



Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2024
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MDT)
SIPI HOGAN

Adam J. Begaye
Chair
Navajo Nation
New Mexico

Tanya Lewis
Vice Chair
Inter-Tribal Council of
Arizona (North)

Esther Peterson
Secretary/Treasurer
Navajo Nation
Arizona

Dr. John Bush
Board Member
Inter-Tribal Council
of Arizona (South)

Darrell Flyingman
Board Member
Oklahoma Tribes

Owen Little
Board Member
Mescalero Apache
Tribe

Francis Tafoya
Board Member
Eight Northern
Pueblos

Donna Montoya
Jicarilla Apache Nation

Samantha Sanchez
President,
SIPI Student
Government Assoc.

Vacant
SIPI Alumni

Vacant
Southern Pueblos
Council

- A. Meeting called to order by Chair Begaye at 9:15 MDT.
- B. Welcome and Invocation given.
- C. Roll Call:
Present
Mr. Adam J. Begaye, Chair, Navajo Nation-New Mexico
Ms. Tanya Lewis, Vice Chair, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-North
Ms. Esther Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer, Navajo Nation-Arizona
Dr. John Bush, Member, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-South
Mr. Darrell Flyingman, Vice-Chair, Oklahoma Tribes
Ms. Donna Montoya, Jicarilla Apache Nation
Dr. Tamarah Pfeiffer, President, SIPI (Ex-Officio, non-voting member)
Ms. MaryJayne Chavez, SGA Treasurer
Mr. Francis Tafoya, Eight Northern Pueblos
- Absent
Mr. Owen Little, Mescalero Apache Tribe
Vacant, SIPI Alumni
Vacant, Southern Pueblos Council
- D. 02/05/24 Meeting Agenda reviewed and approved 8 yes; 0 no.
- E. 10/16/23 (Q4) Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved: 8 yes; 0 no.
- F. Introduction of New Employees
Dr. Timothy Begaye, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Mr. Bobby Wallace, Director of Development were present and introduced.
- G. **ACTION ITEMS**
1. Organizational Chart
President Pfeiffer discussed the resigned position numbers in the organizational chart. **Motion to approve the updated organizational chart was approved: 8 yes; 0 no. Concurrence given.**

Further discussion centered on the Board's review of the organizational chart should occur annually unless there is pressing need. need

2. Academic Master Plan
Motion to adopt the current Academic Master Plan (September 6, 2023) was approved: 8 yes; 0 no. Concurrence given.
3. Adoption of Generative AI Policy
President Pfeiffer reviewed and discussed with the Board current academic uses of Generative AI and the need for the proposed policy.
Motion to adopt the GAI Policy was approved: 8 yes; 0 no. Concurrence given.
4. Academic Calendar 2024-2025
Dr. Muskett indicated that there was one change to the Academic calendar that would increase and align orientation activities. **Motion to adopt the Academic Calendar 2024-2025 was approved: 8 yes; 0 no. Concurrence given.**

H. New Business

1. Direct Admissions
Mr. Monte Monteith presented the concept of direct admission to the Board as an informational item on how it has been successfully at other institutions and states. He will bring additional information to the Board once the college identifies student success (qualification) criteria for direct admission and SIPI's pilot/launch plans.

Additional Board conversations on the College's continued enrollment decline and current and future actions to reverse these trends followed. Topics discussed included the hiring of new admissions staff, the integrated work between the current Enrollment Specialist and new admissions staff; piloting/launching dual enrollment, priorities for assigning student housing as SIPI looks to expand recruitment efforts nationally, and the need to provide responsive academic programs to serve tribal needs. SIPI has not introduced a new academic program in over a decade.

It was also noted that increasing retention increases enrollment. Plans to increase staffing in Adult Basic Education area and the need for increased support services for these students were discussed.

The Board will continue to place enrollment, persistence, and completion on its meeting agendas, as the College has a Monitoring Report on these items, as well as academic and non-academic assessment and program reviews due to the Higher Learning Commission in September 2025.

2. Mescalero Apache Tribe
Chairperson Begaye indicated that Mr. Little lost the election for his tribal leadership position. Chair Begaye will contact the Mescalero Apache Tribal leadership to request a replacement for Mr. Little.

I. Reports

- SIPI Quarterly Report
President Pfeiffer overviewed the accomplishments provided in the Board Packet.

Bella Lujan provided a status report on the College's appropriated funds.

