2010-2011 Commission for Native Americans (CNA)

Meeting Minutes for Friday, December 9, 2011

Present: Catherine Talakte, Chad Hamill, Vickie Black Bishop, Derya Suzen, Carissa June Tsosie, Kathleen Frank, Camille Miller, Ann Marie Chischilly

Not present: Michael Ahkeah, Maxine Janis, Regina Eddie, Christy Nations, Priscilla Sanderson, Kathleen Cronemeyer Dragoo, Christal Black, Pamela Malone

I. Introductions and Welcome – roll call:

Chad Hamill called the meeting to order.

II. Topics of discussion:

a. 2011-2012 Goals

Reviewed the goals of the NACC as defined at the CNA retreat held in November (1. Increase Awareness and Visibility of NA Programs and Initiatives 2. Contribute to efforts to recruit more NA faculty 3. Increase enrollment of NA students 4. Help facilitate interaction and dialogue between NA programs and NA communities). Chad Hamill expressed his hope that Pamela Ramos would offer ideas on how to put together a comprehensive marketing plan that will help the CNA pursue their goals. Catherine Talakte agreed that marketing was important and suggested that the Native American Directory would have a role to play in goal 1 (Increasing awareness and visibility of NA programs and initiatives). Chad Hamill asked if anyone had a sense of where the Commission might go for funding for a marketing campaign. Catherine Talakte thought Pam Ramos would have ideas but also suggested speaking with Joe Martin about available funds from the Presidents office. Chad Hamill felt the Commission has made headway with goal number 2 (recruiting more NA faculty) as it relates to the National Cancer Institute grant and the current hiring issue. After delivering a letter to the President, the current job search was put on hold, Loma Ishii was put on the search committee, and plans were underway for engaged parties to work more directly with NA faculty in the hope that the next hire under the NCI grant will be a Native American researcher/ scholar. Chad Hamill shared a conversation he had with Octaviana Trujillo where she pointed out that many potential applicants for this position were in programs and taught at universities with a much more favorable teaching load (2/2 or 2/1). She felt that NAUs 3/3 load would discourage potential applicants. Chad Hamill agreed that a 3/3 is not ideal for a research position and teaching loads might be an issue CNA should bring to the attention of the administration as it relates to attracting NA applicants and being more competitive. Catherine Talakte suggested that relatively low salaries were also an issue, one that might be remedied by “growing our own”

(recruiting NA graduate students already at NAU). Vicki Black Bishop asked where NAU advertised for NA faculty positions and Chad Hamill said that much of that would probably depend on the discipline. Vicki said the Journal of Native American Education would be a great place to advertise. Chad Hamill suggested that an important role CNA has to play is that of the "squeaky wheel," continually reminding the administration of what needs to be done. Derya Suzen suggested sending letters to Chairs and Deans in various departments. Chad Hamill reminded the Commission that this is along the lines of what Joe Martin recommended, meeting with Chairs and Deans in a targeted way to move the agenda forward. Derya Suzen brought up Goal 6 in the strategic plan as a good pretext for such meetings. Chad Hamill asked if there were any ideas for a follow up discussion on goal 3 (increasing NA student enrollment). Catherine Talakte said at one point there was a Native American recruitment team but that undergraduate admissions is now in charge of all recruitment, following more of a business model. Camille Miller announced that she was just hired in admissions and may be able to help in that capacity. Chad Hamill asked if the new approach in admissions trumped CNA's ability to put together a recruitment team. Catherine Talakte didn't think so, stating that NA recruitment efforts rely on the Commission to see them through. Admissions has gone to NA communities in the past but may have been disappointed by the perceived lack of community interest and turnout. Catherine suggested that the problem may have been in approach. She asked, beyond high schools, where else would it make sense to set up events? ASU has been very effective in this regard, setting up events throughout Indian Country. Catherine suggested focusing on Coconino Community College, in particular the "CCC to NAU" program. Chad Hamill mentioned an issue that resulted in a missed opportunity between the Ed Department at NAU and Diné College. Kathleen Frank said there were still opportunities in other academic areas that NAU could capitalize on in its relationship with DC. Chad Hamill asked Catherine Talakte who the contact people were for the CCC to NAU program. She said Mike Luna is the NAU contact person for the CCC to NAU program and that Robin Long is the CCC contact. Catherine emphasized the importance of reaching out to community colleges throughout Arizona and tribal colleges, even those out of state. Admissions at NAU would no doubt be supportive but probably not directly involved in such efforts. Kathleen Frank mentioned that Admissions has "target areas" that largely ignore rural areas where NA communities sit. Kathleen added that NAU admissions has a PowerPoint presentation that requires training but might be great to utilize in NA student recruiting efforts. Ann Marie Chischilly shared with the Commission that during a recent Native American Advisory Committee meeting, the degree offered by Applied Indigenous Studies was a focus of their discussion. It is not clear to members of the NAAC what students walk away with after they receive a degree in AIS. A new initiative has been undertaken to articulate what students can expect in this regard in the hope that it will increase NA enrollment in AIS. Ann added that the Tribal Leaders Legislative Day is coming up on January 17th and so far, there is no NAU representatives planning on attending. Booths are only $250. Great opportunity to promote NAU NA programs like AIS. Katheen Frank suggested getting two tables this year. Chad Hamill welcomed Pam Ramos to the meeting. Pam asked the Commission what the target audience would be for a marketing campaign. Chad Hamill identified potential Native American students as a primary target group, both in Arizona and beyond. Also, the Commission wants to reach potential NA faculty and staff. Pam asked how many more NA students the Commission would like to bring to NAU. Chad Hamill suggested doubling the current enrollment would be a worthwhile goal. Catherine Talakte mentioned that NAU currently has about 1200 NA students with about 250-300 coming in every year (includes transfer students and freshman).

Pam suggested connecting with Paul and Anika from admissions. Kathleen Frank mentioned a website could act as a "one stop shop" for NA programs and initiatives. Retention of NA students is also an important issue that should be addressed as part of any marketing strategy. Pam suggested focusing more on high schools (and their counselors) in NA communities. Pam also suggested pulling in the office of public affairs to assist in the internal push to link NA programs. Catherine shared that NAU currently has 28 NA faculty, 117 staff. These numbers are based on those that have voluntarily self-identified. She added that among NA faculty, only 5 or 6 are full time professors. Pam expressed that she definitely feels that marketing can assist in recruitment and retention. She followed up by asking if we know exactly what students want in a university and stressed the importance in identifying that. Catherine Talakte spoke of a disconnect between programs at NAU that indirectly impacts NA students. She suggested that we sit down, see what we have, and figure out how to better market that. This would include featuring pictures of NA students of all ages in marketing materials. Pam asked if Derek has been directly involved in current efforts in NASS. Catherine said Derek has been great and very helpful. The Commission then moved to subcommittee updates.

b. Native American Directory

Catherine Talakte said that her and Vicki Black Bishop had made progress on the directory and expected to be done before the end of the fall term.

c. NACC Programming

Carissa June Tsosie gave an update on programming. R. Carlos Nakai will be performing on February 4th. Sponsors for the event include the NACC, the Center for Indigenous Music and Culture, and the NAU School of Music. Camille Miller organized a meeting with students and staff about a possible Powwow next November. They discussed fundraising. The field house charges $1500 a day. At the meeting they discussed approaching businesses and tribal governments for funding. To be awarded funds through STAC requires having a student organization. Students may reactivate the Native America United student group. Possible dates discussed for the Powwow include November 2-4 (2012). "Silver" will help with logistics of the Powwow-- has years of experience. Ann Chischilly mentioned that ITEP will be celebrating their 20 year anniversary the 3rd Friday/ Saturday in September (the 22nd) with an honorary Powwow. Camille Miller expressed the need for funding/ support letters. Chad Hamill suggested the CNA write the letters. Kathleen Frank suggested that the November Powwow also be an exhibition. Chad Hamill suggested we have an honorarium for drum groups and the MC. Catherine Talakte added that the success of the Powwow will rely on a partnership between students, faculty, and staff. There were significant financial problems with the last Powwow and CNA needs to insure that mistakes aren't repeated this time around. Kathleen Frank called for accountability and suggested the Commission play an advisory role in that capacity. No updates from the website subcommittee.

d. College/ Department Updates

Last October Ann Marie Chischilly attended the National Congress of the American Indian and ITEP put forward a resolution for their new program, the Tribal Clean Energy Resource Center. It was approved unanimously. A number of Nations are involved. Ann stressed the importance of this initiative to help tribes

transition off of fossil fuels rather than just forcing them to shut down operations (i.e. the Navajo generating station issue).

After a date was set for the January CNA meeting the December meeting came to a close.