

**2000 Summer Board of Directors Meeting**  
Havasupai Rooms A, B, and C  
Student Union Building, Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, Arizona

**MINUTES**

July 31 and August 1, 2000

- I. **Call to Order.** President David Gipp called the 2000 Summer Board of Directors meeting to order.
- II. **Opening Prayer.** Mr. James Tutt, President of Crownpoint Institute of Technology gave the opening prayer.
- III. **Roll Call.** Executive Director Veronica Gonzales called the roll.

**Members Present**

Bay Mills Community College  
Blackfeet Community College  
College of Menominee Nation  
Crownpoint Institute of Technology  
D-Q University  
Diné College  
Dull Knife Memorial College  
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College  
Fort Berthold Community College  
Fort Peck Community College  
Haskell Indian Nations University  
Institute of American Indian Arts  
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College  
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College  
Nebraska Indian Community College  
Northwest Indian College  
Oglala Lakota College  
Salish Kootenai College  
Sinte Gleska University  
Si Tanka College  
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute  
Stone Child College  
Turtle Mountain Community College  
United Tribes Technical College  
White Earth Tribal and Community College

**Members Absent**

Cankdeska Cikana Community College  
Fort Belknap College  
Leech Lake Tribal College  
Little Big Horn College  
Little Priest Tribal College  
Red Crow Community College  
Sisseton Wahpeton Community College  
Sitting Bull College

**A QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED.**

IV. **Executive Director Search.** Based on discussions of the Executive Committee/Search Committee, which were held earlier during the retreat regarding the status of the Executive Director search, Dr. Joe McDonald offered the following board action:

**MOTION:** Dr. McDonald moved that the AIHEC Executive Committee proceed as quickly as possible to interview candidates, check references, and offer a contract to the person selected for Executive Director and that the interviews be open to all Tribal College presidents for their observation and participation.

**SECOND:** Dr. Morgan Otis seconded the motion.

**OUTCOME:** The motion was agreed to by voice vote with Diné College abstaining.

V. **Financial Report.** A presentation of the financial report was made earlier during the retreat by Ms. Valerie Walker, Business and Finance Manager, and Mr. Paul Eve, Consultant. Based on this report the following was offered by Mr. Jack Briggs.

**MOTION:** Mr. Briggs moved to accept the financial report as presented.

**SECOND:** Dr. James Shanley seconded the motion.

**OUTCOME:** The motion was agreed to by voice vote. Diné College and Oglala Lakota College abstained.

VI. **Field Services Office.** A presentation was made earlier in the retreat by Dr. Perry Horse, Consultant, that discussed several options for the creation of a possible field services office of AIHEC. Taking that presentation into consideration, Dr. Shanley commented that the creation of this office would need to be sequential and based on obtaining new funding. Mr. Sky Houser then offered the following board action:

**MOTION:** Mr. Houser moved to authorize the sequential planning and establishment of an AIHEC-TCU field services office in Denver, Colorado under the direct authority of the AIHEC Executive Director.

**SECOND:** Dr. Lionel Bordeaux seconded the motion.

**OUTCOME:** The motion was agreed to by voice vote, with two members voting against the motion and four members abstaining.

VII. **Executive Orders.** Based on discussions held earlier during the retreat regarding the two existing Executive Orders relating to Indian education in general and to the Tribal Colleges, Dr. Verna Fowler offered the following board action:

**MOTION:** Dr. Fowler moved that two distinct Executive Orders – one for Indian education and one for Tribal Colleges and Universities -- be maintained.

**SECOND:** Ms. Lydia Sutherland seconded the motion.

**OUTCOME:** The motion passed by voice vote with 4 abstentions.

The meeting recessed until 8:30 a.m. on August 1.

VIII. **Special Issues Group Discussion Reports.** Earlier during the retreat, reports were presented summarizing the outcomes and recommendations of the special issues discussion groups on board development and training, consensus building, leadership, new presidents orientation, political threats to TCUs, public relations, and alliance with education groups.

