

**1999 Summer Board of Directors Meeting/Retreat
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
Hilo, Hawaii
Thursday, July 29, 1999**

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Janine Pease-Pretty On Top, President, AIHEC and Little Big Horn College, at 9:25 a.m.

II. INVOCATION

Mr. Tom Blackweasel, Board member of Blackfeet Community College, gave the opening prayer.

III. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, GUESTS AND NEW PRESIDENTS

It was reported by Ms. Norma Bixby, Board Chairperson of Dull Knife Memorial College, that Dr. Richard Little Bear is the new president. (staff note: It was later announced that Cheyenne River Community College had formally changed their name to Si Tanka College.)

IV. ROLL CALL

The roll call was taken by Ms. Veronica Gonzales, AIHEC Executive Director.

Present:

Bay Mills Community College
Blackfeet Community College
Cankdeska Cikana Community College
Diné College
Dull Knife Memorial College
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Haskell Indian Nations University
Institute of American Indian Arts
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College
Little Big Horn College
Little Priest Tribal College
Northwest Indian College
Red Crow Community College
Salish Kootenai College
Si Tanka College (formerly Cheyenne River Community College)
Sitting Bull College
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
Stone Child College
United Tribes Technical College
White Earth Tribal and Community College

Absent:

College of the Menominee Nation
Crownpoint Institute of Technology
D-Q University
Fort Belknap College
Fort Berthold College
Fort Peck Community College
Leech Lake Tribal College

Absent (cont'd):

Nebraska Indian Community College
Oglala Lakota College
Sinte Gleska University
Sisseton Wahpeton Community College
Turtle Mountain Community College

With 20 members present and 12 members absent, a quorum was convened.

A review of the agenda was done by President Pease-Pretty On Top. The agenda was modified to include the discussion of the Policy Research Center with NCAI and the new Merriam Report with Mr. Paul Boyer.

V. SECRETARY'S REPORT

AIHEC Secretary Ron McNeil, President of Sitting Bull College, asked that the minutes be considered read. No changes were offered by the members present. Secretary McNeil said that future minutes should note the arrival of members who were not present during roll call.

- Motion:** Dr. Martha McLeod of Bay Mills Community College moved to approve the minutes in their current form.
Second: Ms. Bixby of Dull Knife Memorial College.
Outcome: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was presented by Dr. David Gipp, in the absence of Treasurer Jim Shanley, and Ms. Susan Maldonado, AIHEC Accountant. The written report was distributed on site. A discussion took place on the contract for the Y2K assessment and the burden that it has placed on some of the colleges. AIHEC will reimburse colleges that incurred expenses in order to complete the survey as long as a detailed invoice is submitted to the AIHEC central office. Additionally, it was negotiated with HRSA, the funding agency, to provide a \$10,000 allowance per institution to assist the college on Y2K technology needs. It was suggested that AIHEC should consider regionalizing future projects in order to better strategize and capitalize on the funding to produce a higher yield for the colleges.

- Motion:** Dr. Bob Lorence moved to accept the report as written.
Second: Mr. Tom Davis of Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College.
Question: Called by Ms. Bixby of Dull Knife Memorial College.
Outcome: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Maldonado presented the audit report that was mailed to each member institution in June. The auditors found that all financial statements were in accordance with generally accepted financial principles. Likewise, the federal grant programs were in regulatory compliance. The auditor had no questions relating to costs or findings that needed to be addressed. In response to a question raised, it was noted that the Executive Committee has the responsibility for approving the auditor for the next audit.

- Motion:** Mr. Davis moved to accept the auditor's report.
Second: Dr. McLeod of Bay Mills Community College.
Question: Called by Dr. Joe McDonald.
Outcome: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

VII. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The report was presented by Ms. Gonzales. AIHEC's legislative priorities were discussed including funding for the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Education.

INTERIOR - AIHEC was informed that the TCUAA would be made a funding priority in the Senate's Interior bill. Although the House appropriated a \$1 million increase, the Senate Appropriations committee requested level funding. Senator Johnson of South Dakota has agreed to be the chief sponsor of an amendment on the Senate floor to increase funding to the President's recommended level of \$7.1 million. Other co-sponsors include Senators Campbell, Burns, Conrad, Dorgan, Bingaman, and Daschle.

Dr. Lorence spoke by phone with Ann McInerney of Senator Gorton's staff on the funding issue. (It was noted to the Board that this is the same staff person who threw AIHEC representatives out of her office last year.) The outcome of the conversation was fairly positive although more data is needed to support AIHEC's funding request. Dr. Lorence suggested that a special allocation be included in next year's TCUAA appropriations bill to help fund an office for assessment purposes, which the colleges need for accreditation as well as to answer some of the questions asked by legislators.

Bureau of Indian Affairs- In response to an AIHEC letter, the general counsel of the BIA ruled that the agency illegally funded Medicine Creek under the TCCUAA. Ms. Gonzales asked for guidance from the Board on how AIHEC should respond. Dr. McDonald said that AIHEC should ask the BIA to follow existing rules or change them because there are so many new colleges forming.

