

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE AIHEC SUMMER 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**UNLV College of Hospitality, Las Vegas, NV, and Zoom Web Conference**  
**Friday, July 15, 2022 – 8:30 a.m. PT**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER & OPENING PRAYER:** AIHEC Board Chair David Yarlott Jr., President, Little Big Horn College, called the 2022 Summer Board of Directors Meeting to order at 8:59 a.m. PT. President Richard Littlebear, Chief Dull Knife College (CDKC), offered the opening prayer prior to breakfast.

**ROLL CALL:** Carrie Billy, AIHEC President and CEO, called the roll with the following results:

**Directors Present**

Lane Azure  
Duane Bedell  
Sandra Boham  
Lionel Bordeaux\*  
Christopher Caldwell  
Sean Chandler  
Julia Good Fox, Acting President  
Justin Guillory  
Elmer Guy  
Stephanie Hammitt\*  
Aaron LaFromboise, Interim President  
Cynthia Lindquist  
Richard Littlebear  
Robert Martin  
Leander R. McDonald  
Monte Monteith, Interim President\*  
Helen Zaikina-Montgomery  
Michael Oltrogge\*  
Manoj Patil  
Monte Randall  
Charles M. Roessel  
Cory Sangrey-Billy  
Lori Ann Sherman\*  
Carla Sineway  
Russell Swagger\*  
Laurel Vermillion (Proxy, Pres. Lindquist)  
Justina Wilhelm  
David Yarlott Jr.

**Regular Member Institutions**

Sisseton Wahpeton College  
Bay Mills Community College  
Salish Kootenai College  
Sinte Gleska University  
College of Menominee Nation  
Aaniiih Nakoda College  
Haskell Indian Nations University  
Northwest Indian College  
Navajo Technical University  
Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College  
Blackfeet Community College  
Cankdeska Cikana Community College  
Chief Dull Knife College  
Institute of American Indian Arts  
United Tribes Technical College  
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute  
Leech Lake Tribal College  
Nebraska Indian Community College  
Little Priest Tribal College  
College of the Muscogee Nation  
Diné College  
Stone Child College  
Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College  
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College  
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College  
Sitting Bull College  
Iłisaǵvik College  
Little Big Horn College

With 28 directors present, a quorum was established

**Directors Absent**

Twyla Baker  
Donna Brown  
Dawn Frank

**Regular Member Institutions**

Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College  
Turtle Mountain Community College  
Oglala Lakota College

\* Virtual Participation

Haven Gourneau  
Dan King  
Paul Robertson  
Anna Shephard, Interim President

Fort Peck Community College  
Red Lake Nation College  
Tohono O'odham Community College  
White Earth Tribal & Community College

**Official Representative of a Director**

Craig Smith

Fort Peck Community College

**Other TCU Presidents Present**

Juliet Maestas\*

**Developing Member Institution**

California Tribal College

**Welcome: Stowe Shoemaker, Dean of Harrah College of Hospitality, UNLV**

Mr. Stowe Shoemaker, Dean of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Harrah College of Hospitality, welcomed the AIHEC Board of Directors to the UNLV campus. The UNLV College of Hospitality hosted a welcome reception on the evening of Wednesday, July 13, 2022, in addition to providing meeting space and discounted hotel rooms for TCU presidents and attendees of the board meeting and the AIHEC-ACCT TCU Governing Board Leadership Institute, to be held on July 16-17. Dean Shoemaker expressed appreciation to the TCU presidents for traveling to UNLV. The UNLV College of Hospitality, with other UNLV programs, would like to explore and develop partnerships with TCUs to build a Native American hospitality and gaming workforce, including through UNLV's partnership with the San Manual Band of Mission Indians, as well as partnerships in other areas of mutual interest.

**II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Chair Yarlott reviewed the proposed agenda for the 2022 Summer Board of Directors Meeting.

President Lindquist requested an item be added under new business: "How are you doing" check in with each TCU president/director, to be conducted round robin style.

**MOTION:**

President Martin moved [seconded by President Lindquist] to approve the 2022 Summer Board of Directors Meeting agenda, as amended.

**OUTCOME:**

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

**III. REVIEW OF THE AIHEC CODE OF CONDUCT**

Chair Yarlott encouraged all directors and participants to review the AIHEC Code of Conduct and maintain professionalism in working with each other. Being a board director has significant responsibilities and requires accountability and engagement. He stated that directors may have personal opinions or viewpoints on issues; however, when speaking on behalf of AIHEC, directors should express the agreed upon, collective viewpoints of the organization.

**IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

President McDonald, AIHEC Secretary, presented the minutes from the AIHEC Spring 2022 Board of Directors Meeting, which are included in the board book.

**MOTION:**

President McDonald moved [seconded by President Guy] to approve the AIHEC Spring 2022 Board of Directors Meeting minutes.

**OUTCOME:**

The motion was agreed to by voice vote. (One abstention: Interim President Aaron LaFromboise, BFCC)

President McDonald presented the Executive Committee Meeting minutes for March 2022 through May 2022, included in the board book, for informational purposes.

**V. TREASURER’S REPORT**

President Guillory, AIHEC Treasurer, presented the final AIHEC operating budget for fiscal year (FY) 2023. He thanked the members of the Finance and Audit Committee and AIHEC staff for their contributions and ongoing work.

**MOTION:** President Guillory moved [seconded by President McDonald] that the Board of Directors approves AIHEC FY 2023 Budget, as presented by the Finance and Audit Committee.

**OUTCOME:**

Motion agreed to by voice vote.

In response to a question from President Bordeaux, Chair Yarlott restated that President Richard Littlebear (CDKC) provided an open prayer prior to the roll call. AIHEC standard meeting protocol includes an opening and closing prayer.

**VI. PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

**AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND** (*Virtual Presentation*): American Indian College Fund (College Fund) President and CEO, Cheryl Crazy Bull provided updates on several projects:

- Scholarships reported a 9 percent increase in applications compared to last year. The application cycle remains open.
- Full Circle Scholarships also reported an increase in applications. The application cycle closed at the end of May.
- The College Fund plans to continue summer scholarships for TCUs with summer programs.
- The Native Pathways to College, funded by the Mellon Foundation, provides services to first-year students and small grants to high schools to help support transitioning students. The College Fund plans to continue digital coaching of students.
- The “Summer of Success” virtual conference hosted 349 students, family members, staff, and faculty/teachers to help students with their educational journeys.
- In-person convenings have resumed with meetings to support computer science, early childhood education, Native American arts, and faculty research writing.
- The College Fund’s 2022-2026 strategic plan and associated press release have been posted on the website.

- Current TCU visibility project includes Cankdeska Cikana Community College, College of the Menominee Nation, and College of the Muscogee Nation. The project focuses on public engagement and outreach.
- The College Fund plans to provide more training to support institutional advancement and fundraising in addition to an ongoing review of TCU revenue streams and financial models.
- The College Fund plans to use a strategic plan model, previously used for an early childhood education program, to support new projects focused on sustainability and high school equivalency research. The strategic model plan was effective in communicating with funders such as the Bezos Family Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- A data and materials sharing agreement was finalized between the College Fund, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Native Forward Scholarship Fund, and Indigenous Education Inc., to build a shared database to examine Native student experiences.
- The Native Student College Affordability Study was recently completed. A press release is forthcoming.
- A second TCU alumni survey and study will be conducted in the upcoming year, in conjunction with the Gallup-Purdue organization.

In response to a question from President Martin, President Crazy Bull explained that the deadline for Full Circle Scholarships application closed at the end of May. Applications for the TCU scholarships remain open throughout the year.

President McDonald thanked the College Fund for the ongoing \$100,000 in funding that can be used for cultural programs. The funding is important since federal funding has many restrictions.

President Crazy Bull added that funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities will be added to the routine TCU operational funds distributed by the College Fund. Reporting will be reduced, and funds will be more flexible by combining the funding.

**White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Native Americans and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities (WH Initiative) (*Virtual Presentation*):**

Dr. Hollie Mackey, Executive Director of the WH Initiative, provided an update on her work over the first four months of her appointment. The WH Initiative directly involves the U.S. Departments of Education, Interior, and Labor and the White House Council on Native American Affairs. The WH Initiative is involved in two upcoming events:

- Native Language Summit on October 4, 2022, in Oklahoma City, OK, to occur immediately before the National Indian Education Association's annual convention.
- Department of Labor Native American Job Fair to be conducted through four virtual sessions during fall 2022.

