

**2001 Summer Board of Directors Meeting\***  
**Bay Mills Resort and Casino**  
**Brimley, Michigan**  
**July 23, 2001**

***\*Although a quorum was not present to conduct an official business meeting of the board of directors, informal discussions were held and the following reflects notes of the discussions.***

**Meeting Notes**

- I. Call to Order.** Dr. Verna Fowler, AIHEC Vice President and President of College of the Menominee Nation, attempted to call the Summer 2001 Board of Directors meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- II. Invocation.** Dr. Tommy Lewis, President of Northwest Indian College, gave the opening prayer in his native Navajo language.
- III. Roll Call.** Dr. Gerald Gipp, AIHEC Executive Director, called the roll.

Members Present

Bay Mills Community College	Dr. Martha McLeod
College of the Menominee Nation	Dr. Verna Fowler
Diné College	Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet
Dull Knife Memorial College	Dr. Richard Littlebear
Fond du Lac Community College	Lester "Jack" Briggs
Haskell Indian Nations University	Dr. Karen Swisher
Institute of American Indian Arts	Ramus Suina, by proxy
Leech Lake Tribal College	Jamie Robertson
Northwest Indian College	Dr. Tommy Lewis
Oglala Lakota College	Thomas Shortbull
Salish Kootenai College	Dr. Joseph McDonald
Si Tanka/Huron University	Keith Jewett, by proxy
Sitting Bull College	Ron McNeil
White Earth Tribal and Community College **	Dr. Helen Klassen

Members Absent

Blackfeet Community College  
Cankdeska Cikana Community College  
Crownpoint Institute of Technology  
D-Q University  
Fort Belknap College  
Fort Berthold Community College  
Fort Peck Community College  
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College\*\*  
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College  
Little Big Horn College  
Little Priest Tribal College  
Red Crow Community College\*\*

Sinte Gleska University  
Sisseton Wahpeton Community College  
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute  
Stone Child College  
Turtle Mountain Community College  
United Tribes Technical College

**A QUORUM WAS NOT ESTABLISHED.**

\*\* denotes Affiliate Member with non-voting privileges

Dr. Martha McLeod made a point of order that a quorum was not present. Acting AIHEC President Verna Fowler announced that a quorum was not present; therefore, a business meeting was not in order. The session proceeded for purposes of discussion only.

**IV. Discussion.** Mr. Thomas Shortbull asked that staff reports be given, including the issue of a National Native American University.

**V. AIHEC Central Office Activities.** Dr. Gerald Gipp proceeded to discuss the Status Report of AIHEC Central Office activities, which was included in the board book.

- He highlighted the fact that core funding for Crownpoint Institute of Technology and United Tribes Technical College was in jeopardy due to a regulation misreading within the Department of Education. Congress has clarified its original intent in language included in the FY01 Department of Defense Supplemental Appropriations Act that was signed into law on July 23, 2001.
- He announced that Ms. Carrie Billy, former Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities, has joined the AIHEC as its technology director as of August 23, 2001. Ms. Billy will be working closely with EDUCAUSE and NSF and other interested public and private sector partners on technology initiatives. He also introduced new staff member Ms. Diane Cullo as the Director of Development, Communications and Program Initiatives.
- Tribal College Act core funding - The House bill included a \$1 million increase and the Senate version, through the efforts of Senator Dorgan, included a \$3 million increase. The final FY02 appropriations will be determined by a House-Senate conference committee.

**VI. Spring Conference.** Mr. Shortbull announced that the AIHEC Spring 2002 Conference dates have been set for March 24-27, 2002 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Mr. Jack Briggs presented a notebook that contained organizing materials and a report from the AIHEC Spring 2001 Conference that was held in Duluth, Minnesota. The notebook will be maintained at AIHEC Central Office and loaned out annually to the organizing committee for the next spring conference.