**MOTION:** Dr. Bordeaux moved to accept the outcomes and recommendations of the group discussions and incorporate them into AIHEC's strategic plan.

**SECOND:** Ms. Haskell seconded the motion.

**OUTCOME:** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IX. **Recognition of Delegate from Diné College.**

**MOTION:** Dr. Bordeaux moved to recognize the delegate from Diné College and to allow them to vote at the meeting, subject to receipt of a written letter that confirms their authority.

**SECONDED:** Mr. Tutt seconded the motion.

**OUTCOME:** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

X. **Secretary's Report.** In the absence of Secretary Ron McNeil, President Gipp presented the minutes of the 2000 Spring Board meeting that was held on April 1, 2000 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Several corrections were noted.

**MOTION:** Dr. McDonald moved that the minutes of the April 1, 2000 board meeting be accepted upon the condition that the minutes are corrected to reflect that: (1) Dr. Littlebear was present; (2) the noted technical corrections are made, and (3) that as much as possible to include names of all those that were present including all Tribal College representatives, guests and staff.

**SECONDED:** Dr. Briggs seconded the motion.

**OUTCOME:** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

XI. **Research.** Dr. Gipp introduced Dr. Jeff Hamley, AIHEC's new Director of Policy Analysis and Research. Dr. Hamley spoke briefly about his professional background and said that he looked forward to working at AIHEC with the member institutions.

Dr. Gipp then introduced Cheryl Crazy Bull and Sherry Red Owl, evaluators for the Research and Database Initiative, which was started approximately three years ago and funded by grants from the Administration for Native Americans and the Pew Charitable Trusts. Ms. Red Owl reviewed the three main goals of the Initiative, which are: (1) to develop a uniform student unit data collection process; (2) to develop the capacity of Tribal Colleges to design and conduct research, and (3) to develop a common set of performance indicators for Tribal Colleges.

Ms. Crazy Bull said that they were in process of preparing a final evaluation of the three-year project. She reported that there had been a great deal of difficulty in collecting data from the Tribal Colleges even though changes had been made to reduce the amount of data requested and to address confidentiality issues. In turn, the lack of data has made it difficult for AIHEC and A\*CF to provide an accurate picture of the colleges to appropriate constituencies.

On the positive side, she noted the three excellent reports that were products of the initiative, including *Tribal Colleges: An Introduction*; *Tribal College Contributions to Local Economic Development*, and *Creating Role Models for Change: A Survey of Tribal College Graduates*.

Because not enough progress had been made with respect to the third goal relating to the development of performance indicators, Ms. Crazy Bull asked each member to comment on the indicators that had been drafted.

After this discussion, Dr. Gipp then introduced Dr. Karen Swisher, Chair of the Research Task Force. She reported that the Task Force had been charged with developing a policy statement, guiding principles and/or framework for conducting research on Indian education.

She reported that the group had met on the previous day and had drafted guiding principles, which she then read and are as follows:

AIHEC values research and, therefore, believes that it is important to:

- (1) Encourage, facilitate and regulate research;
- (2) Affirms tribal ways of knowing and methods of investigation;
- (3) Encourage research that has the potential to benefit communities, and
- (4) Respect and protect principles on what it means to be indigenous.

She also said that the Task Force was struggling with several questions including:

- (1) What's the purpose of a policy?
- (2) Who would use it?
- (3) What are the procedures and how do you enforce them?

Dr. Swisher noted that the biggest problem facing Tribal Colleges and their efforts to conduct research relates to the lack of institutional capacity. Specifically, Tribal Colleges do not have institutional research officers, such as can be found at mainstream institutions.

Dr. Gipp concluded by saying that Dr. Swisher and the Task Force will continue to collect thoughts and ideas regarding the development of a research policy and continue making progress reports at future board meetings.

## **XII. Spring Conference 2000 Report.**

Dr. Elgin and Mr. Tutt presented a brief report on the Spring 2000 Conference that was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A final written report will be mailed to all AIHEC Presidents. They noted that overall, the Conference was extremely successful with 977 people in attendance.