In response to a question from President Randall (CtMN), Ms. Mackey provided background information about the upcoming Native Languages Summit. Based on the federal Native Languages Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Departments of Interior, Education, and Health and

Human Services, the federal agencies rotate organizing and hosting the annual event. Anticipated highlights for this year's event:

- Overview of federal resources and funding opportunities across 14 federal agencies;
- Discussion on "language proficiency" from a Tribal perspective (memorized phrases vs. conversational fluency);
- Language curriculum and assessment (Western assessment methods vs. Indigenous Pedagogy); and
- Potential elements and goals that may be added to future federal funding opportunities, based on lessons learned.

President Charles M. Roessel (DC) suggested that the BIE could best support TCU Native languages activities, including the TCUs' work with BIE K-12 schools, by distributing currently competitive grant funding to TCUs using a weighted student enrollment formula, like the distribution method used by the BIE for the K-12 Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP). President Roessel explained that current competitive grant programs do not work when TCUs and Tribes are forced to compete against each other. When applicants receive a denial letter, they are being told "your language is not important."

President Lori Ann Sherman (KBOCC) expressed concern that TCUs with smaller enrollment sizes might need the same level of funding or more as larger TCUs to establish a program. Distribution of formulas based on student enrollment sizes can be problematic.

Ms. Billy added that AIHEC has a long-standing legislative proposal supported by the AIHEC board to establish a \$35 million TCU Native Language Vitalization and Training Program under ED, and that Director Mackey's support for this proposal within ED would be helpful.

President Richard Littlebear (CDKC) shared that in Montana, Native language funding is provided through the state to each Tribal reservation, with each receiving approximately \$89,000 per reservation. This could be a model to consider, as this process allows for the avoidance of grants.gov. He also requested that ED and the BIE examine the issue of Indigenous mobility across international borders.

President Bordeaux (SGU) commented on the need for (1) TCU housing and (2) support from USDA for wildlife management, specifically for bison and horses. Ms. Mackey shared that Secretary Cardona and other ED staff learned about the cultural significances of bison during their recent trip to Salish Kootenai College in Montana. She agreed that horses can play an important role in addressing social and emotional wellbeing in Tribal communities. Additionally, she shared that USDA is developing a strategy to increase outreach and funding for Indian Country.

President Patil (LPTC) added that a recent survey identified only four remaining Ho-Chunk language experts in the Winnebago community with an average age of 76. TCUs understand the limitations and challenges in applying for federal grants; however, the federal government must understand the critical importance of actively supporting Native language efforts before our first language speakers pass on. LPTC is planning an Elders Day to bring local elders onto campus to share language and cultural knowledge. Interaction with Tribal elders is highly valued within their community, and LPTC often must compete with K-12 schools in scheduling such appearances.

Ms. Mackey thanked AIHEC for providing Native language research and examples of revitalization and preservation best practices. Ms. Billy added that the National TCU Center of Excellence on Native Language (AIHEC initiative) has completed an extensive inventory of current and best practices at TCUs and would happily share more specific information with the WH Initiative.

Ms. Mackey opened the floor for additional questions and comments from the TCU presidents.

President Martin explained that IAIA, along with other TCUs, are experiencing challenges in receiving approval from ED for construction projects using resources from the ED Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Due to ED's belief that a broad statutory provision regarding ED funding (unrelated to legislation allocating pandemic-related funding) prohibited the department from allowing HEERF funds to be used for any type of construction, AIHEC secured an explicit provision in the FY22 omnibus appropriations bill that allows TCUs and other MSIs the flexibility to use certain HEERF funds for construction and renovation related to the pandemic. Some TCUs are having difficulty with the pre-approval process ED established to implement the provision. For example, IAIA was asked to submit itemized construction budgets and building schematics as part of the approval application. Many of the required documents, such as architecture plans, are expensive to obtain. Ms. Billy stated that, as she understands, some of the documents being requested by ED are generally not available until after a TCU has signed a contract with an architectural firm or general contractor. The burdensome pre-approval process is preventing TCUs from addressing infrastructure needs related to the pandemic. Ms. Billy will send Ms. Mackey additional examples of TCUs having difficulties with the pre-approval process.

Chair Yarlott stated that his college had not applied to use covid-19 relief funding for construction because the college cannot meet the timeline required by ED because approval and supply receipt dates are uncertain.

President Oltrogge (NICC) requested that a set aside be established for TCUs under ED's TRIO student support services program. Historically, TCUs are unable to score high enough to be awarded grants during the extremely competitive grant process. Ms. Mackey noted that Ms. Billy has raised this issue with Secretary Cardona in previous meetings.