Dr. Gipp reported on a meeting that he attended where the priorities of the BIA were discussed. AIHEC was 13th and Haskell/SIPI were 14th on the priority list. Dr. Gipp suggested that AIHEC should do something regarding the lack of post-secondary professionals within the BIA. It was noted, however, that care should be exercised so that the needs of AIHEC would not be pitted against other tribal government needs.

There will be a budget consultation meeting with high level BIA officials and selected tribal representatives in mid-August in Prescott, Arizona. It was suggested that AIHEC write a letter to Assistant Secretary Gover requesting AIHEC's presence at this meeting. It was recommended that AIHEC President Janine Pease-Pretty On Top or her designee should be the invitee. It was noted that AIHEC and the White House Initiative of Tribal Colleges and Universities (WHITCU) have attempted to meet with Assistant Secretary Gover on several occasions to discuss the priority list.

AGRICULTURE – The Senate committee has approved higher funding levels than last year. There is a \$1 million increase for extension grants and \$500,000 for the research program, which was previously unfunded. The House of Representatives level-funded the measure. The full Senate is expected to take up the measure before the August recess.

EDUCATION - There has been no action taken on the amendments that AIHEC is seeking for P.L. 471, the Higher Education Act. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is up for reauthorization by Congress this year. AIHEC is asking to continue Title IX for adult education; however, the program has not been funded for the last three years. Alan Lovesee has been retained by AIHEC to work for the inclusion of a specific program for Indian adult education in the new reauthorization in the event Title IX is lost. If authorized, the new program would still need to be funded.

VIII. EXECUTIVE ORDER REPORT

A report was presented by Ms. Carrie Billie, Executive Director of WHITCU. A folder was distributed which included an outline of her presentation and other related materials.

The first meeting of the President's Advisory Board took place on July 20th. Dr. Lionel Bordeaux, President of Sinte Gleska University, was voted as chairman. Five committees were established: Institutional Sustainability/Long-term Development; Public/Private Partnerships; Technology; Facilities; and Education System Linkages. The two-year term of the current Advisory Board expires on October 19th of this year. WHITCU is currently working on the Board's reauthorization and charter. It was noted that the E.O. signed by President Clinton could expire when his term ends, unless it is reauthorized by his successor.

The Institute for Higher Education Policy will be working with WHITCU to prepare a report on facilities.

WHITCU has a new staff member, Cheron Watchman, who is Navajo from Arizona.

Ms. Billy presented information on President Clinton's New Markets Initiative and the President's recent visit to Pine Ridge where TCUs were mentioned twice in his remarks. TCU success stories and statistics are needed in order to make some of these events even more successful. As part of the Initiative, Owens Corning is interested in establishing a program to offer energy efficiency certificates and building trades partnership for degrees, curriculum development and training opportunities. Ms. Billy asked for a small planning committee of three people from TCUs to attend a planning session with Owens Corning representatives for a future workshop on this effort.

Ms. Billy discussed several programs within the Department of Education:

- GEAR-UP and literacy programs
- A financial aid workshop for TCU financial aid directors is being planned.
- Many federal agencies are seeking American Indian readers to review grant applications. Submit names to WHITCU
- There is also a push to get more American Indians on other presidential boards.
- The administration is now looking at middle school reform and is seeking names of American Indian experts in that area.
- A Tribal College technology meeting was held recently in D.C. in an effort to give the agencies specific information on what TCUs can do and what they want to do in the future.
- The American Indian Corps of Teachers (AICT) has not been funded by Congress; therefore, an effort needs to be made for that to happen. A board member asked if the funding for AICT would be limited to Tribal Colleges or to other mainstream institutions. The response was that TCUs would partner with other four year institutions to award a four year degree. However, there is another program for teacher quality enhancement, which other mainstream institutions should be able to compete for so we are making an effort to keep this program only for TCUs.
- Education Secretary Riley sent a letter to 30 agencies to request baseline information on agency spending for TCUs in 1998. This is the second letter that has gone out and only six agencies have responded.

A second draft of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Labor was distributed. This draft was enhanced to include more language on capacity building. The board was asked to review the revised MOU. The issue will be revisited later in the day. It was reported that the DOL wants to hold a meeting in October similar in format to the DHHS meeting.

The first Tribal College Week will be held April 10 –14, 2000 to focus on the activities of the Federal agencies. The conference will include technical assistance workshops and discussion on the development of the 2001/2002 budgets. The 9th and the 15th will be the travel dates.

Ms. Gonzales also reported on Executive Order activities. A notebook identifying DHHS programs currently available to TCUs was distributed. DHHS is looking to model funding for TCUs after those for HBCUs and HSIs. AIHEC's next step is to take the Ruscio summary and see which programs are going to be the most useful to TCUs and then to approach the DHHS with those recommendations. The following offered to help advise AIHEC on the recommendations to DHHS: Dr. McDonald designated staff members Jackie and Mike O'Donnell from SKC, Dr. Tommy Lewis, Mr. Steve Galbavy, Dr. Lorence, Dr. Gipp, Dr. McLeod, Dr. Betsy McDougal of White Earth, Mr. Davis, and Ms. Carol Murray.

