

2000 Spring Board of Directors Meeting

Isleta Room
Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico

MINUTES

April 1, 2000

- I. **Call to Order.** Treasurer Dr. James Shanley called the 2000 Spring Board of Directors meeting to order.
- II. **Opening Prayer.** Dr. Lionel Bordeaux gave the opening prayer.
- III. **Roll Call.** Executive Director Veronica Gonzales called the roll.

Members Present

Blackfeet Community College
Candeska Cikana Community College
College of Menominee Nation
Crownpoint Institute of Technology
Dull Knife Memorial College
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Fort Belknap College
Fort Berthold Community College
Haskell Indian Nations University
Institute of American Indian Arts
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College
Leech Lake Tribal College
Nebraska Indian Community College
Oglala Lakota College
Si Tanka College
Sinte Gleska University
Sisseton Wahpeton Community College
Sitting Bull College
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
Turtle Mountain Community College
White Earth Tribal and Community College

Members Absent for Roll Call but Present for Meeting

D-Q University
Little Priest Tribal College
Northwest Indian College
Stone Child College
United Tribes Technical College

Members Absent

Bay Mills Community College
Diné College
Little Big Horn College
Red Crow Community College
Salish Kootenai College

A QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED.

- IV. **Secretary's Report.** The minutes of the February 6, 2000 Board of Directors meeting held in Washington, DC and the minutes of the February 25, 2000 Board of Directors meeting held in Bismarck, North Dakota were presented by Secretary Ron McNeil.

A correction to the February 6 meeting minutes was noted to the effect that Dr. McDonald serves on the board of the Northwest Association of Colleges and Universities.

Mr. Tom Davis noted that he believed that his motion included in the minutes of the February 25 meeting regarding the involvement of A*CF in the development of a "funders" conference was incorrect and did not accurately reflect what he stated at the meeting. He said that his sense of the motion was that A*CF would participate in the development of the fund raisers conference for technology and would help with fund raising efforts directed at the private sector only. A*CF's role would not be program management since that is AIHEC's role. After further discussion and re-reading of the paragraph preceding the motion, it was decided that the resolution contained in the minutes need not be corrected.

MOTION: Mr. Jack Briggs moved that the minutes February 6 board meeting be corrected to reflect that Dr. McDonald serves on the board of the Northwest Association of Colleges and Universities and to accept both sets of minutes.

SECONDED: Mr. James Tutt seconded the motion.

OUTCOME: The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- V. **Upcoming Meetings.**

Summer Retreat.

In the absence of Dr. Becenti, Dr. Tommy Lewis reported that while Dr. Becenti and others are still working the details of the meeting on, the retreat has been scheduled for July 17-20 in Flagstaff, Arizona at Northern Arizona University. He said that arrangements have been made to accommodate up to 50 families in a university dormitory facility. Dr. Lewis said that Diné would need to know as soon as possible if additional rooms are needed, especially since Flagstaff is a popular summer tourist destination. WHITCU is also planning to hold a meeting in conjunction with the summer retreat.

Dr. Shanley raised the issue of the purpose of the summer retreat. He questioned whether the retreats should be think-tank sessions where time is set aside for presidents to reflect upon and discuss important issues, or if the meeting should be another business meeting of the board. After further discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Tutt would head up a planning group, composed of the Executive Committee, to advise staff on the program for this year's summer retreat.

Fall Meeting.

Ms. Gonzales reported that Ms. Marcia Smith, AIHEC's Office Manager, is working with NIEA on hotel arrangements for October Board meeting to be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She noted that as requested by the Board last year, the fall board meeting is scheduled for October 26-28, 2000 in advance of NIEA meeting.

Future Meetings.

Ms. Gonzales noted that as AIHEC and its meetings continue to grow, it becomes increasingly important to select sites and determine schedules in advance in order to secure appropriate hotel facilities and allow staff adequate time to plan agendas. After some discussion, it was agreed that representatives from Minnesota and South Dakota would work out among themselves who would host the 2001 and 2002 annual conferences. They agreed to report back to the board during its summer retreat in Flagstaff.

VI. **Committee and task force reports.**

Land Grant Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairman Jack Briggs reported that the AIHEC/USDA leadership group has met and that they planned to meet with Assistant Secretary Miley Gonzalez on Tuesday, April 4, 2000 in Albuquerque. Mr. Briggs reported that AIHEC sent a letter to Dr. Gonzalez requesting that USDA appoint John Phillips as a liaison to the Tribal Colleges, and that Dr. Gonzalez had not responded. He noted that USDA 's liaison to the Hispanic serving institutions has been assigned to work with the Tribal Colleges' Leadership Group. However, this situation is not working, nor is it acceptable. It was agreed that the urgency of appointing a Tribal College liaison be conveyed to Dr. Gonzalez.

