

**Board of Regents (BOR) Quarterly Meeting
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)
April 13, 2022
9:00AM – 1:00 PM (MDT)
ZOOM and In-Person
Minutes**

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Chair Begaye called the meeting to order at 9:12am and thanked Board members and leadership for their work.

B. Welcome and Invocation

Dr. Chavez provided a welcome and invocation.

C. Roll Call

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

- Mr. Adam J. Begaye, Chair, Navajo Nation-New Mexico
- Dr. Curtis Chavez, Vice Chair, Southern Pueblos Council
- 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. Damon Clarke, Member, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-North
- Ms. Delphine Martinez for Student Government Association, SIPI via Zoom
- Mr. Francis Tafoya, Eight Northern Pueblos via telephone
- Mr. Monte Monteith, Interim President, SIPI (Ex-Officio)

Asent:

- Mr. Darrell Flyingman, Vice-Chair, Oklahoma Tribes
- Mr. Owen Little, Mescalero Apache Tribe

Quorum Established.

D. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Begay reviewed the agenda and asked for updates. He noted that the Jicarilla Apache Tribe Board positions under Old Business.

Dr. Allison motioned to approve the agenda with noted addition. Seconded by Dr. Chavez. Call for questions. All in favor. Motion approved.

F. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

1. February 23, 2022

Dr. Allison noted she e-mail minor corrections. Esther Peterson reported the minutes captured the meeting discussions and actions.

Dr. Chavez motioned to approve with corrections. Seconded by Dr. Clarkes. Call for questions. All in favor. Motion Approved.

G. Introduction of New Employees

Laura Garcia, Board Vista employee, introduced herself. She is a SIPI alumna and is happy to be working at SIPI. Meeting attendees welcome Ms. Garcia to SIPI.

H. Reports (Action)

1. Update: SIPI President Search

Monte Monteith reported the SIPI President's position was re-advertised and BIE Human Resources is reviewing the certificates of eligible. Per Jackie Shamblin, interviews will occur at SIPI prior to moving to the Executive Review Board. An interview schedule and timeline will be developed.

Discussion on timeframe for the interviews occurred. Based on discussion the later part of June or early July would work best for Board members and SIPI leadership. Dr. Allison noted the importance to uphold the promise to the SIPI staff, students and faculty to conclude in interview process.

Monte discussed the interview process for Haskell and noted the SIPI process will be the similar. The candidate will have campus interaction with the student body and faculty as well as a presentation/forum with the campus community. The candidate with have a formal interview will the interview panel and Director Dearman. The Board will have one ranking sheet for submission.

Bill Lohr confirmed the Board members previously selected to serve on the interview panel: Dr. Allison Dr. Clarke, Haeyalyn Muniz and the Student Government Association representative. Dr. Allison indicated she was willing to be on the panel as long as there isn't a conflict. Dr. Clarke indicated he was still willing to serve as long as the interview dates didn't conflict with elections for his tribe. Chair Begaye was willing to serve since Ms. Muniz was no longer a Board member. Dr. Bush was nominated to serve if Dr. Clarke wasn't able to attend.

The Board asked Monte to create a schedule and hold a special planning meeting.

2. SIPI Quarterly Report

a. Overview

Monte Monteith reviewed the SIPI quarterly report and highlight the following:

- SIPI used data and science to make determination to lift the mask mandate with the exception of housing. If numbers go back up will reinstate mandate. SIPI will continue to encourage COVID safe practices, provided protective equipment (masks, etc.), COVID rapid tests and booster clinics.
- SIPI COVID Response Team will begin meeting on a bi-weekly basis and will continue to monitor COVID related conditions.
- BIE used the SIPI gym as a mask an COVID test distribution site to all BIE K12 school to all students.
- Delays of construction and renovation projects due to material and labor shortages due to COVID.
- Higher Learning Commission conference and training travel for Accreditation team members in preparation for the HLC comprehensive site visit in 2023. SIPI will provide Board accreditation training review the role of Board members in the accreditation process.
- The Department of Interior announced they are working to designate SIPI and Haskell as voter registration agencies. This will be formalized thru the State of New Mexico. SIPI is awaiting formal discussions on what this will entail.
- Ashley Tso, new Enrollment Manager, created a SIPI virtual campus tour for the website. Please review.
- The Navajo Nation held a ARPAfunds, voter registration and tribal enrollment assistance drive at the SIPI gym
- 50th anniversary events will be held during the summer to bring life back to campus.
- Possible assistance from the Corp of Engineers to assist with SIPI construction projects, technical assistance and project management.
- Summer Bridge will be for Commuters only. The program is recruiting in the local area.

