

**2008 AIHEC SUMMER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND PRESIDENTS RETREAT  
SALISH KOOTENAI COLLEGE  
PABLO, MT**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008**

**I. Call to Order.**

AIHEC Board Chair, Cheryl Crazy Bull, called the 2008 Summer Board of Directors meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. (MT). She stated that upon the request of some presidents, the Board was polled earlier and it was agreed that the Board meeting date be changed from Wednesday, July 23 to Monday, July 21, 2008.

**II. Opening Prayer.** A prayer was offered by Alec Quesquesah of Salish Kootenai College.

**III. Roll Call.**

Carrie Billy, AIHEC President & CEO, called the roll.

**Regular Members Present**

**Represented by**

Bay Mills Community College	Michael Parish
Blackfeet Community College	John Salois
Cankdeska Cikana Community College	Cynthia Lindquist Mala
Fond du Lac Tribal College	Patty Petite
Fort Belknap College	Carole Falcon Chandler
Ilisagvik College	Beverly Grinage
Little Big Horn College	David Yarlott
Navajo Technical College	<i>Joseph McDonald*</i>
Northwest Indian College	Cheryl Crazy Bull
Oglala Lakota College	Thomas Shortbull
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College	Karen Radell
Salish Kootenai College	Joseph McDonald
Sisseton Wahpeton College	Diana Canku
Sitting Bull College	Laurel Vermillion
Stone Child College	Melody Henry
Tohono O'odham Community College	Olivia Vanegas-Funcheon
Turtle Mountain Community College	James Davis

**Regular Members Absent**

Chief Dull Knife College  
College of Menominee Nation  
Diné College  
Fort Berthold Community College  
Fort Peck Community College  
Haskell Indian Nations University

---

\* Institute present by proxy

Institute of American Indian Arts  
Lac Courte Oreilles Community College  
Leech Lake Tribal College  
Little Priest Tribal College  
Nebraska Indian Community College  
Sinte Gleska University  
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute  
United Tribes Technical College  
White Earth Tribal and Community College

**Seventeen regular members voted present; and a quorum was established.**

**Official Representatives to Regular Members**

Chief Dull Knife College	William Wertman
Diné College	Andrethia Bia
Little Priest Tribal College	Betty Red Leaf-Collett
Navajo Technical College	Jason Arviso

**Associate Members Absent**

College of the Muskogee Nation  
Comanche Nation College  
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College  
Wind River Tribal College

**International Member Absent**

Red Crow Community College

**IV. Introductions.**

All persons present introduced themselves.

**V. Approval of 2008 Spring Board of Directors meeting minutes.**

Second Vice Chair Cynthia Lindquist Mala presented the minutes of the 2008 Spring Board of Directors meeting, for consideration and approval. She noted several items contained in the minutes, including deferring the approval of the preliminary Fiscal Year 2009 AIHEC operating budget due to the transition of the new Executive Director and Director of Finance and Administration. She noted that AIHEC's exploration of incorporating through a tribal entity/government and the status of Fond du Lac Tribal College's progress on becoming a separately accredited tribal college will be reported at the 2008 Fall Board of Directors meeting.

**MOTION:** President Parish [second by President Yarlott] moved to approve the minutes of the 2008 Spring Board of Directors meeting, as presented.

**OUTCOME:** The minutes were approved by voice vote.

**VI. Report of the Chair.**

AIHEC Board Chair Crazy Bull noted that the AIHEC Executive Director's title has been changed to President and CEO, a title that is more in line with other non-profit organizations. She stated that the AIHEC Officers are the Chair of the Board, the Vice Chair of the Board, the Second Vice Chair of the Board, the Treasurer of the Board, and the Member at Large.

Chair Crazy Bull clarified the proxy process for designating a non-voting representative to attend an AIHEC Board meeting when the president (the Director) is unable to attend. Under Colorado law, and consistent with AIHEC's bylaws, a proxy can only be given to another Board member. She further clarified that a proxy given to a non-Board member cannot be used to establish a quorum. A president may name an official representative so that his or her institution can be counted toward the requirement that a member institution cannot miss three consecutive meetings. While the official representative of any regular member can participate in the discussions, they cannot vote.