It was announced that a breakfast meeting with Dr. Mortimer Neufville, Executive Vice President of NASULGC, was scheduled for the following morning at La Posada. All presidents were urged to attend. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

It was noted that NASULGC is very supportive of the Tribal Colleges and is supporting full funding for the schools. AIHEC has become more engaged in NASULGC activities. Ms. Gonzales is serving on the budget committee. Dr. Monette is serving on the presidents' council. Dr. McDonald is serving on the Board of Agriculture council and Ms. Goetz is serving on the Government Affairs Council.

Government Relations Committee.

Results of board ballot on proposed move to the Department of Education

Dr. McNeil discussed the results of the recent board ballot regarding the proposed move to the Department of Education. Based on the results of the ballot, the only option that received a clear consensus among members was the one that required further study of the move.

Some board members expressed confusion regarding the questions on the ballot. After clarification, Mr. Briggs requested unanimous consent to reconsider the vote and to change Fond du Lac's vote. No objection was heard, and the chairman directed the record to reflect Fond du Lac's vote on item number 2 on the written ballot as yes. The final vote, therefore, on item number 2 was 14 to 12. However, there was considerable discussion as to whether AIHEC should proceed based on the results of this vote in light of the fact that there was not a stronger majority among members.

In addition, there was concern that the ballot was incorrectly constructed in that members were required to vote on three motions at once.

Ms. Gonzales noted that a paragraph was included in AIHEC's testimony indicating the organization's desire to entertain a discussion with Chairman Porter regarding a possible move.

Mr. Shortbull expressed his desire that AIHEC move as quickly as possible on this matter, especially in light of Chairman Porter's verbal comments to several members supporting the move and for providing full funding for the colleges. Mr. Shortbull stressed that the immediacy for action is based on Chairman Porter's pending retirement.

His comments generated further discussion. However, the sense of those present was that unless there is a consensus among those directly impacted, AIHEC should not move forward on this matter. It was noted that six schools, including Diné College were not present at the meeting.

Updates

Ms. Meg Goetz, Director of Congressional Relations, reported on the status of the Title III bill introduced by Rep. Mark Green in U.S. House of Representatives. She indicated that the bill may be discharged and go immediately to the full House. Likewise, Senator Akaka is introducing a similar bill. It is likely that this bill, too, will be discharged from committee and go immediately to the Senate floor.

She reported that the President's budget included a \$3 million increase, bringing Title III funding for the Tribal Colleges up to \$9 million.

Ms. Goetz also reported that the ESEA would be marked up either at end of April or the beginning of May.

Ms. Carrie Billy, Director of the White House Initiatives on Tribal Colleges and Universities, reported on the proposed regulations on teacher training and expressed strong concern on behalf of the Tribal Colleges. Through the assistance and support of AIHEC, a petition is being circulated that requests Secretary Riley to stipulate that Tribal Colleges and Universities be designated as lead entities under all grant proposals submitted from applicants in states with a Tribal College or University. All presidents and students attending the Conference are urged to sign the petition. April 6 is the deadline for comments on the regulation. Comments can be submitted electronically.

AIHEC is seeking funding for Tribal College facilities in several areas of the fiscal year 2001 budget. A number of Senators have signed letters to the chairmen and ranking members of various appropriations subcommittees supporting and requesting this funding. Dr. McNeil asked presidents to send thank you letters to the Senators that have signed onto the letters of support.

Status of MOUs

Interior – Ms. Gonzales reported that the Department of Interior plans to sign its MOU with AIHEC on Monday in Albuquerque. She noted the

need to appoint more members to the Department of Interior leadership group. The following individuals expressed an interest: Dr. Elgin, Dr. Traversie; Dr. Klassen and Dr. Bordeaux. Dr. Gipp will serve as co-chair along with Assistant Secretary Gover.

Labor – Ms. Gonzales noted that an MOU with the Department of Labor was finalized during the February conference, and that the MOU is going through the vetting process at the Department and should be signed soon.

VA –She noted that AIHEC’s changes to its MOU have been forwarded to VA.

SBA – Ms. Gonzales said that she has met with an SBA liaison, but a draft MOU has not yet been developed. She asked that if anyone had specific ideas on what to include to contact her. It was noted that SBA has MOUs with some tribal governments already.

Commerce – Ms. Gonzales noted that a draft MOU with the Department of Commerce had been prepared several months ago. However, due to personnel changes at the Department, there has been no progress. She reported that AIHEC is trying to resurrect the document.

NASA/USAID – Dr. Bordeaux questioned whether there had been any contact with NASA or USAID regarding an MOU. Ms. Gonzales said that the first priority has been to work with the larger departments and that there have been no discussions with NASA or USAID to date. However, AIHEC’s next step would be to begin to contact these and other agencies to develop MOUs or cooperative agreements.

