

The University of Arizona
Native American Advisory Council (NAAC)
Virtual Meeting Summary Notes
April 27, 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

- I. Welcome & Blessing
 - A. Attendees: Connie Greenberg, Jacob Bernal, Melodie Lopez, Roxanne Begay James, Marilynn Sando, Jon Rios, Levi Esquerria, Ordell Joe, Denise Trimble-Smith, and Karen Francis-Begay

- II. Updates from Levi Esquerria, Sr. Vice President for Native American Advancement & Tribal Engagement, Executive Office of the President
 - A. Updates on tribal leader engagement initiatives with President Robbins and the Senior Leadership Team
 - B. President will support a Presidential Post-Doc position

- III. Updates from Karen Francis-Begay, Assistant Vice Provost for Native American Initiatives, Office of the Provost
 - A. End of semester is around the corner! Important dates:
 - i. Last Day of classes: May 5
 - ii. Finals: May 7-13
 - iii. Commencement events: May 11 - 18
 - iv. Summer classes begin: May 17
 - v. Fall classes begin: August 23

 - B. NASA Convocation and student awards
 - i. Convocation will be pre-recorded and featured on Friday, May 7th at 4:00 pm. The link for viewing will be shared with the NAAC
 - ii. All Native American graduates who RSVPd will be honored and recognized. Graduates from last spring 2020 will also be included. There will be a recognition of 7 student awardees.
 1. Shelly Simpson will also be recognized for her service to the UA & NASA

 - C. NASA has open applications for scholarships (\$250,000+) on Scholarship Universe. We also need to fill the O’odham Ki: Wing (50 slots). NASA will be leading a calling campaign to reach more students.

 - D. NASA will start opening in the summer; updates on hours of operation will be posted to the website (which will be updated soon).

- E. NASA Director search – search committee members put forward; job posting has been finalized; post is still going through approval process; goal is to have new director on board by first day of classes.
 - F. Embedded Counselor position will start May 3; 50/50 shared time at NASA and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). This position is an initiative of the President.
 - G. Native American Initiatives
 - i. Progressing on the 3-5 year strategic plan
 - ii. Hiring a half-time Program Coordinator to assist with day-to-day projects
 - iii. Shared administrative assistant to assist with my calendaring: Jonathan Lazar (jmlazar@arizona.edu)
 - H. Q & A: In response to a question, Karen explained the reporting structure for NASA. The NASA director will soon be reporting to a new Senior Director for Diversity & Inclusion. This senior director will oversee all the cultural centers and report to the Associate Vice Provost for Diversity & Inclusion, Dr. Ivy Banks. Dr. Banks reports to Provost Folks.
 - I. Q & A: A question was posted with regards to NASA's budget. With all the past reorganization of the unit, staffing changes, and budget cuts, what is NASA's current budget? Karen did not have any information to share but will invite Dr. Ivy Banks to the next meeting to give an overview of NASA's budget and answer any questions the NAAC members have.
- IV. Follow-up discussion from the March 16th UA Native Faculty Group meeting
- A. Discussion on the key issues on recruitment and retention of Native faculty
 - B. Action Item: Jacob Bernal proposed that the NAAC adopt a resolution on asking for data on Native faculty hires and exits and also an action plan on recruitment and retention efforts.
- V. Native American Scholarship Funding, A Comprehensive Report by Ordell Joe, Native/Indigenous Outreach Coordinator, Office of Scholarships & Financial Assistance (OSFA)
- A. Ordell gave updates on meeting deadlines on Financial Need Analysis for students and some tracking changes to better identify students who are part-time or full-time attendees.
 - B. Ordell has done extensive research on identifying the tribal/Native funding sources and dollar amounts that have come into the UA this past year.
 - a. \$3,417,978 of tribally-based funds come to the UA from 86 different Native Nations and tribal organizations

- b. 53 Native Nations fund students who attend the UA by way of their scholarship funding. The total funding is \$2,804,216
 - c. 33 tribal organizations fund students who attend the UA. The total funding is \$613,762
 - d. All these funds have resulted in 976 checks being received and 1,063 awards being made to students.
 - C. Recommendations by council:
 - a. Levi can develop relationships with the Native Nations that are investing in their students.
 - b. Start creating awareness of financial aid and scholarships to students at middle school level.
 - c. The Native Nation and tribal organization investments counter a misperception that students go to college for free.

- VI. Intertribal Healing Ceremony or Pow Wow
 - A. The NAAC proposed that the UA host an intertribal healing gathering for Native students before the start of the fall term or at the outset. Many Native students have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and such a gathering is to honor lives lost but to also strengthen the resilience of the community.
 - B. Karen will work with Levi to determine next steps but also asks for volunteers from the NAAC to share their ideas on what this gathering would be. More to come.

- VII. NACC future meetings
 - A. Co-chairs set a date of June 29th at 1-2:30 pm for the next NAAC meeting. Meetings will take place every other month: August, October, and December (dates to be determined)