Chair Crazy Bull reviewed the meeting agenda, the schedule of events, and information on the upcoming 2008 and 2009 meetings that were included in the Board book. She stated that RSVP forms for the September 3 and 4, 2008 Executive Awareness Workshop to be conducted in Bismarck, ND are available as handouts and she requested that all Directors complete and return the forms, so the AIHEC staff can proceed with planning this event. Chair Crazy Bull stated that the legislative update contained in the Board book is the most current information available; therefore, a verbal legislative report will not be given at this meeting. She requested that the AIHEC Student Conference report be postponed until the 2008 Fall Board of Directors meeting.

**VII. Treasurer's Report.**

Chair Crazy Bull provided the Treasurer's Report on behalf of President Shanley. She stated that the Finance and Audit Committee postponed its meeting due to the transition to a new AIHEC Director of Finance and Administration. The Finance and Audit Committee and Executive Committee will conduct a conference call in the next month to review and recommend approval of the preliminary FY 2009 AIHEC Operating Budget to the Board. The preliminary budget can be approved by the Board via a conference call or another method such as email. Chair Crazy Bull noted that the preliminary budget recommends an increase in annual membership dues from \$18,000 to \$20,000, and/or an annual percentage increase, due to annual increased costs of operating. A brief discussion occurred regarding increasing dues on an annual percentage basis. Chair Crazy Bull stated that a cost analysis will be prepared for the Board to consider and this topic will be discussed in greater detail at the 2008 Fall Board of Directors meeting.

**VIII. AIHEC Report.**

Carrie Billy introduced the new members of the AIHEC staff: Tina Cooper, Director of Finance and Administration and Mary Presswood, Executive Assistant. She noted that Katherine Page, Research and Policy Associate, will join the AIHEC staff on July 28, 2008 to handle AIHEC AIMS and other research related issues.

Ms. Billy presented the AIHEC Transition Plan Update which included a more focused and effective transition goal, new initiatives and strategies for achieving the Plan goals. The strategic plan goals include TCU sustainability, performance accountability, strengthening communities and student engagement. AIHEC is developing several strategies for working with the new Administration and Congress, increasing state support for the TCUs by working with national organizations and using the media to a greater extent to raise awareness of higher education issues and the educational success of tribal colleges and Native American studies programs. Other initiatives include increasing the profile of WINHEC's accreditation process, reestablishing an Adult Basic Education and Literacy Program specifically for tribal colleges, and working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") and United Tribes Technical College ("UTTC") to establish a law enforcement training program at TCUs that are sanctioned by the BIA. In addition, AIHEC plans to bring most of AIHEC AIMS in-house by mid-2009.

Ms. Billy reviewed AIHEC's organization structure, noting that there has been limited growth in AIHEC's core staff and the organization continues to rely on outside contractors for project support. She stated that AIHEC is utilizing a multi-pronged and proactive outreach effort with existing and new national partners to achieve the strategic plan goals. Ms. Billy stated that AIHEC needs support from the Board and experts in targets areas from the various TCU institutions to achieve the strategic plan goals. President Lindquist Mala stated that AIHEC recently circulated a questionnaire to the Board members asking for a list of boards/committees, both regional and national on which each TCU president sits. Ms. Billy stated that AIHEC is trying to determine the key interests of the Board and where AIHEC might leverage board members' involvement in other organizational and advisory boards, so we can take advantage of those relationships and activities to help our collective mission. She stated that AIHEC plans to restructure the Board committees to focus on few core committees, which may include working groups or task forces to help AIHEC with specific initiatives. Once the Board questionnaires are returned AIHEC will contact Board members and consult with organizational experts to determine how it can create a more effective and targeted committee system. The goal of the committee restructuring process is to become more involved and proactive in key areas to help achieve the vision of sovereign nations through excellence in tribal higher education.

