

**Board of Regents (BOR) Quarterly Meeting
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)
December 1, 2021
9:00 AM – 12 Noon (MDT)**

Minutes

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Esther Peterson call the meeting to order at 9:14am.

It was noted that Ms. Peterson did not receive the meeting materials and would not be able to properly Chair the meeting.

Esther Peterson motioned to Dr. Sherry Allison chair the meeting. Second by Dr. Clarke. Call for questions. No discussion. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

B. Welcome and Invocation

Dr. Allison welcome everyone as Acting Chair. Dr. Chavez provided an invocation.

C. Roll Call

Dr. Allison called roll. The Board members were in attendance:
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, SIPI
Mr. Francis Tafoya, Eight Northern Pueblos
Monte Monteith, Interim President, SIPI (Ex-Officio)

Absent:

Mr. Adam J. Begaye, Acting Chair/Vice Chair, Navajo Nation-New Mexico
Vacant, Jicarilla Apache Nation
Vacant, Mescalero Apache Tribe

QUORUM ESTABLISHED.

Meeting attendees/Non-Board members:

Alena Chalan, SIPI
Bella Lujan, SIPI
Karen Coffey, SIPI
Dr. Cecelia Cometsevah, SIPI
Debra Baca, YDI
Abby Webb, Board Office

D. Approval Agenda

Dr. Allison reviewed the agenda and asked that Introduction of Student Government Association Officers be added under. E. Appointment of New Board Member - SGA President. Dr. Bush also requested that an

update on Board Background checks be included. Dr. Bush noted his feelings of discouragement due to all the red tape involved with the background check process.

Dr. Clarke motioned to approve the agenda with noted additions/amendments. Second by Esther Peterson. Call for questions. No discussion. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

E. Action: Appointment of New Board Member - SGA President

Dr. Allison asked Ms. Olowon Gordon to provide an intro. Ms. Gordon reported she is from the Three Affiliated Tribes and she moved to Albuquerque 18 years ago. She started at SIPI as a HiSET student in 2019 and received her diploma. She continued her college courses at SIPI in Spring 2020. She hopes to be a good advocate for students.

Dr. Chavez motioned to appoint Ms. Olowon Gordon, President, SIPI Student Government Association as a member of the Board of Regents. Second by Dr. Bush. Call for questions. No discussion. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Dr. Allison asked that any items/documents such as letterhead be updated to include Ms. Gordon's name.

a. Introduction of SGA members.

The following Student Government Association Officers provided introductions

Delfine Martinez is the astern Agency – 9 credits away from business admin.

Derrick Shirley – 6th tri at SIPI – dual major network management and accounting. Completed Network 18hrs from Accounting. Peer tutor. 2nd term as treasurer. Member of Phi Beta Kappa

Board members welcomed Ms. Gordon and congratulated SGA members on their educational endeavors.

**F. Action: Acceptance of Resignation of Haeyalyn Muniz
BOR Chair, Jicarilla Apache Nation**

a. Discussion/Possible Action: Chair Vacancy

Bill Lohr informed the Board that Haeyalyn Muniz submitted her letter of resignation from the Board. Ms. Muniz felt it was in the Board's best interest for her to resign due to internal tribal issues which she did not want to affect or pose a hindrance to the Board. Mr. Lohr offered his gratitude for her Board service and her commitment to her position as Chair. He informed the Board that the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Mescalero Tribe positions are vacant.

Each Board member acknowledged Ms. Muniz for the good work and advocacy, as the SIPI Board Chair, on behalf SIPI and its students. She kept the student interests as a priority for SIPI and wanted to make beneficial changes at SIPI. She will be greatly missed.

Francis Tafoya motioned to accept the resignation of Board Member, Haeyalyn Muniz, Jicarilla Apache Nation from the SIPI Board of Regents. Second by Esther Peterson. Cal for questions. No discussion. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

F. Chair Vacancy

Discussion occurred regarding background checks and whether Mr. Begaye can serve as Acting Chair since he has not completed the background check and whether Esther should be Acting Chair until clarification is received since she is on Executive Committee. During this discussion it was noted that there are currently two vacant board positions and it is possible those appointed to fill the position may want to be the Chair.

The Board asked Monte to get clarification whether Mr. Begaye can participate in meeting and other Board activities until clearance is received.

Esther Peterson motioned to table the action of the Board Chair vacancy due to two vacant positions on the Board. Second by Dr. Clarke. Call for questions. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

G. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

1. September 15, 2021

Dr. Allison asked if there were any edits to the draft September 15, 2021 minutes. There were no edits or comments:

Francis Tafoya motioned to accept and approve the draft minutes of September 15, 2021 with no edits. Seconded by Dr. Bush. Call for Questions. Dr. Clarke abstained since he didn't attend the meeting. Motion APPROVED by majority.