Discussion on the importance of COVID team occurred. They were commended for their response to the pandemic and their work on ensuring the SIPI community was prepared with supplies and materials. The team needs to be recognized. The Board can send a letter to Director Dearman and Secretary Haaland, and possibly the NM and AZ Congressional delegations recognizing their effort for staff and students.

Dr. Allison also thanked and commended staff for their work to ensure student needs were met including emergency funds, COVID relief funds, food drives, and school supplies to include laptop and hotspots. She also express concerns for recruitment and the need get the word out about SIPI. She also expressed that Monte Monteith needed to remain the Interim President until a new president is hired. This will ensure continuity.

b. Appropriated Funds

Bella Lujan reviewed the appropriated funds report. She noted there are two fiscal year; Facilities (October 1 – September 30) and SIPI Federal (July 1-June 3). This was due to forward funding.

c. Grant Funds

Karen Coffey reviewed the grants report. There are currently forty-five grants. Most of the grants are for students and funds need to be spent. Scholarship funding from the New Mexico Higher Education Department need to be spent or they will be returned to the State. Karen will meet with the Division of Student Affairs to see why funds aren't being spent.

Ms. Coffey also reviewed the different streams of COVID funding. Student still receive assistance for COVID relief.

Board members requested a table or chart for an easier read of the funds status.

3. Board of Regents Development Office

Bill Lohr reported Title III funds were received and thanked SIPI for continued support. He also reported the third Vista employee will be starting and working on continuing education for faculty to grow capacity within.

Mr. Lohr is working with Jeremiah Powless on the commission of a 50th Anniversary painting for SIPI.

Abby Webb informed the Board the American Indian College Fund Community Arts grant is completed and the Board office will re-apply for another grant. The Board office was able to host community drawing workshops for Zuni and Laguna community members.

4. Student Government Association

Delphine Martinez, SGA Vice President (Spring 2022) provided updates on SGA and club activities. She reported the SGA is advertising for a the positions of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Dr. Allison motioned to recess for ten minutes. Seconded by Dr. Clarke. All in favor. Motion approved. Meeting recessed at 11:04am.

Dr. Bush motioned to reconvene the meeting. Seconded by Dr. Clarke. All in favor. Motion approved. Meeting reconvened at 11:22
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I. Old Business

1. Accreditation

Edward Hummingbird provided accreditations updates. Wanda Baker, will conduct an accreditation audit for SIPI. She will review each criterion and current evidence to prove SIPI is meeting is accreditation

requirements. A SIPI team attended the Higher Learning Commission meeting and training in Chicago, IL on April 1-4, 2022 to get exemplars on accreditation.

2. Update: SIPI/BOR MOU

Monte Monteith reported the SIPI/ BOR Memorandum of Understanding is official and was signed by BIE Director, Tony Dearman on March 22, 2022. Monte also reported he requested approval to pay for Board office audit.

3. Update: Background Checks

Monte Monteith reported the BIE conducted an assessment on whether Board members need background checks. It determined all BIE schools board member will need to undergo including SIPI and Haskell.

Board members expressed frustration and requested see the policy or legal opinion as to why background checks are required. SIPI Board members are tribally appointed and would not be appointed if they were not in good standing.

A motion was made to request the statutory authority which requires the Board members to get a background check. Seconded by Dr. Clarke. Call for questions. All in favor. Motion approved.

4. Update: COVID-19 Response

SIPI is working with the CDC on acquiring a COVID test vending machine that would be tied to student IDs and be centrally located for students to test when needed. Supplies continue to be ordered and distributed to the campus community.

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

Monte Monteith and Chair Begaye reported on their trip to Washington, DC for AIHEC Impact week on March 14-17, 2022. Monte noted it was good to have Chair Begaye on the trip to advocate on SIPI's behalf. They met with Congresswoman Melanie Stanbury, staff from Senator Ben Ray Lujan's office and Senator Martin Heinrich's office, and Representative Yvette Harold.