Chair Crazy Bull expressed her appreciation for Ms. Billy's creativity and leadership and welcomed the new AIHEC staff members to the organization.

**IX. AIHEC AIMS Update.**

Chair Crazy Bull commented that some schools have not completed their 2007 AIHEC AIMS reporting, which was due in November 2007. She reiterated that one of the requirements of AIHEC membership is compliance with annual reporting requirements, including completion of the AIHEC AIMS report. A brief discussion occurred regarding the difficulties some institutions have had in preparing the report, such as having to reenter data because the data could not be saved as well as staff turnover. It was suggested that a TCU that has completed their report can offer assistance, for a fee, to another school that is having difficulty and has not completed their report. The Board members discussed whether or not to sanction a TCU that has not completed its AIHEC- AIMS report. President Lindquist Mala stated that a motion was passed at a previous meeting to sanction member institutions that do not comply with the AIHEC AIMS reporting requirements; therefore, the colleges have been notified in writing that sanctions may

be imposed. Chair Crazy Bull stated that any institution that does not submit a completed AIHEC-AIMS report risks losing its A\*CF funding and other member services. She stated that letters will be sent to the delinquent schools informing them that this issue was discussed at the Summer Board meeting and the consensus was these institutions membership status is at risk. Institutions receiving such notification will have an opportunity to respond before any sanctions are imposed.

**X. Legislative Update.**

In response to an inquiry by President Shortbull, Ms. Billy reported that the Senate Appropriations Committee eliminated discretionary (appropriated) funds under HEA Title III-A section 316 (TCUs) and section 317 (Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian) in the FY 2009 Labor-HHS spending bill. The justification given is that Congress allocated \$30 million to the TCUs for FY 2009 under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act ("CCRAA"). Although the House Appropriations Committee did not complete its mark-up of the FY09 Labor-HHS bill, it had restored the Title III discretionary funds for FY 2009, noting that the CCRAA funding was to supplement regular appropriations, not to supplant it. However, if Congress were to adopt the Senate Appropriations Committee position there will be no FY 2009 discretionary funding for TCU Title III development (new or continuing) or 1-year constructions grants.

Ms. Billy stated that TCUs that received a grant under the CCRAA in 2008 may receive that same amount of funding in 2009. However, although the funds are mandatory and therefore are not subject to availability, Appropriators may include statutory language that would direct the funds to be used for general Title III program activities – thereby eliminating the second year of funding for a CCRAA 2-year construction grant award. Ms. Billy reiterated the gravity of this issue and noted that AIHEC had sent a draft sample letter to TCU presidents requesting that each institution insert a single paragraph about the affect the elimination of FY09 discretionary funding would have, put the completed letter on its college's letterhead and fax it to its Senators' DC office.

Ms. Billy explained the federal Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership ("LEAP") grant program under the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that provides Federal matching funds to states. Earlier this year, the TCU presidents requested that AIHEC work on amending the bill to allow American Indian tribal governments to participate in the program. However, by the time AIHEC received the directive, both Houses of Congress had completed their Higher Education Act amendments. Ms. Billy stated that there will very likely be a technical corrections bill introduced in the next Congress to address a myriad of issues contained in the enacted legislation. AIHEC will work on getting an amendment included in any such legislation introduced. Ms. Billy commented that states receive federal funding based on the number of students in their individual states and that some states may already include its tribal college students among their student count. If this is the case, there may be opposition to the proposed LEAP amendment.

**MOTION:** President Shortbull moved [seconded by President Davis] that AIHEC continue to work on adding the American Indian tribes to the eligible participants in the federal LEAP program.