**VII. BIA Staff.** Dr. Martha McLeod expressed concern about the ineffectiveness of Garry Martin at the BIA. BMCC had to file the same report three separate times because it kept getting lost. Other schools expressed similar concerns. Dr. Gipp said that AIHEC would pursue getting a contract from BIA to assist the TCUs in completing their reports,

compiling the data, and providing a complete package to the BIA. Initial contact has been made with Mr. William Mehojah, Director of the BIA's Office of Indian Education Programs, regarding this matter. It was also mentioned that Mr. Mehojah was invited to the summer meeting but did not respond to the invitation.

Dr. Jeff Hamley, AIHEC Director of Research, made a presentation on the response that AIHEC submitted to the BIA congressional office and to the appropriations committees. He stated that AIHEC made a request to work with the BIA to design their data collection instrument and then also be responsible for the collection of these reports.

**VIII. BIA Report.** Dr. Joe McDonald, stated that AIHEC members should discuss how to report institutional income. A question was raised regarding the rules or regulations on reporting certain types of income. He requested AIHEC staff to research this matter.

Mr. Shortbull also questioned the submission deadline and the period for which information is to be reported. Oglala Lakota College submits their report only after the completion of their audit. He requested that staff look into what actually needs to be reported and when.

**IX. National American Indian University.** Mr. Shortbull brought up the issue of the National Indian University. He is concerned that this issue is moving too fast and asked for a suspension of any AIHEC activities in pursuit of a National American Indian University until this issue can be further discussed and voted on at the fall Board meeting in Billings, Montana.

Several viewpoints on this issue were discussed by members of the board. A summary of these comments were as follows:

- Off-reservation and urban Indians are not currently served by TCUs but still need and want an education. Many young people are searching for their identity and cannot find what they're looking for at mainstream schools. The current distance learning capacity of the Tribal Colleges is not enough to provide those services and meet those needs.
- Educational programs in law and medicine are urgently needed so that tribal people are better served by those professionals. It may take a decade or so for TCUs to be able to offer such programs.
- The recent shift in power in the Senate is an opportunity to move on this idea so that it becomes a reality. Senator Inouye has been a great friend and has had a vision to start an American Indian museum and that has happened. This is a way to thank Senator Inouye for his great support on Indian affairs over the years.
- Tribal colleges have a chance to develop a system of educational delivery that has not been done before and it will remain voluntary for those schools that do not want to participate.
- Oglala Lakota College's Board of Regents has passed a resolution opposed to the idea of a national university until the TCUs are fully funded.
- Tribal College students should have the opportunity to take the programs at this "future" National Indian University and also at the other TCUs in a virtual way. The more the tribal colleges can collaborate with each other, the better off we will be rather than staying isolated. The most important thing should be the collaborations.
- AIHEC members should discuss this topic over next few months via an electronic bulletin board to continue this dialogue.

- There are almost 600 tribes and only 32 colleges in the U.S. If the tribal college movement is based on caring and compassion, then others should not be left out now that we have what we want. The timing is really upon us.

**X. Roll Call.** Keith Jewett asked that a second roll call vote be taken to establish a quorum to conduct business. Dr. Gipp called the roll.

Members Present

Bay Mills Community College	Dr. Martha McLeod
Blackfeet Community College	Gene Grant
College of Menominee Nation	Dr. Verna Fowler
Diné College	Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet
Dull Knife Memorial College	Dr. Richard Littlebear
Fond du Lac Community College	Lester "Jack" Briggs
Fort Peck Community College	by proxy
Haskell Indian Nations University	Dr. Karen Swisher
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Northwest Indian College	Dr. Tommy Lewis
Oglala Lakota College	Thomas Shortbull
Salish Kootenai College	Dr. Joseph McDonald
Sinte Gleska University	Dr. Lionel Bordeaux
Si Tanka/Huron University	Keith Jewett, by proxy
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A point of order was made that the proxy for Fort Peck Community College was not allowable because the designated person was not present in the room at the time of the roll call. Dr. Fowler acknowledged the point of order and stated that a quorum was not present.

- XI. Other Discussion.** Dr. Bordeaux stated that “Robert’s Rules of Order” were not meant for Indian organizations so AIHEC should consider a new way of doing business.
- XII. Adjournment.** Dr. Fowler adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m. due to the absence of a quorum.

Meeting notes taken by AIHEC staff, Mia Strickland.