin, BIE Human Resources, indicated there 15 Indian preference applied for the position. Mr. Shamblin conveyed one applicant was a past SIPI president. A review of applications will be completed by the end of the week and based of the review, he believes there will be a minimum of 6 candidates. Overall he was impressed with caliber and qualifications of applicants. Once the review is completed, the applications will be sent to the Senior Executive

Service (SES) rating panel who have three weeks to rate the applicants and then be sent to the SES interview panel who have three weeks to interview. Once SES interviews are completed the top applicants will be presented to BIE Director Dearman for the BIE and SIPI interview process. The top applicants will come to SIPI, have a campus walk-thru, meet with staff and students and have the interview process with the Board and Director Dearman at SIPI.

Monte Monteith confirmed that I could be six to eight weeks before it would be possible for the applicants to be interviewed at SIPI. Dr. Allison requested Monte Monteith and Jackie Shamlin to come up with some projected dates for the interview committee for availability purposes. Monte noted he and Jackie will work on possible dates once the number once the rating is completed and the exact number of candidates is known.

#### **D. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

Esther Peterson asked Board members for edits, comments and feedback on the draft minutes.

##### **1. April 21, 2021**

No Corrections.

##### **2. May 24, 2021**

Minor corrections to Motion F. remove 2<sup>nd</sup> Second.

##### **3. August 11, 2021**

Dr. Allison reported minor corrects and/or misspelling on page 2 and 4; and the Executive Review Board instead of Resources. She also wanted her concerns regarding the displacement of YDI students due to the closure as well as the clarification and need to have the displaced students as a priority for readmission to be added under YDI.

Dr. Allison motion to approve all the minutes for the April 21, 2021, May 24, 2021 and August 11, 2021 meeting minutes with noted corrections and amendments. Seconded by Francis Tafoya. Call for question Motion unanimously approved.

Vice Chair Begay noted the attendance of Mechelle Crazy Thunder, SIPI Guidance Counselor and Student Government Association Advisor. She will represent SGA but will not be able to vote.

#### **F. Reports (Action)**

##### **1. SIPI Quarterly Report a. Overview**

Monte Monteith thanked the Board all work completed and special meetings. He reviewed the SIPI Report submitted to the Board. Monte highlighted the following from the report:

- Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland's visit to SIPI. (Note: Mr. Newland was in the process of official appointment at the time of his visit). Assistant Secretary Newland viewed SIPI's pre-engineering and culinary programs as well as the dorms, and expressed his concerns with dorm conditions.
- In August, a SIPI team made a funding presentation, for internet and electrical upgrades, to the NM Finance Committee. This request will move forward to the next legislation session in January 2022.
- Annual Colloquium was held virtual due to a surge in the COVID Delta variant.

- Monte thanked the Board for their support of the Fall 2021 resolutions and support of student vaccinations. He is in the process of making an announcement for a Student Vaccination Mandate.
- The Fall 2021 Trimester was modified to move the first four weeks of instruction to a virtual format due to staff, Board and community concerns regarding the COVID Delta variant surge. Campus is open but classes will be online and student will return to in-person classes October 6.
- Residential halls will be limited to one per room.
- There are delays in some contracts for construction in the cafeteria and dorms. As a result food delivery service was modified to grab and go and prepared packaged meals.

Dr. Cometsevah reported on the Fall 2021 enrollment and COVID Response. She reported the Nursing Contract with All American Healthcare was in place and the nurse is awaiting background clearance. She is working with the CDC and True North to provide COVID testing for staff faculty and students and Indian Health Service provided SIPI with 700 Rapid Test kits.

Dr. Allison thanked Monte for his report and noted she was pleased things are moving along and trying to keep on track. She commented that she didn't see much advertisement for the Fall 2021 trimester and SIPI needs to advertise its program offering more.

Dr. Allison inquired about the letter to Mr. Dearman requesting support for Monte Monteith and whether SIPI received a response. She also asked about the number of staff not meeting the vaccination requirement from President Biden.

Monte Monteith informed the Board that Dr. Katherine Campbell was detailed as the Acting Vice President of Colleges Operations. She started on two days ago. Dr. Campbell introduced herself to Board members and provide her professional background.

Monte then inform the Board that SIPI staff and all DOI staff must attest to their vaccination stats via an online portal. SIPI does not monitor the portal and is awaiting for a report to determine how many employees need vaccination.

#### **b. Appropriated Funds**

Bella Lujan review the handout of Appropriated Funds (August 26, 2021) provided to Board members.

#### **c. Grant Funds**

Karen Coffey reviewed the grants and hand-out for Grant Funds (August 11, 2021). She noted there is a new grant for Adult Education.

She reported to the Board that SIPI had to return the GO Bond for the General Education Building and Library to the State of New Mexico. A total of \$1.68million was returned. The money was not spend due to issues with BIA Acquisitions. The Gen. Ed Building went out to bid twice but BIA Acquisitions was unable to award since the bids were higher than expected. SIPI does not expected to get dinged on future requests as they always kept Mr. Gerald Hohani,

NMHED involved with contract discussions and acquisitions. He was able to keep Capital Outlay committee members informed of SIPI's issues with BIA Acquisitions.

Francis Tafoya inquired if it was possible to carry over the funding. Monte informed the Board that this funding was part of a GO Bond which are voted on by public but have a set reversion date therefore the State can't legally extend the funding.

## **2. Board of Regents Development Office**

Bill Lohr reported the office was approved for two Vista volunteers to work on a three year Recruitment and Retention project -that renews annually. This will help grow internships and build a database for student internships. The office is working with the City of Albuquerque on an Early Childhood Education project funded through Kellogg. This project will place four students in paid practicum within Albuquerque and will provide online workshops for participants.

