President‘s Native American Advisory Council at Humboldt State University

Fall 2015

Humboldt State University had a Native American Advisory Council in the past, but the group has not met for several years. Based on interest expressed by the Northern California Tribal Chairman’s Association, HSU students, and other campus constituencies, this document is a guide to re-establish this advisory group.

**Mission**

Humboldt State University seeks to reengage and rebuild lasting and productive partnerships with Native American communities and Tribal Nations that are based on mutual respect. To facilitate this reengagement, the President’s Native American Advisory Council will serve as a communications conduit and assist in developing mutually beneficial partnerships among Humboldt State University, the Native American community, and Tribal Nations. The Council will provide perspectives and advice on the University’s collaborations with Native American communities, tribal nations, and tribal organizations in the region. Council members will advise the President on matters of importance to Native communities as they relate to the University.

The Council will foster a tribal government-to-university relationship providing the HSU president and leadership with a vital connection to the Native American communities. Our shared goals include making higher education more attractive, providing the proper support system to recruit, retain, and promote successful Native scholars as students, faculty, and staff who will contribute to the success of the University and Native communities.

**Areas of focus for the Council**

The President’s Native American Advisory Council will advise the HSU president on strategies that may include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

* Recruiting students from the local tribal communities in Northern California and throughout the state
* Supporting Native American students who are enrolled at HSU
* Increasing their graduation rates
* Building relationships with the tribal K-12 school systems
* Supporting the Native American alumni group at the University
* Incorporating information about the local tribal communities into a training program for university administrators and other HSU staff and faculty
* Collaboration between the College of Natural Resources and Sciences and the Natural Resources Departments of Tribes
* Developing a consciousness among the broader HSU community of the University's origins on Wiyot ancestral land
* Providing mentorship for Native high school- and college-age youth
* Identifying internship opportunities for HSU students to work with the Native American communities and Tribal Nations
* Assisting the University in finding ways to emphasize culturally competent interaction with tribes and respecting tribal protocols for research in Native American communities
* Attracting and implementing tribal/state/federal funding opportunities
* Collect and maintain baseline data on enrolled tribal members at Humboldt State University
* Identifying funding options to assist tribal students

**Frequency of meetings**

The Council will meet at least twice a semester, and more often as needed.

**Composition of the Council**

The President’s Native American Advisory Council will have the following members:

* 1 representative from each of the tribes in the HSU area
* 2 members of the Council of American Indian Faculty & Staff (CAIFS) (faculty or staff at Humboldt State University)
* 1 representative from the statewide American Indian Education Oversight Committee
* 1 Native American faculty member from each college
  + Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
  + Natural Resources and Sciences
  + Professional Studies
* 1 representative of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Center/Indian Natural Resources, Science, and Engineering Program (INRSEP)
* 1 representative of the Native American Center for Academic Excellence/Indian Tribal Education & Personnel Program (ITEPP)
* 1 representative of the HSU Native American Alumni group
* 4 Native American student representatives from each of the following:
  + ITEPP
  + INRSEP
  + Indigenous Peoples Student Alliance
  + Native American Studies Department