



**Board of Regents (BOR) Quarterly Meeting
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)
March 2, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (MDT)
ZOOM and In-Person**

Minutes

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Chair Begaye called the meeting to order at 9:29

B. Welcome and Invocation

Chair Begaye welcomed everyone. Esther Peterson provided and invocation

C. Roll Call*denotes via zoom

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. John Bush, Member, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-South

*Mr. Francis Tafoya, Eight Northern Pueblos

*Ryan Dedman for, Samantha Sanchez, SGA President (or designee)

Tamarah Pfeiffer, President, SIPI (Ex-Officio, non-voting member)

*denotes via zoom

Absent:

Dr. Sherry Allison, President Emeritus, SIPI

Mr. Darrell Flyingman, Oklahoma Tribes

Mr. Owen Little, Mescalero Apache Tribe

Vacant, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-North

Vacant, Jicarilla Apache Nation

Quorum Established.

D. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Begaye reviewed the agenda.

Dr. Pfeiffer motioned to approve the agenda as. Dr. Seconded by Dr. Chavez. Call for questions. Motion Approved.

E. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

1. November 29, 2022

Dr. Pfeiffer motioned to approve the November 29, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Esther Peterson, Call for questions. Motion Approved.

September 15, 2022

Dr. Chavez motioned to approve the September 15, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Dr. Bush. Call for questions.
Motion Approved

F. Introduction of New Employees

Dr. Pfeiffer announced new employees:

Jessica Durst, Grants Financial Analyst

Mary White Hair, Faculty, Native American Studies

Jose Benevidez, Maintenance Mechanic

G. Reports (Action)

1. SIPI Quarterly Report

a. Overview

Dr. Pfeiffer highlighted the following for the SIPI report:

- SIPI held a recognition ceremony for the Fall Graduates on December 7.
- She attended BIE leadership Session in DC in January.
- The Accreditation Assurance writing team held a brain storming session and submitted the first draft of the assurance argument was submitted.
- The SIPI-YDI Memorandum of Understanding was finalized in February. The MOU will be revisited every 2 years
- Dr. Pfeiffer and Human Resources Specialist met with supervisors to ensure 22-23 EPAPs are in place. SIPI is 100% in compliance.
- The President's Cabinet has been meeting monthly to ensure policies are review and approved for Board concurrence.
- SIPI held two Tribal listening session Trimester vs. Semester. Feedback and written comments are due.
- AIHEC Legislative week. She thanks Samantha and Ryan for their hard work during the week.

Dr. Bush requested more information on the tribal listening sessions. Dr. Pfeiffer reported there were about 40 participants total for both sessions. She received some comments and feedback for both in favor and not in favor as well as comments expressing concerns about a possible change. She is interested in student feedback and will reach out to the student body.

Dr. Bush noted for the record that is in favor of the semester system for SIPI.

b. Appropriated Funds

Bella Lujan reviewed the February 13, 2023 appropriated funds report.

c. Grants

Karen Coffey reviewed the Grant report.

Dr. Pfeiffer acknowledged Karen for her work as the Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs. She is also a SIPI graduate. Throughout March, Karen will work with Jessica Durst to ensure a smooth transition.

d. Graduation and Transfer rates

Edward Hummingbird reviewed the Graduation and Transfer rate reports with Board members.

The graduation rate looks at students who have never been to college. The graduation rate is at a decline from 22% to 13%. SIPI needs to recommit to the student success framework. This will ensure the college meets the college mission.

Dr. Chavez inquired if the pandemic affected graduation rates. Edward noted that at this time there isn't a way to isolate the impact of the pandemic.

Edward noted that in 2014 SIPI had a graduation rate of 8%. He spoke about the initiatives that were implemented such as the Student Success Framework, Modular Math, and Summer Bridge which all contributed to the and increase of the graduation rate. These type of initiatives need to be re-implemented at SIPI.

Edward then reported the Transfer rates have fallen in the last several years. Students are not transferring and they are not graduating from another institution. He noted SIPI is working on integrating advising which will include transfer services.

Discussion on articulation agreements and/or pipelines between SIPI and colleges/businesses. These would be beneficial to students. SIPI did have articulation agreement but they are outdated and will need to be reviewed.

Dr. Pfeiffer noted there is an MOU with Workforce Development that is in the solicitor's for review. This would Put a workforce development officer at SIPI to support students.

3. Board of Regents Development Office

Bill Lohr highlighted the following:

- American Indian College Fund Community Arts grant
 - Held a second pottery workshop. There were 15 participants.
 - Held a digital market training January 14
- Board members will take pictures in April for the Board and SIPI websites. He highly recommends attending in person and to stay for commencement.
- The Native Energy Workforce Consortium will meet tomorrow, March 3. He is not received confirmation on the grant application.