President Azure (SWC) stated that the forms used for the HEERF quarterly and annual reports need to be improved. The current forms provide an inadequate amount of space for an extensive amount of required information.

President Lindquist (CCCC) also expressed frustration with the HEERF construction pre-approval process and requested that Ms. Mackey investigate the issue. She stated her TCU had not applied for construction activities because the ED process to be too burdensome. Separately, the North Dakota TCUs are preparing to announce a major four-year initiative, supported by \$14 million in private funding, focused on building apprenticeships, work study internships, and Tribal employment opportunities for TCU students and community members. A formal announcement is soon to be made. President Lindquist would like to invite the Secretary of Labor to attend the event announcing the new program.

Lastly, President Bordeaux (SGU) reiterated the importance of establishing a Tribal Higher Education accrediting body to further self-determination in higher education. During a previous administration, President Bordeaux discussed this concept with an ED official who indicated that a particular committee within ED could review the concept. He noted that no follow up was provided by that ED official. He explained that 10 years were needed for SGU to expand the business associate degree to a baccalaureate degree and receive accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission.

Ms. Mackey is committed to listening to and following up on TCU recommendations and requests. In closing, she noted that Amy Lloyd serves as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education within ED, and she is another resource for TCUs.

**BREAK:** Chair Yarlott announced a 15-minute break.

**BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION** (*Virtual Presentation*):

Dr. Katherine Campbell, BIE Program Analyst, provided a brief update on several topics:

- *TCU Facilities Improvement and Repair (FIR) and TCU Operational Funding:* BIE is preparing to distribute FY22 TCU FIR/Construction and TCU Operational payments. She expects the funds to be transmitted next week (week of July 18), but the distribution could be later. BIE is reviewing the current funding distribution between HINU and SIPI to potentially create more equity in the division of funds between the two federally operated institutions.
- *Prospective TCUs:* The DOI-BIE Solicitor continues to review the application from Bacone College to be recognized as a Tribally Controlled College and University. A:shiwí College & Career Readiness Center, chartered by the Zuni Pueblo in New Mexico and currently partnering with Navajo Technical University, has expressed interest in becoming a TCU, but the BIE is having difficulty with a definition for “making progress toward accreditation.” Ms. Billy explained that to accreditors and ED, this term has specific meaning: the institution has been granted formal “candidacy status” by an accrediting body recognized by the Secretary of Education and is taking required steps to achieve full accreditation within a defined period.
- *Regulations:* BIE is considering another round of Tribal consultations to review and update TCU related federal regulations.
- *ESF I and ESF II TCU covid-19 Relief Funds Annual Report (Education Stabilization Fund):* BIE will be sending reporting forms to document TCU expenses and activities funded by ESF I and ESF II covid-19 relief funds. These two funding streams passed from ED to BIE through an established MOU. BIE staff plan to disseminate the reporting forms individually and directly to each TCU. (By emailing the forms individually, the lengthy OMB form approval process, which is required for forms that are widely distributed, may be avoided.)
- *BIE covid-19 Relief Funds— Construction:* Regarding BIE covid-19 relief funds, AIHEC and multiple TCUs have requested that BIE include construction as an allowable activity. Early in the process, the BIE director indicated that BIE would allow construction. However, Dr. Campbell shared that she does not believe construction will be considered an allowable activity. She stated that she will follow up with the BIE director on this request.

Ms. Billy explained that AIHEC advocated extensively to clarify the law to allow for construction using certain covid-19 relief funds administered by ED (ED-HEERF-MSI fund), and under the BIE-

ED agreement, BIE is to follow ED's lead<sup>1</sup>. Early on, BIE raised no concerns and allowed the use of BIE administered funding for construction related to the covid-19 pandemic. ED, however, stated that a legislative fix was necessary since ED officials *believed* a conflicting regulation prevented ED funds from being used for construction, including construction related to the pandemic. AIHEC worked extensively with ED and Congress to secure the language needed to make ED feel comfortable. The process took nearly 1.5 years. Meanwhile, BIE never expressed any challenges, nor does BIE have in place a blanket conflicting regulation or law that prevents BIE funds from being used for construction. In fact, TCUs may use BIE operating funding for construction, and they may use the funding to meet federal construction-related matching requirements. Given that ED and BIE have an established agreement to support TCU/Tribal activities and ED has since authorized construction using covid relief funds, BIE must do the same, rather than depriving TCUs of a necessary allowable use of funds. AIHEC will continue discussion with BIE regarding this issue.