He reported the 2019 audit is complete and he provided Board members with copies. The 2020 audit is underway and will let the Board know when it's completed.

The Board of Regents Golf Fundraiser was postponed due a rise in local COVID cases. The new date is April 18, 2022. The Board Office would like to host an end of year online auction in December and will need auction donations. Dr. Allison indicated her family will make a donation.

## **3. Student Government Association**

Mechelle Crazy thunder, Guidance Counselor and Student Government Association Adviser, informed the Board about the SGA Officer Elections on October 7. At the point, SGA will have someone to fill the vacant SGA President position on the Board. Mechelle also reported she is working to acquire MINGA, an app service that will help in the communication with students and hopefully get more student engagement across campus.

Monte Monteith reported the AIHEC Southwest colleges met and there is a possibility the Spring Student conference will be cancelled. AIHEC will determine how move forward but right now there are concerns with in person and virtual. Monte will provide and updated when it becomes official.

Dr. Allison commented that prior to her retirement she asked the Student Right Specialist to develop a communications plan for students after she and leadership were presented a laundry list of student concerns. Students were concerned about not being provided information on facility projects and other items when in fact students have representative on the Board, President's Cabinet and the SGA advisor attends staff meetings however information was being relayed to the student body. The plan was never developed but the need to address student concerns in a timely fashion is still needed.

Monte Monteith informed Dr. Allison and the Board that since Dr. Alison's departure Student Complaints is a standing item on Leadership agendas to address any issues or concern from students.

End of reports:

Francis Tafoya motioned to accept the reports presented. Seconded by Dr. Allison. Call for question Motion Approved.

Francis Tafoya excused himself from the meeting at 11:00am.

## **G. Old Business**

### **1. Update: YDI**

Karen Coffey reported the YDI center is still closed due to air conditioner and roof repairs. The Air Conditioner will be repaired and completed first week of October and the roof is scheduled for repair the second week of October but may be delayed due to supply shortage.

Employees were placed at other locations within Albuquerque and SIPI practicum students were placed at different YDI locations as well. Karen inquired whether the dorm staff would be able to assist with practicum student transportation to the different YDI sites but dorm staff was unable to assist.

Dr. Allison asked Karen to follow-up on the YDI students that were displaced. She asked to see if the student needs to reapply to YDI after the center opens since it is not fair to the students. The need to close YDI was not of their making and put SIPI students and YDI students at a disadvantage. SIPI needs to advocate for the students. Karen will send an email to Deborah Baca, SIPI YDI Center Director, regarding the concerns.

Lastly the Memorandum of Understanding between SIPI and YDI was reviewed by the YDI CEO and Deborah Baca. The SIPI MOU team will review their comments.

## **H. Introduction of New Business**

### **1. Accreditation**

Edward Hummingbird provided an overview of SIPI's accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission. He reported the next HLC site visit will be in August 2023 and SIPI is beginning to prepare for the visit.

SIPI's Accreditation Committee is meeting regularly and will meet more frequently in 2022 and 2023. He is hoping to have an emergency hire complete an internal SIPI Accreditation audit to find areas of vulnerability and compliance. Based on this audit SIPI can begin improving in those areas. SIPI leadership will begin working with the Board on an extended statement of institutional purpose of college i.e....Land Grant institutions and how SIPI can be a service to the community.

Edward would like Accreditation to be a regular topic at the Board meeting to provide an opportunity for feedback and questions allowing the Board a better understanding of accreditation.

Dr. Allison thanked Edward for this presentation. She noted she along with Chair Muniz and Bill Lohr developed a Board meeting scheduled. She would like to see Accreditation training

sessions for the Board to coincide with the schedule. It is important for the Board to clearly understand the requirements and SIPI's foundation documents for accreditation. Edward was in agreement with Dr. Allison and noted he would look into training for the Board.

Vice Chair Begay asked Edward to provide written report of his presentation and asked that anything being presented to the Board be provide before the meeting.

## **2. Board of Trustees**

Bill Lohr informed the Board members about the Board of Trustees that was under the Board of Regents. The purpose of the Board of Trustees was to focus on fundraising. The most recent change to the Board of Regents Constitution eliminated the Board of Trustees but the group is needed to focus on fundraising.

The Executive Committee is working on what the Trustees could be/looks like. Board input is not needed as he only wasn't to inform the Board of Regents that the Office and Executive Committee are starting the process to reestablish the Board of Trustees under the Board of Regents for fundraising purposes.

Dr. Allison noted that when the Board Constitution and Bylaws were updated. Contents of the past document contained information about the Board of Trustees and it took a great amount of time to unweave who the group was and its function. The Board of Regents decided to take anything out related to the Board of Trustees to eliminate confusion and since Board of Trustees was never implemented. She relayed that Mr. Lohr approach to the Board of Trustees is appropriate.

Bill also reported that reestablishing the Board of Trustees wouldn't need to start from the ground up as the old constitution and bylaws provide a foundation to building upon.

### **I. Public Comments**

No public comments

### **J. Future Meeting Schedule/Calendar**

#### **1. Quarter 4: November 9, 2021**

Bill Lohr indicated the next meeting will be the morning of November 9, 2021. He will send out a zoom meeting information. There may be a possibility for a hybrid format if travel is permitted.

### **K. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Begay provided closing remarks and extended gratitude to the SIPI team and his fellow Board members. He also acknowledge SIPI's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Dr. Allison motioned for adjournment at 11:30am. Seconded by Dr. Bush. Call for questions. Motion APPROVED.
---

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am