Chair Begaye indicated both SIPI and Haskell are one hundred percent federally funded. SIPI needs more funding to support the college's operations and address infrastructure needs. Board members need to advocate for more sustainable funding thru Snyder Act for SIPI.

Monte reported on the AIHEC Board meeting. A major discussion was AIHEC membership requirements. In the past there were attempts to exclude SIPI and Haskell as members of AIHEC. The Ad-Hoc membership committee presented language changes that were beneficial to both SIPI and Haskell. The new membership language now includes the word "federally" in the definition for a Regular Member. A Regular Member shall be a tribally or **federally** chartered institution.

Dr. Allison relayed the importance to have AIHEC's advocacy. SIPI had Title III because of AIHEC.

6. Commencement – April 14, 2022

Jeremiah Powless reviewed details for the April 14, 2022 commencement ceremony at Sandia Resort.

7. Update – Jicarilla Apache Board membership

Chair Begaye reported Jicarilla Apache Tribe has yet to replace Haeyalyn Muniz. Numerous attempts have been made to contact President Velarde but there has been any response. Chair Begaye reported he was informed the appointment of the new Board member would be done via the Jicarilla Education Department

who will advertised the position; however, candidates are interviewed by the President and selected by the tribal council. The department point of contact is Melinda Julian. Chair Begaye wanted to ensure this was on record and will provided updates as needed.

Dr. Chavez requested to be excused from the meeting for an important tribal

Prior to moving on to Introduction of New Business, Chair Begaye asked for a roll call of members still in attendance. Members in attendance were:

1. Adam J. Begaye
2. Dr. Damon Clarke
3. Esther Peterson
4. Dr. Sherry Allison
5. Dr. John Bush'
6. Delphine Martinez
7. Monte Monteith
8. Dr. Chavez excused to attend to tribal matters.

J. Introduction of New Business

1. Action: 2022-2023 Academic Calendar

Dr. Cometsvah request the Board take action on the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar. The calendar was properly vetted thru campus via approval from both the Curriculum and Academic Committees as well as reviewed by the President's Cabinet.

Dr. Allison clarified that since the calendar is considered Academic it only needs to be approved by the Curriculum and Academic Committees. Non-Academic items are approved by the President's Cabinet and the Board of Regents.

Dr. Bush asked for an update on the change from a trimester to a semester system. Monte Monteith said he would assign a task force from various areas of campus to review the impacts of the change. An outside consultant will assist with the task force.

Motion to accept and pass the calendar Seconded by Dr. Clarke. Call for questions. All in favor. Motion Approved.

2. Action: NMHED Capital Outlay Projects

Dr. Campbell reviewed the proposed SIPI's proposed NMHED Capital Outlay Projects for Severance Bond funding. The grading and access improvement projects were approved by the Facilities Committee on April 8, 2022 and the President's Cabinet on April 11, 2022. The projects will severe flooding and ponding issues on campus. Dr. Campbell asked the Board to accept and move the projects forward for NMHED severance bond funding and presentation at the Capital Outlay hearing in August 2022.

Discussion occurred on other facility and infrastructure projects that need to be addressed.

Dr. Clarke motioned to approve SIPI's proposed NMHED Capital Outlay Projects for presentation at the NMHED Capital Outlay hearing in August 2022. Seconded by Esther Peterson. Call for questions. All in favor. Motion approved.

K. Public Comments

There weren't any public comments.

L. Future Meeting Schedule/Calendar

Quarter 3: Working retreat/meeting for accreditation and Orientation:

- July, August, or September

Discussion on the Quarter 3 and a possible Board retreat for training and orientation occurred. Bill and Alena will research possible venues in the Arizona area. The Quarter 3 meeting will be on September 15 to coincide with SIPI's 50th Anniversary closing on September 16.

Dr. Bush requested an updated on the Name Change at the next meeting.

M. Adjournment

Dr. Clarke motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Dr. Allison. Call for questions. All in favor Motion Approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:18pm.

Meeting recorder: Alena Chalan

DRAFT