- Dr. Campbell shared that BIE travel policies continue to fluctuate making TCU monitoring visits difficult, but she hopes to resume travel to TCU campuses soon.

President Randall (CtMN) requested permission to speak on the issue of BIE consideration of Bacone College to be designated as a TCU. He stated that Bacone College is located within the boundaries of the Muscogee Creek Nation, and the only Tribe that should be allowed to establish a Tribally Controlled College or University within the boundaries of the Muscogee Creek Nation is the Muscogee Creek Nation. No Tribe should be permitted to establish a TCU within the sovereign boundaries of another tribe.

**Written Reports:** Certain affiliate written reports are included in the board book, as follows:

- USDA-1994 LAND-GRANT PROGRAMS, page 63.
- FALCON, page 83.
- AIHEC TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION, page 87-91.

## VII. AIHEC CENTRAL OFFICE REPORT

### Legislative & Executive Branch Report

Ms. Atine provided a legislative update and noted that updates are also provided regularly during the AIHEC TCU bi-weekly virtual meetings.

FY 2023: Without a budget resolution, the House and Senate are moving through the FY 23 appropriation process with appropriations bills that undoubtedly are unrealistic in terms of enactment into law. House appropriation subcommittees have introduced and completed work on all 12 funding bills. Next, House leadership plan to put six of the bills into one package (called a "minibus") and bring the package to the House floor for passage early next week. Senate appropriations subcommittees, on

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<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Indian Education entered into two agreements regarding the distribution of covid-19 relief funding to Tribal schools and TCUs. Briefly, both the agreement dated June 12, 2020, and the addendum dated January 11, 2021, state that funds distributed by BIE to the TCUs shall have the same uses as similar HEERF funding. In the FY2022 omnibus appropriations bill, Congress made clear that construction related to the covid-19 pandemic is an allowable activity under HEERF for TCUs, HBCUs, and other minority serving institutions.



the other hand, have released only draft bills and do not intend to report bills at the subcommittee level. Republicans are stalling on budget negotiations, and experts believe this because they believe they will regain control of the House and Senate through the midterm elections, which will occur in November 2022. A continuing resolution (CR) is expected through the midterm elections, with possible subsequent CRs into early 2023. A chart with proposed funding levels was included in the board book on pages 121-123.

***Ongoing Negotiations:***

- ***COMPETES/USICA Conference:*** On May 9, 2022, Congress started a bicameral conference to negotiate differences between the House-passed COMPETES and Senate-passed USICA bills, both designed to improve U.S. competitiveness in technology markets. AIHEC sent a letter to all conferees outlining TCU priorities within each bill. The letter is included in the board book on pages 143-144.
- ***Slimmed Down Build Back Better:*** After a year of ongoing negotiations, House and Senate leadership continue to whittle down the “Build Back Better” proposal led by ambitious Democrats. Key lawmakers are focused on prescription drug reform, climate change, and tax increases.

***TCU Hearing:*** The House Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee will hold a hybrid hearing entitled: “The History and Continued Contributions of Tribal Colleges and Universities” on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. Invited witnesses include Carrie Billy (AIHEC), Cynthia Lindquist (CCCC), and Sandra Boham (SKC). AIHEC will coordinate with all witnesses to ensure key AIHEC policy priorities are represented during the hearing.

President Lindquist, who has served as a witness on multiple occasions, commented on the expanded witness vetting process and preparation needed for this hearing. Ms. Billy explained that Congressional staff are thoroughly researching witnesses to prevent unexpected accusations against witnesses or members of Congress. President Boham added that SKC underwent a similar labor-intensive vetting process prior to an on campus visit from Secretary Cardona. TCU presidents requesting visits from members of President Biden’s cabinet or who are being considered as prospective Congressional hearing witnesses should anticipate a thorough vetting process.

***Executive Branch Updates:***

***Indirect Costs:*** AIHEC staff continue to meet with Office of Management and Budget and BIE staff to request funding for TCU indirect costs. AIHEC recently conducted a survey of TCUs to gather indirect rates and calculations to use in discussions with federal staff. Additional information may be needed from several TCUs.