Ms. Billy discussed the proposed Community Development Grant Program that is in the President’s FY 2001 budget. HUD has asked for a small group from the Tribal Colleges to work with HUD to develop regulations to implement the program once funded. The following individuals or colleges volunteered: Dr. Swisher of Haskell, Sinte Gleska University, IAIA, Dr. Klassen of White Earth and Sitting Bull College.

Ms. Billy then discussed a proposed \$10 million NSF program in the President’s FY 2001 budget. She said that she needed help from the college presidents to ensure that the program actually gets funded and then to develop regulations to implement the program. The following schools volunteered individuals: Turtle Mountain, Sitting Bull College, Sinte Gleska University, and Fond du Lac.

Ms. Billy noted that \$1 million was included in the President’s FY 2001 budget for law enforcement and legal training at the Tribal Colleges. Likewise, the Department of Justice is looking for input from the Tribal Colleges on what should be done with these funds. A meeting with representatives from the Department of Justice is scheduled for Monday in Albuquerque.

Ms. Billy reported that the Department of Interior is hosting a conference April 5-7 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The purpose of the conference is to bring together

people from minority serving institutions and minority businesses to discuss ways in which the various federal Departments can improve the development of minority businesses. Due to the fact that the Tribal Colleges received late notice of the meeting, the Department has agreed to pay the travel costs for individuals representing Tribal Colleges.

Resolution to move to the Department of Education

Dr. McNeil then turned the chair over to Mr. Tutt, Member At-Large of the Executive Committee, in order allow Dr. McNeil to introduce a resolution.

MOTION: Dr. McNeil moved that: the authority and funding for the Tribal Colleges be moved from the Department of Interior to the Department of Education; only Title I colleges be permitted to vote, and a two-thirds vote of those present and voting be required for the motion to pass.

SECONDED: Mr. Davis seconded the motion.

AMENDED: Mr. McNeil accepted an amendment that would support the move to the Department of Education; that all institutions be allowed to vote and that only a simple majority of those present and voting be needed to pass.

AMENDED: Dr. McNeil further amended the resolution as follows: to move immediately from the Department of Interior to the Department of Education; that all members be allowed to vote and the motion would only pass upon a two-thirds majority of those voting. Dr. Davis accepted this amendment.

OUTCOME: A recorded vote was requested and taken. The results are as follows: 12 yeas, 6 nays, 7 absent and 5 abstentions. The motion having received the required two-thirds passed. However, there was discussion as to whether there was adequate Title I and Diné representation at the meeting to make the vote binding. Dr. McNeil asked that action not be taken until those 7 schools that were absent could participate in the vote.

Mr. Delmar Free wanted a statement to be included in the record that the preceding vote flies in the face of the previous written vote. (NOTE: Earlier unanimous consent request by Fond du Lac to change its vote from yea to nay on item number two on the written ballot resulted in passage of item number 2 on the written ballot, 14 to 12.)

Research Task Force. Dr. Karen Swisher reported that the task force met for the first time and is reviewing materials that were distributed at the meeting and considering policy issues. They will communicate via e-mail and plan to present something to the Board this summer.

Information Technology Committee. Mr. Davis, chairman of the committee, reported that committee is working on four major projects and that everything was moving forward in the technology area. He announced that with respect to the virtual library, colleges should contact Ms. Liz Staples at BMCC in order to install the template that, in turn, will make the whole system work.

He discussed the concept of and plans for a “funders” conference, which would bring together major players from the Executive branch, private industry and private foundations in order raise money for technology programs at all Tribal Colleges.

As part of the EDUCAUSE project, he reported that a technology help desk for technicians only was being constructed.

He also reported on the NCSA demonstration at the University of New Mexico on high performance computing. Five institutions in the Southwest currently are moving forward with high computing.

Mr. Davis asked for the Board’s help in resolving matters relating to A*CF’s technology fund raising efforts. A*CF Executive Director Rick Williams explained that A*CF is having some difficulty in raising funds for technology because some donors will not give money to the schools if A*CF does not administer the programs. Dr. Shanley reviewed the existing AIHEC/A*CF policy agreement that provides a procedure for A*CF to follow in order to seek resources for programmatic areas. He said that it was clear that A*CF could assist in raising money for the “funders” conference. However, he explained that based on the agreement, A*CF in general does not run programs for the colleges. That is AIHEC’s responsibility. Dr. Shanley said that if, at some point in the future, there is a consensus that A*CF should be involved in the administration of a specific program, then the specific matter would be discussed at that time. A*CF is not precluded from discussing programs with potential donors. However, pursuant to the agreement, in order to move forward, they must first return to AIHEC for discussion and approval. He expressed concern over giving A*CF authority to go beyond the “funders” conference at this time.