Dr. Allison requested the Board take action after every report.

H. Reports (Action)

1. SIPI Quarterly Report

a. Overview

Monte Monteith reported on the following for SIPI:

- SIPI trying its best to support staff and students while providing a safe educational and work environment. For Spring 2022, all student and staff will be fully vaccinated or have waiver in place.
- Board background checks is an issue Bureau wide not just at SIPI. Any board members for BIE schools must get a get background check. The BIE recently began issuing non-compliance list of the school board members. There are over 100 board member who are considered non-compliance. It seems if a Board member is actively participating in obtaining the background check process they are in compliance. Based on the recent list there is one SIPI Board member in non-compliance status.
- Updates on construction and renovation projects on campus, and the SIPI Super Project. The Super Project addresses SIPI backlogged items for maintenance and repairs by placing in one contract award. This make the process for repairs on these items more streamlined.
- The Fall 2021 enrollment is 366 students. The Fall trimester started in a virtual platform to a surge in COVID-19 cases locally and nationally as result some student withdrew. Laptops and hotspots were provided to students who needed and requested and student fees were waived. This will continue in the Spring 2022. SIPI will also look into debt relief for students using CARES funding.
- SIPI will send recruitment packets to Juniors and Seniors at BIE high schools.

b. Board Backgrounds

Dr. Bush elaborated on the difficulty to obtain fingerprinting and records from local tribal offices or other offices to closures and limited hours. He mentioned that Jackie Hohani noted that he has done his part but he hasn't heard received anything from BIE regarding his status.

Monte reaffirmed that even though the Board has been meeting virtual, the meetings provide oversight and directly impact the college the students.

c. Appropriated Funds

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

d. Grant Funds

Karen Coffey reviewed the grant funding report.

Dr. Allison asked for any questions from Board members. Dr. Allison had the following questions and comments:

1. SIPI admissions information needs to be advertised more widely not only to tribal education departments.
2. Has the water situation at SIPI been resolved?
3. Will the student debts cover current students only or past students as well?
4. What is the status of positions at SIPI? Are they being filled?
5. Is the federal funding formula being addressed for Haskell and SIPI?
6. A Board orientation needs to be conducted.
7. The Board needs and update on the Name Change and the Trimester Change.
8. Accreditation needs to be included on the agenda.

Monte addressed Dr. Allison's questions and comments.

1. Monte agreed SIPI needs to be promoted more. One issue is that SIPI cannot guarantee to continue online classes as it transitions out of the pandemic as SIPI does not have HLC approval. Currently Early Childhood Education and a few classes are permissible to be offered online. SIPI is working on a position for Distance Learning and will also become a part of NC-SARA. If SIPI is to continue online classes it will need to be approved within the HLC requirements. Edward's department is also working on the final edits for virtual campus tour.
2. A lot of work has been done at the residential halls. The waterlines are being replaced as part of the Super Project. Unfortunately, the Project Manager for this project was reassigned to another project as a result of the transition of projects from BIA Facilities to BIE Facilities. SIPI is working with the BIE to get the Project Managers assigned back to SIPI to complete the projects. SIPI has the mechanism but need the expertise of the Project Managers. Also Renee Allen, Facility Manager moved moving to BIE Facilities. SIPI is currently working with BIE-HR on the advertisement of her position.
3. Any student who enrolls and will be eligible for the debt waiver. The debt waiver will be an incentive to promote and get students back to school
4. SIPI leadership is actively working on filling positions and this topic is a standing item on the bi-weekly leadership meetings. Every area reports and discusses position vacancies. There is a new person with in BIE handling classifying and most items have a turnaround rate of 5-6 days. One problem is we lost potential staff in the background process due to not passing the background or the time it take to complete the process. SIPI is working more with BIE HR to remedy the issue. BIE now has a a nice tracking system in place for tracking backgrounds.
5. There has been a lot of discussion on the funding formula with the Bureau and Finance. Where did the 1/3 and 2/3 come from? Active discussion have occurred within the past three weeks and background information was submitted. It may be possible to get funding increases but the background work needs to be completed. SIPI and Haskell are severely underfunded in comparison to other federally funded colleges.
6. Monte agreed schedule a Spring Board Orientation since there may be new Board members.
7. Alena will provide and update on the SIPI Name Change and Val will provide and update for the Trimester Change at the next board meeting.
8. Accreditation needs to be a part of every meeting. This was overlooked for this meeting but will be on the next agenda.