***Treasury:*** Secretary of Treasury, Janet Yellen, recently visited the Rosebud Sioux Tribe with meetings held at Sinte Gleska University (SGU). At the SGU event, Secretary Yellen announced that Chief Lynn Malerba, Mohegan Tribe, has been appointed to be Treasurer of the United States. Ms. Billy attended the meetings at SGU, at the request of President Bordeaux. SGU staff did an excellent job presenting TCU priorities to Secretary Yellen.

**USDA:** President McDonald shared that he recently collaborated with Lawrence Shorty (USDA 1994 Land-grant Director) to create a PowerPoint presentation on the history of 1994 land grant institutions. Ms. Billy added that AIHEC continues to work with USDA in the redrafting of the AIHEC-USDA Memorandum of Agreement. Unfortunately, some USDA staff have proposed limiting participation in the USDA-TCU leadership group, to be established under the MOA, to federal staff and elected tribal leader, thus removing TCU presidents from the leadership group. AIHEC staff will continue to work with USDA on a solution.

**AIHEC Recent Events** (Ms. Billy provided a brief overview of the following select events):

- **First Annual TCU Native Languages Summit (Virtual):** The two-day summit included speaking panels, workshops, and a keynote presentation from President Richard Littlebear (CDKC).
- **Indigeverse Multimedia Festival 2022 (Virtual):** Recordings of the virtual keynote speakers and workshops of this multi-day event will be available online soon.
- **Tribal Climate Science Partnership Summit (Hybrid):** The in-person event took place in Boulder, Colorado, cohosted by several federal agencies, national laboratories, and AIHEC. TCU faculty and staff participated in the meeting, addressing common climate science research and education goals.

**AIHEC Board Report:** In the interest of time, Ms. Billy provided briefly mentioned two items and stated that the full 23-page written report on AIHEC activities and initiatives is included in the board book on pages 95-118, with additional appendices.

- **Updated Survey—Impact of Covid-19 on TCU Student Experience Survey:** AIHEC conducted an updated survey on the TCU student experience during the pandemic. The initial survey was conducted in fall 2020 and the update survey in spring 2022. A summary of this important survey is included in the board book on page 145.
- **TCU Student Poster Competition:** Tyler Thompson of Tohono O'odham Community College is the winner of the 2022 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) and Peoples poster contest. The posters can be downloaded online for use on TCU campuses.

**Review of Planning Grant Proposal: Convergence Accelerator Program:** As included in the printed board book on page 153 and pursuant to AIHEC policy to seek board support for AIHEC grant proposals, Ms. Billy explained that AIHEC has been invited by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to submit a grant proposal to potentially receive funding for a one-year planning grant to support TCU centered research on Tribal food security. In addition, planning a research initiative, planning could occur to develop an innovative portal that would provide TCUs and Tribal decision-makers access to a range of climate, weather and agricultural data resources and a set of tools for conducting vulnerability assessments that focus on specific Tribal lands. The portal or gateway would provide information about technology-enabled agriculture production practices that could be adapted for Tribal agriculture and would help develop a framework for engaging and supporting TCUs and Tribal communities in developing and disseminating Tribal climate resilience strategies. The focus of this planning grant aligns with goals contained in the AIHEC strategic plan and 1994 Land-grant missions.

**MOTION:**

President McDonald moved [seconded by President LaFromboise] that the AIHEC Board of Directors supports the submission by AIHEC of a formal planning grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to potentially receive a one-year “convergence accelerator program” planning grant.

Discussion: In response to questions, Al Kuslikis, AIHEC Senior Associate for Strategic Initiatives, explained that NSF initially specifically invited AIHEC to submit a letter of intent to apply for new funding from the newly established Directorate on Technology, Innovation, and Partnership (TIP). At that time, AIHEC staff solicited TCU STEM faculty to engage in planning activities, should AIHEC be funded. A handful of faculty representing 4-5 TCUs responded. As follow up to AIHEC’s letter of intent, NSF formally invited AIHEC to apply for a planning grant. During the one-year planning grant, AIHEC will work to build a partnership network of TCUs, Tribal communities, agricultural producers, researchers, and other institutions of education to identify solutions for increased agricultural production in Indian Country. In the future, after the initial year of planning, AIHEC and the TCUs may (or may not) be invited to apply for a 5-year implementation grant.

Some concerns were expressed by TCU presidents that the potential grant may benefit only a limited number of TCUs because the proposal might focus exclusively on a planning group of 4-5 TCUs. Ms. Billy stated that participation in AIHEC initiatives is always voluntary, but all TCUs are encouraged to participate. In this case, 4-5 TCUs responded to AIHEC that they would be interested in serving in a more intensive yearlong planning process, but all TCUs would be engaged in planning activities to the extent interested. Further, this is only for purposes of planning. If eventually launched, all TCUs would be invited to participate. The 4-5 TCUs would be the planning committee or “working group”.