Task Force on the Establishment of Western AIHEC Office.

MOTION: Dr. Bordeaux moved to establish a western office in Denver, Colorado and keep legislative operations in Washington.

SECONDED: Dr. T.L. Traversie seconded the motion.

OUTCOME: A Roll Call vote was requested and taken. The results were as follows: 5 yeas; 4 nays; 15 abstentions and 6 not present. There were differences of opinion as to the meaning of the vote and the matter was left unresolved.

VII. **A*CF Update.**

Rick Williams, Executive Director of A*CF, asked the board if A*CF should plan for another Washington gala and if so, when. He said that he felt it was important to have something in Washington, in part to enhance AIHEC’s presence and as a continuation of Senator Conrad’s commitment to the Tribal Colleges. He requested that AIHEC present its recommendation to him by the end of the week.

He noted that A*CF was in the final stages of determining teacher training program with Kellogg. However, they were waiting to see the proposed regulations on teacher training.

He noted that A*CF was working on a letter to HUD, which seeks to identify end-of-the-year resources for the Tribal Colleges and that Ms. Gonzales would be asked to review the letter. There was some question as to why A*CF was approaching HUD. The idea came from discussions at AIHEC's February Board meeting in Washington, DC.

He expressed his thanks to AIHEC for working to secure \$30 million in federal funds for facilities.

He noted that with respect to the capital campaign, the Packard Foundation wants to entertain a \$10 million proposal and the Bush Foundation has indicated its willingness to contribute \$9 million. A formal proposal to the Bush Foundation will go forward in November.

He also said that A*CF was trying to schedule a meeting with Gates Foundation regarding a \$45 million proposal. A*CF would then match the other \$45 million and complete its \$120 million campaign.

He invited board members to a breakfast being sponsored by the Institute of International Education at the Doubletree Hotel on Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m. And reminded everyone to attend Coca Cola's scholars' awards ceremony at the Hyatt Hotel and the student of the year dinner.

VIII. **Commendation of Dr. Carolyn Elgin and SIPI.**

MOTION: Dr. Bordeaux moved that Dr. Carolyn Elgin and the students, staff and faculty at SIPI be commended for their excellent support and hospitality they gave the Presidents' Advisory Board for their meeting with the leaders of all the national Indian education/advocacy organizations.

SECONDED: Dr. McNeil seconded the motion.

AMENDED: Dr. McNeil accepted an amendment to include a commendation to Dr. Elgin for her help with the AIHEC Spring Conference and the AIHEC Board meeting.

OUTCOME: The motion was agreed to unanimously by voice vote.

IX. **Member Attendance at Board Meetings.**

Dr. Bordeaux expressed concern that not enough members are present at board meetings. He also was concerned that members are not reading materials sent to them before meetings and are generally not prepared.

X. **Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College.**

Ms. Debra Parrish, President of Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, expressed her school's desire to vote at board meetings and receive funding from the A*CF. She noted that the change in policy regarding funding from A*CF was made the day before they were admitted to AIHEC membership. She said that because of these two factors, it is difficult to justify to her tribal council why they are paying \$9,000 in annual dues to AIHEC.

Dr. Shanley suggested that this matter be referred to the Membership Committee.

XI. Other Business

Following a discussion initiated by Mr. Dave Farley, Acting President of Nebraska Indian Community College requesting a clarification of the outcome of the votes taken earlier in the meeting regarding an AIHEC western office and the move to the Department of Education, two resolutions were introduced.

Reconsideration of the Proposal to Move the AIHEC office

MOTION: Dr. Morgan Otis moved that the proposal to move the AIHEC office out west be returned to the task force for further study.

SECONDED: Mr. Davis seconded the motion.

OUTCOME: The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Reconsideration of Potential Move to the Department of the Interior

MOTION: Dr. Otis moved that a task force be re-created to bring forth a recommendation regarding the potential move from the Department of Interior to the Department of Education.

SECONDED: Mr. Delmar Free seconded the motion.

OUTCOME: The motion was agreed to unanimously by voice vote.

Dr. Gipp asked for volunteers to serve on the Task Force. The following individuals agreed to serve: Dr. Elgin, Dr. Otis, Mr. Free, Dr. Littlebear, Mr. Shortbull, Dr. Bordeaux, Dr. Bob Lorence, Dr. Briggs, and Dr. Elden Lawrence. A representative from Diné College also would be asked to serve on the task force. A meeting was scheduled for April 2 at 11:00 a.m.

XII. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECONDED: Dr. Otis seconded the motion.

OUTCOME: The motion was agreed to and the Board meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Minutes taken by Jean Foster, consultant.

Executed and acknowledged by the undersigned, being the Secretary of the Corporation, on the ____ day of _____, 2000.

Ron McNeil, Secretary
American Indian Higher Education Consortium