Abby Webb reported Laura Garcia will not renew her service as a Vista Corp Volunteer. Her term ends on March 13. Denver Romero has opted to renew for another year of service. She will continue to work on recruitment. Abby also reported on her work with the Albuquerque Community Foundation (student internships), United Way (for vision care equipment), NM Oil and Gas (Financial Literacy Class)

Francis Tafoya noted he will need to leave at 11:00am

4. Student Government Association

Samantha Sanchez highlighted the following on SGA:

- Charles Yellowhawk, new Vice President, will be sworn in soon.
- SGA hosted IAIA for hand games event on campus.
- SGA Members and students involved in the AIHEC competitions are excited to represent SIPI.
- SGA holds weekly meetings on Wednesday at Noon and Executive meetings on Fridays.

Dr. Pfeiffer informed Samantha that she will reach out to SGA regarding a listening session for students.

Francis Tafoya excused himself at 11:00am.

At 11:06am, Chair Begaye noted for the for the record there is still a Quorum of 5 voting member.

Samantha Sanchez will need to leave as well.

Chair Begay motioned to accept the reports Seconded by Dr. Pfeiffer. Call for questions. Motion Approved.

Chair Begaye proposed to move the action items/new business up on the agenda at 11:07. Seconded by Esther Peterson. Call for questions. Motion Approved.

Recommended to move New Business 2 and 3 up in the agenda.

- I. **New Business**
 - 2. **ACTION:** Policies for Approval and/or Concurrence
 - a. Course Challenge
 - b. Grade Change
 - c. Transfer of Credits
 - d. Missing Student Policy (Updated)
 - e. SIPI Residential Admission (Updated)

Dr. Pfeiffer three academic policies that have gone thru the Academic and Curriculum committees. She reviewed the Course Challenge, Grade Change, and Transfer of Credit Academic Policies.

The Board briefly recessed for five minutes at 11:14am.
Chair Begaye called the meeting back to order at 11:18am

Monte Monteith reviewed the Missing Student policy. He noted this is an update of the existing policy to ensure procedures are current. He also reviewed the Residential Admission policy. This policy is an update to the existing policy to ensure the policy remains current.

Chair Begaye asked that New Business 2. And 3. Be added together for approval.

Dr. Pfeiffer noted that Board member Owen Little joined the meeting.

3. ACTION: 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

Dr. Pfeiffer reviewed the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar. She thanked Mr. Joe Carpio for this work on the calendar.

Dr. Bush noted is he in favor a semester system. Dr. Pfeiffer requested Dr. Bush send his comments on the semester system so they can be included as part of the listening session.

Chair Begaye motioned to approve the policies and the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar. Seconded by Esther Peterson. Call for Questions. There was one opposed on the approval of the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar. Motion Approved.

- I. **New Business**
 - 1. **DISCUSSION:** Proposed change to BOR Constitution
 - a. Article II; Section 2 (Membership)

Discussion occurred on the difficulty with filling Board vacancies and the need to make sure the positions are filled. Is there a way or something that can be done or can Article II, Section 2 membership be amended. There is a process to remove and add tribes or tribal organizations.

4. Board Pictures and Bios (SIPI Website)

Dr. Pfeiffer noted as part of the Accreditation process and site visit, it would be great to have Board pictures and bios on the the SIPI and Board website. The Accreditation Peer Review team will review both websites.

H. Old Business

1. Accreditation

Vicky Morris Duer provided accreditation updates.

2. SIPI Name change update

Dr. Pfeiffer put in request to Secretary's Office for the SIPI Name Change. The Secretary's office has indicated SIPI can moved forward with a Tribal Consultation. She is looking to have a consultation in late April or May.

Dr. Chavez recommended to get in touch with All Pueblo Council of Governors to consult with them on a name change. The Council represents all the Governors from each pueblo.

3. SIPI trimester to semester update

Dr. Pfeiffer noted there were two consultations held on the trimester to semester. Written comments are due March 3. Will provide Board with written document on listening session at the next meeting. A change to semester would require communication at every different level with all stakeholders.

J. Public Comments

There was not any comments.

K. Announcements

1. Women in Agriculture & Natural Resources Symposium, (March 2-4) at SIPI

L. Future Meeting Schedule/Calendar

Chair Begaye noted the Q2 meeting will be April 13, 2023 and SIPI Commencement will be April 14, 2023. He also noted there will be a Special Meeting the week of April 17 on Policies.

M. Adjournment

Chair Begaye noted the meeting would adjourn at 12:14pm with no voting.

Meeting recorder: Alena Chalan

NOTE - DISCUSSION/WORK SESSION was held for Board members on the SIPI-BOR MOU Deliverables from 1pm-3pm (Quorum not required). Items discussed included:

1. Submit annual national Native American education goals and objectives, through an annual policy statement, to the President by the second meeting of the year.
2. Support the President and the SIPI community by the development of a data-driven five-year SIPI-BOR strategic plan, consistent with the SIPI strategic plan schedule.
3. Assist in defining SIPI's mission and goals.
4. Provide communication from Indian country, tribal governments, and tribal organizations about educational programs, student needs and achievements