

The University of Arizona
Native American Advisory Council (NAAC)
Virtual Meeting Summary Notes
June 29, 2021, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Council Attendees: Connie Greenberg, Jacob Bernal, Melodie Lopez, Roxanne Begay James, Marilynn Sando, Jon Rios, Liz Zepeda, Jeffers Choyguha
 - b. UA Faculty & Staff: Karen Francis-Begay, Andrea Romero, Ordell Joe, Denise Trimble-Smith, Donna Treloar, Claudia Nelson, and Charissa Sundust (guest of Karen)

- II. Membership Updates
 - a. Karen updated the Council about new members who have, or will be, joining the council:
 - i. 1 additional representative from Tohono O’odham Community College
 - ii. Dr. Martin Ahumada, President of San Carlos Apache College
 - iii. Dr. Christopher Bonn, Superintendent of Baboquivari Unified School District (replacing Dr. Edna Morris who recently retired)

- III. Native Faculty Overview – Dr. Andrea Romero, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
 - a. Dr. Romero provided a powerpoint presentation on Native faculty representation, nationally and at the University of Arizona. In addition, she focused on opportunities to enhance recruitment and retention. (Powerpoint is attached along with a memo on the University’s reporting on race & ethnicity to provide context on the different data references in the slides).
 - b. There was discussion about the information Dr. Romero presented and a debt of gratitude expressed by the council for the data. Council members made the following recommendations:
 - i. An app could be created for faculty recruitment purposes
 - ii. Recruitment ads placed in the Tribal College Journal
 - iii. Emphasis on “grow your own” with regards to faculty recruitment and hiring
 - iv. National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conferences may be a recruiting venue (Karen mentioned the UA will be present at the fall AISES conference)
 - v. Council plans to submit a recommendations report to the President and Provost to express their support for Native faculty recruitment and retention

- IV. Updates from Levi Esquerra, Sr. Vice President for Native American Advancement & Tribal Engagement, Executive Office of the President (in Levi’s absence, Karen provided updates)

- a. The University of Arizona official land acknowledgement is at the tail end of approval. A formal announcement of the statement will be forthcoming.
 - b. The University of Arizona and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe just finalized an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that encompasses programs and service offerings to the Tribe. A signing ceremony will take place August 3 at 1:00 pm between the University president, Dr. Robbins, and Pascua Yaqui leadership. Once the agreement is public, Levi can provide an overview, at a future council meeting, of the key components of the agreement.
 - c. Tribal Leader Summit is scheduled for October 21 & 22 at the University of Arizona. The summit is being coordinated through Levi's office. More details on the summit will be forthcoming and will involve many stakeholders. Tribal leaders from Washington state have been invited and it is a weekend of a home football game between the UA and the University of Washington.
- V. Updates from Karen Francis-Begay, Assistant Vice Provost for Native American Initiatives, Office of the Provost
- a. Mellon Foundation of Monuments is seeking project ideas to fund. The projects are to expand on telling the story of who we are and represent diverse peoples within a region. Across the nation, less than 1% of monuments tell stories of Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous peoples. There is \$250 million in funding over five years to support monument projects. Karen proposed that the Sovereignty Plaza project go forward to the Mellon Foundation for consideration. The council approves. Next steps will be for Karen and Levi to write-up the project idea, get council approval, and submit to the Mellon Foundation. Karen and Levi will also meet with representatives of the Foundation to get more guidance on the submission.
- VI. Next NACC (virtual) meeting will be Tuesday, August 31, 1:00 – 2:30 pm.