A president expressed concern that his institution might be interested in applying for a grant from the same program, and that AIHEC’s proposal would compete against his TCU. Another president supported this statement, stating a group of TCUs might consider applying. Regarding competition for the NSF TIP grant, Mr. Kuslikis stated that no other TCU (other than AIHEC) had submitted a letter of intent for this funding, and therefore no TCUs were invited by NSF to apply for one-year planning grants at this time. However, if the program is funded in future years, TCUs could and should submit letters of intent.

Ms. Billy reiterated that for AIHEC-TCU initiatives to be successful, involvement from TCU staff and faculty are essential and that absent support from the TCUs, AIHEC would not pursue a grant program. In fact, the grant and subsequent planning discussed today would be for the benefit of the TCUs, their Tribal communities and students, and the planet, rather than the AIHEC central office. To that end, AIHEC staff focus on activities related to AIHEC’s strategic plan, per the Board’s recommendation, as staff indicated in the document on page 153 of the printed board book (page 128 of the electronic book). However, AIHEC staff would only pursue potential opportunities if there were interest among the TCUs in collaborating collectively. She mentioned some examples of potential collaboration.

President McDonald further explained that federal agencies are intentional in identifying potential grantees. He reiterated that AIHEC staff will ensure each TCU will be contacted with the opportunity to participate in this initiative, if funded, and he called for the question.

Chair Yarlott inquired whether there were any additional comments or concerns. Hearing none, he stated that the discussion was closed, and he asked that President McDonald's motion be restated.

**OUTCOME:**

The motion was approved by voice vote.

**LUNCH BREAK:** Chair Yarlott declared a 30-minute break, with the meeting resuming at 1:30 p.m.

**AIHEC 2023 Student Conference:** President Martin (IAIA) announced that the upcoming AIHEC 2023 Student conference will be held in-person in Albuquerque, New Mexico in March, with the dates to be announced soon. The student conference planning committee is waiting to receive final proposals from the convention center and hotels before making an announcement.

Historically, the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament is hosted by one of the AIHEC student conference host institutions and held in their region. IAIA had planned to host the tournament in 2020 but canceled the event due to the covid-19 pandemic. IAIA has relinquished hosting priority, and Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College (NHSC) has graciously offered to host the 2023 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament. NHSC will coordinate with student conference committee in planning.

**AIHEC Fall Board Meeting:** After a brief discussion, the following dates were selected for the AIHEC fall board of directors meeting, along with another pandemic-postponed meeting:

- Monday, October 3: AIHEC Board of Directors Meeting
- Tuesday, October 4: HLC TCU Peer Review Training
- Tuesday, October 4: Native Language Summit (federal)

These dates will allow TCU presidents the opportunity to attend either the HLC training or the Native Language Summit prior to the NIEA convention, set to begin on October 5.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

As stated at the beginning of the meeting, President Lindquist requested that TCU presidents provide updates on their TCUs. The following TCU presidents provided updates:

- Sean Chandler, Aaniiih Nakoda College
- Duane Bedell, Bay Mills Community College
- Aaron LaFromboise (Interim), Blackfeet Community College
- Cynthia Lindquist, Cankdeska Cikana Community College
- Richard Littlebear, Chief Dull Knife College
- Christopher Caldwell, College of the Menominee Nation
- Monte Randall, College of the Muscogee Nation
- Charles (Monty) Roessel, Diné College
- Stephanie Hammitt, Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College
- Craig Smith, Fort Peck Community College

Due to the time and transportation issues, it was decided that the meeting would be adjourned to allow TCU presidents to ride the chartered bus back to the host hotel.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

President Boham moved [seconded by President Patil] that the 2022 AIHEC Summer Board of Directors Meeting be adjourned.

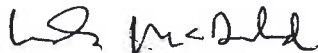
**OUTCOME:**

The motion was approved by voice vote.

Chair Yarlott Jr. adjourned the meeting at 2:47 pm PT.

Minutes prepared by AIHEC staff.

Executed and acknowledged by the undersigned being the Secretary of the Board of the Corporation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leander R. McDonald, Secretary  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium

10-3-22  
Date