Specifically, the Conference Committee report will include recommendations to simplify and standardize procedures for future conferences and conference planning committees. Dr. Elgin briefly highlighted the following:

- Rules and regulations for student competitions need to be standardized.
- A standardized blueprint for the planning and execution of the Spring Conference needs to be developed.
- AIHEC central office needs to take active role in the planning and execution of the Conference.
- AIHEC should shorten the length of the Conference to 4 days.
- An official standard procedure to resolve student disputes during the competitions should be developed.
- There should be only one opening session and it should not conflict with any other Conference activity.
- Activities should not last later than midnight.
- Extra copies of the program should be available at the program site.
- In addition, as the conference continues to grow, it may need services of professional conference planner.

With respect to the site of the 2001 Spring Conference, the decision of where to hold the Conference will be resolved at the 2000 Fall Board Meeting.

The Board commended to 2000 Spring Conference Committee for their hard work and a successful conference.

### XIII. **Technology Report.**

#### Virtual Library

Mr. Tom Davis and Ms. Martha McLeod reported on the status of the virtual library for Tribal Colleges, which is being built by the University of Michigan and funded by a \$400,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation. Twenty-six schools have signed up to participate in the project to date.

There are five main components to the project.

The first component, currently underway, is installing interfaces with the library at every Tribal College interested in having the installation. The interfaces provide access right now to thousands of sources that identify books and articles in “down-loadable” format. Mr. Davis suggested that in order to see how the interface works, log on to [www.bmcc.org](http://www.bmcc.org). In addition, colleges should contact Ms. Liz Staples at BMCC for further information about installing the template.

Training is the second component. Regional training programs will be held so that librarians and those responsible for web resources at the colleges know how to manage the links and how to keep the pages in good operating condition.

Building a comprehensive database is the largest part of the project and is the third component. The programmers at the University of Michigan that created the first virtual library are developing the database. An important element is that database will be open source and will allow Tribal Colleges to customize databases for their respective campuses, depending upon the technical capability of each school. Also as part of this component is the development of a reference desk designed to help students and faculty with research.

The fourth component involves arranging or negotiating joint agreements with vendors on the behalf of Tribal Colleges, who so choose, for their services at special rates.

The last phase or component is to raise additional funds to complete the project.

### EDUCAUSE

Mr. Davis announced that with respect to the EDUCAUSE (wireless) project, questions should be directed to Jack Bardon at Sitting Bull College or Steve Dupuis at Salish Kootenai College.

Mr. Davis also announced that negotiations with EDUCAUSE have resulted in one-year free memberships for all Tribal Colleges. Invitation letters will be sent to all Presidents in the near future.

### Other Matters

Mr. Davis reported that he had presented testimony to the President's Information Technology Advisory Council.

Mr. Davis reported that it appears that \$10 million for Tribal Colleges will be included in the NSF budget.

XIV. **International Outreach.** Mr. Davis discussed the goals of the strategic planning meeting that will be held in New Zealand this fall between the Maori presidents, selected TCU presidents, and Native Alaskan leadership. The four goals are:

1. To begin the development of a World Indigenous People's Post-Secondary Education Association.
2. To allow Tribal College Presidents to explore linkages between curriculum, Maori culture, and Maori language.
3. To acquaint Tribal College Presidents with the Maori method of education.
4. To explore high technology and economic development linkages between Tribal and Maori controlled colleges and universities.

A number of presidents indicated that they would be interested in participating in the meeting. However, no decision was made as to who would attend.

- XV. **Executive Director's Report.** Ms. Gonzales said that she is committed to strengthening AIHEC before a new Executive Director is hired. Part of that effort involves completing work on the strategic plan and setting the framework for implementation of the plan. She said that she is also focused on strengthening the management capabilities and infrastructure to be able to handle the strategic growth of the organization and to meet growing day-to-day demands. New staff has been and is being hired to fill all staff vacancies.

Through the hard work and effort of Carrie Billy, Lynn Cutler, and Mary Smith at the White House, the Tribal Colleges were the recipients of several increases and new initiatives in the President's FY 01 budget proposal. Ms. Gonzales reported that the Tribal Colleges could potentially gain more than \$20 million in program funding as a result of these proposed increases. However, in order to pursue these additional funding requests, AIHEC staff has had to expand their scope of work and contacts to include additional appropriations subcommittees.