The written report on grants led to a conversation regarding SIPI having an insufficient number of project managers to start and complete construction projects and, therefore, being required to return funds to the granting agencies.

Chairperson Begaye and the Development Office will work with President Pfeiffer to determine if there are strategies that the Board can use in its advocacy and fundraising efforts to support the hiring of additional project managers.

- Development Office Report
Mr. Bobby Wallace stood on his report.
- Student Government Association Report
Ms. MaryJayne Chavez indicated that she was representing SGA President Sanchez, as she and the other SGA Officers were leaving for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium's Hill Week in Washington DC, February 5-9. Chairperson Begaye and Mr. Monte Monteith will accompany the students.

The Hill week provides students and Board members from Tribal Colleges and Universities to engage in structured meetings with congressional officials and federal leaders to advocate for funding for their colleges and universities. As a federal employee, Mr. Monteith can not engage in fundraising advocacy efforts. He is in attendance as a chaperone to our students.

- Board of Regents Chairperson's Remarks
Chairperson Begaye thanked Mr. Bobby Wallace for joining the team and noting the positive impacts of his work since he joined the Development Office. This includes his creation of a Development Office Strategic Plan, and preparations and participation in advocacy meetings in Arizona and New Mexico, and a planned trip to Washington DC in April.

Chairperson Begaye also reiterated that 2024 will be a year of action for the Board, noting that we should be thinking of tribal leaders to host/visit both at spring 2024 commencement and in future advocacy meetings. We will use today's work session with Dr. Rives to develop plans to successfully complete all of our priorities with our current Memorandum of Understanding with the College.

J. Old Business

1. Southern Pueblos Council Request

Chairperson Begaye continues to work with Southern Pueblos Council on their appointment of Mr. Ray Gachupin to the Board.

2. College Name Change

Dr. Rives presented the chronology of the name change request, processes used to request suggested names that started with President Pfeiffer's presentation at the October National Indian Education Association Annual Convention and Trade Show in Albuquerque and concluding with her hosting focus group meetings with students, faculty, and staff. Former Development Office Director Bill Lohr collected alumni feedback before leaving his position at the College.

Dr. Rives also presented the Name Change Task Force and the criteria they used to evaluate the top 10 recommendations, with Indigenous Nations Tribal College advanced as the recommended name for the College.

Voting on the new name was tabled until the next (Q2) meeting. Regents Tafoya and Montoya were not certain the new name was appealing. Regents were given additional time to think about a new name. Action will be taken at the next meeting.

Once a new name is selected by the Board, the President's Office has mapped out the agencies/officials that require approval or notification before a new name is enacted. They will also work with the Bureau of Indian Education on a marketing and branding campaign.

3. Trimester to Semester Change

Dr. Muskett noted that the change to the Academic Calendar approved earlier in the meeting is constant with processes that would be used in a semester calendar. President Pfeiffer noted that the approval of the Academic Calendar also gives the College key dates as it works on transitions to a semester calendar.

4. Alumni/President Emeritus Position

Mr. Tin Harjo applied for the position and has been interviewed. A final appointment decision could not be made in advance of or at this meeting since he is under contract to facilitate some workshops for the College during the month of February. It was determined there could be a conflict of interest to serve on the Board while under contract with SIPI. An appointment decision will be made after his contract expires.

K. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

L. Announcements

Chairperson Begaye indicated that he will not be able to attend this afternoon's work session, as he has to leave for the Hill Week in Washington DC immediately following the conclusion of this meeting. Mr. Wallace and Dr. Rives will update him on the results of the Work Session upon his return.

M. Future Meeting(s) Schedule/Calendar

- Q2 BOR meeting: April 18, 2024
- Spring Commencement: April 19, 2024

N. Adjournment: 12:47 MDT.

Meeting recorder: Dr. Joe Rives

After the Board Meeting, Regents attended lunch with students in the cafeteria and were offered the opportunity to visit a class in session.

The work session focused on further thoughts on the SIPI name change to American Indian Community College and successful implementation of the MOU with the College.

With regard to the latter, Board members provided ideas that Mr. Wallace and Dr. Rives will prepare for review by Chairperson Begaye and the Board in advance of the Q2 meeting. The goal is to have the Board's 2023 Accomplishments Report and 2024 BOR-SIPI MOU Implementation Plan approved at the next Board meeting. These documents are required to be annually submitted to President Pfeiffer as part of successful fulfillment of our MOU obligations.

Work Session Recorder: Dr. Joe Rives.