



**Board of Regents (BOR) Special Meeting Minutes
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)
June 3, 2024
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM (MDT)
Zoom**

- A. Chair Begaye called the meeting to order at 9:07 MDT and gave a welcome.
- B. Regent Peterson gave the Invocation.
- C. Roll Call:

Present

- Mr. Adam J. Begaye, Chair, Navajo Nation-New Mexico
- Ms. Esther Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer, Navajo Nation-Arizona
- Mr. Francis Tafoya, Eight Northern Pueblos
- Mr. Timothy Harjo, SIPI Alumni
- Mr. Raymond Gachupin, Southern Pueblos Council
- Ms. Donna Montoya, Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Dr. Tamarah Pfeiffer, President, SIPI (Ex-Officio, non-voting member)

Absent

- Ms. Pavlita Chavez, SGA President (or designee)
- Dr. John Bush, Member, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-South
- Mr. Darrell Flyingman, Oklahoma Tribes
- Mr. Alfred LaPaz, Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Ms. Tanya Lewis, Vice Chair, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona-North

- D. Regent Peterson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Regent Tofoya. Motion carried: 6 yes, 0 no.
- E. ACTION ITEMS:
 - 1. Descendancy Language Supporting Admissions.

The following proposal was displayed on screen for the Regents:

Eligibility for admissions to Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute is open to any student who is either (1) an enrolled member of a Federally recognized Tribe; 2) is at least ¼ degree Indian blood from one or more combined Federally recognized Tribes; or (3) has a link to a Tribal member (through descendancy) that is within a certain proximity, meaning the

student has a least one parent or grandparent (living or deceased) who is a member of a Federally recognized Tribe.

President Pfeiffer indicated that the Solicitors requested that SIPI and Haskell add descendency language to their admission policies to be consistent with Bureau of Indian Education Schools and the Johnson-O'Malley Act. She noted that Haskell has already adopted the proposed language and that the BIE and Bureau of Indian Affairs approve of the proposed language.

Questions by Board members and responses by President are summarized below.

- Regent Gachupin: What would be the next steps if the proposal is accepted? It would be embedded into SIPPI's Admission Policy and be brought to the Board of Regents for concurrence at the Quarter Three meeting in July.
- Regent Peterson: Will this change help increase enrollment? Yes, it expands the eligibility pool.
- Regent Harjo: Is this the first time that the Board has seen this proposal? Yes.
- Regent Montoya: What is changed from the original document? The addition of descendency language (criteria).

Conversations between Regents Harjo, Montoya, and President Pfeiffer concluded that the word student in the proposal should be replaced by the word applicant. Applicants are not students during the admissions process.

Regent Harjo made the motion that the descendency proposal be accepted as modified and shown below. Second by Regent Montoya.

Eligibility for admissions to Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute is open to any ~~student~~ applicant who is either (1) an enrolled member of a Federally recognized Tribe; 2) is at least ¼ degree Indian blood from one or more combined Federally recognized Tribes; or (3) has a link to a Tribal member (through descendency) that is within a certain proximity, meaning the student has a least one parent or grandparent (living or deceased) who is a member of a Federally recognized Tribe.

6 yes, 0 no. Concurrence granted.

Next steps:

1. President Pfeiffer will send the amended document to Chairperson Begaye for signature.
2. SIPI will embed the new language into the Admissions Policy and bring forward for Board concurrence at the Q3 Board of Regents meeting; and,
3. Board members will communicate the change with their constituencies.

F. Motion to Adjourn:

Before taking a motion to adjourn, Chairperson Begaye wanted the record to reflect that there will be additional college policies presented for concurrence at the Quarter Three Board meeting in July. These additional policies were originally scheduled for today's special Board Meeting, but the College needed more time to finalize the documents.

Regent Harjo motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Second by Regent Montoya. Motion carried: 6 yes, 0 no. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 MDT.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Rives, Ph.D.
Recording Secretary

Note: The 2024 Quarter Three Board of Regents Meeting will be July 29 in the SIPI Hogan.