**OUTCOME:** The motion agreed to by voice vote.

**XI. American Indian College Fund.**

Mr. Richard Williams, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund (A\*CF), provided an update on the Fund's activities. He reported that A\*CF recently had a Board meeting where new Board members were elected and the organization completed its Strategic Plan. He also noted that Cynthia Lindquist Mala is the new Chair of the A\*CF Board of Trustees. Mr. Williams stated that A\*CF received \$11.1 million in donations in 2007/2008, which was approximately 10% above the projected donation budget of \$9.8 million. A\*CF has seen increased giving in workplace donation programs, individual giving programs and through new relationships, such as Cargill, Inc. in Minneapolis, MN. Mr. Williams reported that the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) has agreed to give A\*CF \$72,000 for student scholarships. NIGA has also agreed to give a similar amount for scholarships each semester next year. Because some corporate donors require additional activities, such as attending leadership conferences, as a condition of scholarship awards, Mr. Williams reported that A\*CF has developed a special scholarship category, which blends academic scholarships with additional activities. In 2008, A\*CF has awarded \$784,000 for special scholarships. Mr. Williams encouraged the TCU presidents to have their students apply for the A\*CF special scholarships, noting that there may not be enough student applicants next year. He noted that it is preferable to have more students apply than there is funding available, than to have scholarship money go unused.

Mr. Williams stated that some corporations require that A\*CF award scholarships to mainstream institutions. He stated that the A\*CF policy is to not accept corporate or foundation grants unless 51 percent of the resources go to tribal college students. However, in some cases, in order to receive the funding, A\*CF will agree to disperse some funds to mainstream institutions. President Davis expressed concern that dispersing funds to mainstream institutions may set a precedent for other funding entities to require similar clauses as a condition of support. Mr. Williams stated that disbursements to mainstream institutions are a small percentage of the overall program and he would rather give to mainstream institutions than to lose an opportunity for TCU scholarships. Mr. Williams reported that this past year, A\*CF scholarship distribution was as follows: 94 percent to TCU students; 1.7 percent to TCU alumni at mainstream institutions; and, 4.3 percent to American Indian students at mainstream institutions. Mr. Williams stated that A\*CF has set a goal of increasing the scholarship award amounts by 150% in five years.

Mr. Williams provided a financial overview of A\*CF, noting that it was issued an unqualified audit, with no management points noted by the auditors. A\*CF spends 80 percent of its funds on program services and 20 percent on administration costs. A\*CF faces many economic challenges in the upcoming year, and plans to target new areas for corporate sponsorship, such as energy and pharmaceutical companies, to replace some funders that may be lost within the financial and automotive industries.

Mr. Williams stated that The American Indian College Fund Gala will be held on October 29, 2008 in New York City.

**XII. WHITCU Report.**

Mr. Williams, as a member of the President's Advisory Board on Tribal Colleges and Universities, provided an update on the recent activities of the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities (WHITCU). He stated that the latest report on federal agencies compliance with the Executive Order on Tribal Colleges and Universities is currently stalled. This report has been delayed for approximately one year. Anselm Davis, the latest WHITCU Executive Director, is pushing to get this report published, hopefully by the end of 2008. Mr. Williams stated that the report was reviewed by the Department of Education (DoED), and that DoED removed all of WHITCU's recommendations, including forward funding for the TCUs. Therefore, the report does not provide a true picture of what the WHITCU Advisory Board wanted to present to President Bush. The WHITCU Advisory Board has drafted an independent report to submit to the President. Mr. Williams will circulate the report to AIHEC for input prior to finalizing it.

**XIII. Notes of Appreciation and Presentation.**

Chair Crazy Bull expressed appreciation on behalf of all of the TCU presidents and the AIHEC staff to President Joe McDonald and his SKC staff, particularly Anita Big Spring, for hosting the 2008 AIHEC Summer meeting and retreat on the SKC campus.

President Lindquist Mala presented Chair Crazy Bull with a Pendleton blanket from the American Indian College Fund in appreciation of her service to the A\*CF.

**XIV. Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** President Yarlott [second by President Parish] moved that the 2008 Summer Board of Directors Meeting be adjourned.

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

Accordingly, Chair Crazy Bull adjourned the 2008 Summer Board of Directors meeting at approximately 1:30 p.m. (MT).

Minutes prepared by Mary Presswood, AIHEC staff.

Executed and acknowledged by the undersigned being the Second Vice Chair of the Corporation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Lindquist Mala, Second Vice Chair  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date