AIHEC is in the second year of a cooperative agreement with the United Negro College Fund and the Department of Defense to strengthen the infrastructure of TCUs by offering technical assistance workshops and conferences. TCUs were asked to host two regional workshops and one conference. The first workshop on Electronic Research Administration will be held in Denver. After some deliberation, the Board decided that October 21st would be the first date choice and October 15th the second for the ERA workshop. The workshop presented by the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) will be held in the Southwest in Feb. 2000. SIPI offered to host the workshop after the Feb. 19th. The national conference is to be held in April. Either Salish Kootenai College or United Tribes Technical College will be the host. The date is dependent upon the schedule of the spring AIHEC conference.

Break for Lunch

IX. PENDING and NEW BUSINESS

Leadership Initiative – After a discussion on the approach of the leadership initiative proposal to the Kellogg Foundation, the Board agreed that the proposal could be submitted as planned. The Kellogg Foundation has already offered to commit \$600,000 to the initiative for an 18-month period. This is the first step in the initiative, which was originally conceptualized to be a \$6 million dollar project. The WHITCU has also been involved and there is hope that the federal agencies could contribute about \$3 million. AIHEC would then need to solicit other foundations to obtain the balance.

Kellogg Technology Initiative - The Kellogg Foundation has recently funded a technology initiative with the University of Michigan to enhance communications within the NAHEI effort. The University will be contacting AIHEC in the near future to determine AIHEC's needs.

New Merriam Report - Paul Boyer discussed the "New Merriam Report", which will soon receive a \$50,000 planning grant from the Kellogg Foundation. The new report will not only focus on higher education issues but also on the other components that comprise a cohesive community. Planning meetings will be held over the next year in conjunction with other AIHEC meetings.

Dr. McDonald is participating in developing other reports with NASULGC and thinks that a similar report is needed to focus solely on the TCUs to discuss their current status. The new report will also need to have credibility and with the Kellogg Foundation funding to support it, that helps. Other help should come from high level officials as honorary members of the advisory board for the project and other significant contributors. The selection of TCU membership on this advisory board was deferred until another time.

NCAI Policy and Research Entity – This discussion was presented by Dr. Gipp and included a hand-out. The Native American Rights Fund and the National Congress of American Indians are the primary awardees of a grant to develop a report on the status and potential of native research. The report will include an assessment of whether an existing entity could address the research needs or whether a new organization should be created. It is hoped that this project will pick up where the National Indian Research Policy Institute left off. It was stated that the Tribal Colleges to be represented within the project because other tribal leaders are unaware of TCUs and do not think that they are capable of performing research. TCUs are community based which is an advantage over the George Washington University, which housed the old policy institute.

Dr. Gipp suggested that there be interaction between the advisory group to the new Merriam report and the policy-research institute. However, there was some concern regarding the level of information sharing.

Technology Initiative Proposal – Mr. Davis, of the technology committee, reported on the committee's efforts to write a proposal for AIHEC. A committee meeting in Billings produced a set of principles. Another meeting in Washington, DC produced the mission statement, goals and objectives. The visit to the Maui High Performance Computing Center, scheduled for July 31st, will help the Board to focus on what the world is going to look like in five years as it relates to technology, communication, education and even business. Participation in the National Computational Science Alliance will provide access to the best computational science available so that TCUs can eventually become full partners in the effort. An effort will be made to work with a variety of government agencies, as well as private sector partners, to engage the proposal that was included in the board book.

A discussion then followed as to whether the proposal, as written, would be beneficial to other TCUs. After the discussion, the Board told Mr. Davis to move full speed ahead.

Cultural Learning Centers Project – Dr. Pease-Pretty On Top presented an overview of the written report, which includes a list of donations received thus far. Five colleges will have structures completed this summer: Bay Mills, Little Hoop, Fond du Lac and Turtle Mountain and Crownpoint. Additionally, five schools have asked for a one-year extension. There is a test-site video available which provides a good overview. A public relations plan will soon commence in an effort to give thanks and coverage to those who have donated to the project. Robin Guido will be leaving the project.

Some members expressed concerns that the distribution of the donated materials was uncertain. Dr. McLeod also suggested that each president have an engineer who can provide guidance during the site preparation and construction phases, especially if the school does not have a building trades program. AICF has agreed that part of the Lilly Foundation funds could be used by the colleges to pay for the parts of the project that are not being donated. However, those funds will not be available until November.

Alliance for Equity in Higher Education – The Kellogg Foundation has funded a \$250,000 project to establish an alliance with the three major organizations serving minority postsecondary institutions: AIHEC, HACU and NAFEO. Dr. Shanley will represent AIHEC at a meeting launching this initiative.

Research Staff - Ms. Gonzales announced the resignation of Eileen O'Brien, Director of Research for AIHEC. A policy paper on Economic Development will be released within the next month. An extensive search will begin shortly to hire her replacement.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: John Blackhawk of Little Priest Tribal College moved to adjourn.
Second: Tom Davis of Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College.
Outcome: Unanimously approved by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by AIHEC Staff.

Executed and acknowledged by the undersigned, being the Secretary of the Corporation, as the _____ day of _____, 1998.

Secretary
American Indian Higher Education Consortium