Last October, high priority was placed on A\*CF facilities campaign and AIHEC heightened its efforts to seek public funding matches for facilities. At this time, the potential to achieve an additional \$18 million appears likely. Approximately \$10 million of that amount would be an annual allocation.

Ms. Gonzales expressed appreciation to everyone that helped with the increases in program and facilities funding, including Sara Garland and Bob Foster, AIHEC consultants, and Meg Goetz, AIHEC's Director of Congressional Relations. She also expressed her appreciation to Tim Reiser with Senator Leahy's office, who worked hard on AIHEC's behalf throughout the appropriations process.

Ms. Gonzales reported that as the NAHEI Initiative is closing out, AIHEC is continuing to build on its work with the Kellogg Foundation in order to sustain the effort in some way and to continue AIHEC's partnership with the Foundation. She reported that the Kellogg Foundation had invited AIHEC to submit a strategic plan with 10 priorities to guide work over the next 2 to 3 years relating to the changes taking place in Indian higher education. She distributed a set of draft priorities and asked members for their guidance in ranking these draft priorities. The plan containing these priorities will be submitted to Kellogg late summer or fall.

Ms. Gonzales reported that AIHEC is continuing to work with the Alliance established through funding from the Kellogg Foundation.

In addition, AIHEC is continuing to work with A\*CF to create a true partnership between the two organizations to ultimately help the Tribal Colleges.

- XVI. **Priorities for next year.**

Dr. Gipp said that given the dynamics of the current political environment, AIHEC needed to continue to pursue its agenda and issues with both political parties.

He also said that AIHEC's Executive Committee will work A\*CF's and their strategic planning process. A joint planning session between groups will be held this fall.

Dr. Gipp commended Ms. Gonzales and the entire staff for their outstanding efforts on behalf of the Tribal Colleges

Dr. Gipp announced that on September 7, 2000 that a meeting will be held in Bismarck, North Dakota between the Department of Labor and the TCU Presidents. On September 25, 2000, the MOU with the Department of Labor will be signed in Washington, DC. He said that every effort was being made to get all of the federal departments and agencies to sign similar agreements prior to the end of the current Administration.

XVII. **National Tribal University.** Dr. Bordeaux introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the American Indian Tribal Colleges and Universities which comprise the American Indian Higher Education Consortium are a confederated tribal university; and

WHEREAS the federal government has not fulfilled its contractual treaty responsibility to Indian people in a number of areas, including higher education; and

WHEREAS a continued need exists for a national tribal university to assert tribal sovereignty, cultures, spirituality and to promote tribal research to address these issues, other developing needs, and un-addressed areas of tribal development; and

WHEREAS there is a growing need for more tribal professionals in key areas including law, medicine, engineering, and education that can be addressed by establishing or designating a national tribal university that will strengthen and interact with AIHEC; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the American Indian Higher Education Consortium supports the concept of establishing or designating a national tribal university.

**MOTION:** Dr. Bordeaux moved to adopt the resolution.

**SECOND:** Mr. Houser seconded the motion.

**OUTCOME:** After considerable discussion, Dr. Bordeaux withdrew the motion and Mr. Houser also agreed to the withdrawal. The consensus was that the committee report that was adopted on the previous day provides for the creation of a task force to give serious study to the matter. A timeline should be established.

XVIII. **Adjournment.**

Dr. Lionel Bordeaux gave the closing prayer.

**MOTION:** Dr. McLeod moved to adjourn the 2000 Summer Board meeting.

**SECOND:** Mr. Phil Baird seconded the motion.

**OUTCOME:** The motion was agreed to unanimously by voice vote at 1:05 p.m.



Minutes prepared by Jean B. Foster, AIHEC organizational consultant.

Executed and acknowledged by the undersigned, being the Secretary of the Corporation, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

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Ron McNeil, Secretary  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium

