

**COMMISSION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS**

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 7, 2021

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**https://nau.zoom.us/j/85699536867?from=addon**

**Meeting ID: 856 9953 6867**

**Password: 123585**

**MINUTES**

1. **Welcome and Introductions** 
   1. Ora Marek-Martinez began the meeting at 1:03 p.m.
   2. **Introductions:** Kiara Weathersby, Candi Running Bear, Shane Canitz, Naomi Ruth Lee, Dani Donaldson, Bekka Alvarado, Jani Ingram, Alisse Ali Joseph, Ora Marek-Martinez, Jeff Burglund, Shirley Conrad, Darold Harmon Joseph, Linda Marie Robyn, Angelina Castagno, Ann Marie Chischilly
2. **Interim Vice President of Native American Initiatives - Ann Marie Chischilly**
   1. Ann Marie Chischilly introduced herself and described three projects she is currently involved in
      1. The first project involves the decolonization of the academy
         1. Ann Marie described a five minute call with President Cruz Rivera in which he brought up decolonizing NAU, which surprised and delighted her
         2. Discussion about moving beyond decolonization to indigenization as well (more positive connotation)
            1. President Cruz Rivera supports initiative
            2. Details being ironed out and budget set
            3. Question posed: What do we want to see?

Ex: more art, more indigenous deans?

* + - * 1. Warning that must keep in mind will be reopening a scar in the community

Will need to be culturally considerate and actively listen to the community

* + 1. Second project involves student enrollment and student success at NAU
       1. How to help students be successful in the future
       2. Concern: decline in indigenous student enrollment overall
    2. Final project involves looking at tribal consultation process for NAU research proposals
       1. Any research grant proposals dealing with indigenous tribes must go through tribal consultation, but no organized process to do so currently in place
          1. Pushing for a process that is transparent and accessible
       2. Also striving to connect similar research proposals to enable them to pursue larger grants
       3. Another goal is to educate tribes about their rights and protections when working with the university
  1. If interested in any of these projects, [email Ann Marie](mailto:Ann-Marie.Chischilly@nau.edu) and she will provide you with more information
     1. Kiara volunteered to be part of student success project

1. **Urgent Call for Election - Two Co-Chair Positions to be Filled ASAP** 
   1. Ora and Shirley have been interim co-chairs of CNA since December, 2020
   2. Both Ora and Shirley are resigning their positions as interim co-chairs and stepping down effective immediately, leaving a vacancy of two co-chair positions
   3. Call-out for election
   4. Ora and Shirley described the co-chair positions and the responsibilities involved (which are shared between the two co-chairs):
      1. 2-year term commitment with approximately 2 hours of work a week
      2. Attending CoCom meetings and collaborating with co-chairs of other diversity commissions to educate about and bring DEI resources to campus
      3. Creating CNA agendas and planning monthly meetings
      4. Managing CNA subcommittees (three currently) and elect subcommittee chairs
      5. Keeping track of CNA initiatives
      6. Preparing annual report
      7. Meeting with NAU President on a regular basis (perhaps outdated)
   5. Discussion about how CNA bylaws are outdated by at least ten years and need to be revised
      1. An opportunity to lead CNA in a new, improved direction?
   6. Ora asked for self-nominations for the CNA co-chair positions
      1. None were made
   7. Ora reminded commissioners that anyone is eligible to be nominated and that she is willing to help mentor the new co-chairs if necessary
   8. Ora asked for nominations of other commissioners for co-chairs
      1. Ora Marek-Martinez nominated Kiara Weathersby for her momentum and push to change the nature of commission to be more inclusive of larger community
      2. Commissioners discussed and collectively decided that they did not need to use Robert’s Rule for nominating or voting on co-chairs, and instead would just make each decision by common consensus
      3. Kiara Weathersby nominated both Darold Joseph and Alisse Joseph for their background, history, and reach)
         1. Discussion about whether there can be three co-chairs
      4. Kiara accepts the staff co-chair position
      5. Darold respectfully bows out, citing the amount of time he currently dedicates to developing the new Hopi school system, indicating that his wife, Alisse, would be a better choice
      6. Alisse Joseph accepts the faculty co-chair position
   9. By general consensus, CNA accepts Alisse Joseph and Kiara Weathersby as the new co-chairs of CNA
      1. It is decided their duties will begin after the conclusion of the current meeting
2. **Interim Co-Chairs - Updates from Ora and Shirley** 
   1. CNA has a $4,000 budget to utilize before June 30th
3. **Bylaws** 
   1. Discussion of bylaws tabled to next meeting to give Alisse and Kiara time to review them and prepare
      1. Revision of bylaws were last discussed in April and the comments from this discussion are in the CNA Teams drive
4. **Open Discussion & Announcements** 
   1. Jani Ingram announced that she is the Diversity Fellow assigned various areas and entities on campus, including CNA
   2. Alisse described how she is the Faculty Athletic Representative and helps promote the inclusion of indigenous communities in athletics
      1. Described how there have been efforts to promote Native American heritage at NAU games, but these efforts have always been last minute and not fully representative
         * 1. For example: currently a plan is to print shirts with Navajo and Hopi writing that translates to Lumberjack for NAU basketball games

However there are many more tribal nations represented at NAU than just these two

* + - * 1. She wants to use CNA as a sounding board to improve these efforts
        2. Naomi suggested having all the flags of the tribal nations represented at the basketball games

Ora: Love the idea and enthusiasm, but logistically that might be difficult, since over 100 tribal nations are represented at NAU

* + - * 1. Discussion of the general need to shift direction of ideas/interaction so they stem from the indigenous community and flows to athletics, not the other way around
  1. Discussion on recruitment and retention
     1. Darold commented on how there is a long history of indigenous-related proposed activities and programs at NAU that never get followed through on
        1. Suggested examining historical aspect of why these propositions failed and how we can regenerate interest
     2. Ann Marie commented that recently she has been taking note of all the current indigenous-related programs and initiatives
        1. Suggests some sort of ‘townhall’ or ‘field day’ to bring them together in one place and help make connections

1. **Next Meeting** 
   1. Date: TBD (monthly)
   2. Time: TBD (one hour)
   3. Location: Zoom Meeting ID:
2. **Adjournment**
   1. Ora Marek-Martinez adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.