Dr. Bush motioned to accept of the SIPI Quarterly report. Seconded by Esther Peterson and Dr. Chavez. Call for questions. No discussion. Motion APPROVED.

2. Board of Regents Development Office

Bill Lohr provided the following updates:

- Four Vista Corp candidates were interviewed and two offers were made but only one accepted. This person is a Native woman from the Chicago area.
- He thanked Dr. Allison for accepting the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Award on behalf of the Board office.
- The 2019 Audit was completed and digital copies were sent to the Board. The 2020 Audit will be completed by the end of the year.
- The golf tournament was rescheduled to April 2022.
- The online auction was postponed until April 2022 to allow time to collect auction items.
- The Alumni Coordinator office position was eliminated. Marvin Brown did a wonderful job establishing the association. He hoped to replace the position with one that will be multi-task oriented to focus on needed areas to include the Alumni Association.
- The office will send a year end ask to the donor base and alumni. He will e-mail “the ask” to Board members to share within their networks.

Dr. Clarke motioned to accept of the Board of Regents Development Office report. Seconded by Esther Peterson and Dr. Chavez. Call for questions. No discussion. Motion APPROVED.

3. Student Government Association (SGA)

Olowan Gordon reported the SGA is planning in-person and zoom events for the Spring 2022 trimester. For the Fall 2021 trimester the SGA held a frybread social, in conjunction with the SIPI Student Life Committee.

Derrick Shirley requested the SGA bank account balance from Ms. Coffey. Ms. Coffey requested Derrick submit an e-mail request.

Dr. Chavez motioned to accept of the Student Government Association report. Seconded by Dr. Clarke. Call for questions. No discussion. Motion APPROVED.

J. Old Business

1. Update: SIPI President Search

Monte Monteith informed Board members that the President’s search is still with the Senior Executive Panel in Washington, DC. The panel is responsible for reviewing all applicants. They all will conduct SES interviews and provide the BIE a final list for further BIE interviews. Monte anticipates candidate interviews in January or early February at SIPI. After interviews are complete a selection will be made and the candidate will enter into the background process.

The Board questioned whether Monte was ok with serving as Interim President until then, He indicated he was ok with the serving as Interim President until a new President is on board. He also note Dr. Katherine Campbell will remain as Acting Vice President until the new President is on board.

2. Update: COVID-19 Response

a. Spring 2022 Trimester

Dr. Cometsevah reported the following:

- SIPI will utilize Healthy Roster app for students, staff and faculty
- Isolation wings were established in there residential halls
- There are COVID-19 Rapid tests available for students and staff/faculty. So far every employee was provided a rapid test for home in the event they need to test at home before coming to work.
- Surveillance testing will be scheduled.

- Spring students will not be allowed to register for classes without providing proof of vaccination.
- SIPI will continue to monitor the Omicron variant and will make a decision whether to continue in-person classes or go online for the Spring 2022 trimester based on the science.

K. Introduction of New Business

1. Action: Strategic Initiatives

Edward Hummingbird reviewed the following 2021-2022 Addendum to the Strategic Plan - Strategic Initiative Proposals for SIPI:

1.1.1 Creation of online instrument to measure non-cognitive skills. This will strengthen student GRIT and improve student persistence.

4.1.1. Develop Comprehensive Back-reach Plan. This will target Grade 6 and Middle school age students. SIPI is currently looking at back-reach for Juniors and Seniors at BIE schools.

6.1.1. SIPI Advance Technology Network

6.2.1. Establish virtual tours to strengthen early connections. This project is currently being worked on and is almost completed.

6.2.2. Online/virtual summer bridge program.

Dr. Allison noted she reviewed and the initiatives are appropriate.

*Dr. Chaves excused himself at 12:00pm

Francis Tafoya motioned to approve the SIPI Strategic Initiatives presented by Edward Hummingbird. Seconded by Esther Peterson. Call for questions. No discussion. Motion APPROVED.

L. Public Comments

Dr. Allison asked for any public comments. None were presented.

K. Future Meeting Schedule/Calendar

Dr. Allison noted the next meeting is scheduled for February 23-24, 2022.

1. Quarter 1: February 23-24, 2022

L. Adjournment

As there wasn't any further discussions items, Dr. Allison requested a motion for adjournment.

Dr. Clarke motioned to adjourn at 12:02pm. Seconded by Dr. Bush. Call for questions. No discussion. Motion APPROVED.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02p.m.

Meeting Minutes take by: Alena Chalan