

**Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)
Education Subcommittee**

Thursday, August 27, 2015
2:00pm EDT

The Education Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 2:07pm.

Commissioners Present: Erin Oliver, Shannon Turner, Tracy Locke, Pete Magnant, Sarah Ancel

Commissioners Not Present: Sen. Randy Head

Non-Commissioners Present: Josh Garrison, Senior Policy Analyst and Legislative Liaison, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Staff Present: Kerry Steiner

Agenda Items: Scholarships and Third Party Administrator

Sara Ancel explained that the Commission for Higher Education (CHE) uses the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to collect data and supplemental forms are used, for example, for minority students who are pursuing a degree in teaching.

Kerry Steiner stated that the American Indian Center of Indiana (AICI) has agreed to be the Third Party Administrator for the INAIAC scholarships since they already provide education scholarships and that a contract or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be created to establish the expectations. AICI provided copies of the scholarship applications they use to assist the Education Subcommittee in creating an application.

Sarah Ancel stated the CHE could assist in cross-promoting the INAIAC scholarships, once created.

Erin Oliver asked what the application process would look like regarding selection and Kerry Steiner responded that the way she sees the process working is, AICI would receive and screen the applications to meet the requirements decided upon by INAIAC, and that the Education Subcommittee or a newly created Scholarship Subcommittee, would make the selection decisions.

Tracy Locke noted the five application criteria used by AICI and asked if we would be using these to create the INAIAC Scholarship application. These criteria are:

1. Tribal enrollment card, or
2. CDIB card (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood), or
3. Card/letter from tribal office, or
4. Verifiable birth certificate(s) showing American Indian, Native American or Native Hawaiian heritage, or
5. Other documents stating tribal lineage

Sarah Ancel asked whether INAIAC wanted to look to AICI to create a draft application and Kerry Steiner responded that it might be challenging to do so at this time because the AICI director is not available due to health concerns.

Tracy Locke asked Erin Oliver if what's listed (above) is enough for the application packet and Erin Oliver responded that we should ask AICI to provide additional details about Items 4 and 5 since they seem rather broad in scope.

Pete Magnant mentioned that when it comes to qualifying a scholarship candidate it's about being able trust and verify the information.

Shannon Turner stated the legal documents would include birth certificates, death certificates and the same kind of other documents used when seeking federal recognition; creating a connection to ancestors.

Erin Oliver asked if we should task the Third Party Administrator with doing the genealogy and Kerry Steiner responded that verification would fall under their responsibility as part of the screening process. Shannon Turner added that it's the only way to prove heritage and ancestry.

Tracy Locke asked if we are still planning to include Indiana tribes and Erin Oliver responded that the Miami Nation of Indiana (MNI) has an enrollment process but she cannot speak to what other Indiana tribes do. Kerry Steiner asked if the MNI uses birth and death certificates and whether these documents would work for INAIAC's application and Erin Oliver replied that they might work for the MNI people but may not for other Indiana tribes. Shannon Turner stated when she applied to AICI she used her CDIB card and Erin Oliver stated she used her Tribal Enrollment card. Sarah Ancel suggested we ask AICI what they use and let the Education Subcommittee decide from there. Kerry Steiner added that we should also ask AICI what documents are included in Item 5 of the list.

Shannon Turner suggested we use Items 1 – 4 for the January 2016 semester and Erin Oliver added that Item 5 seems vague.

Sarah Ancel asked if the scholarships were going to be based on need, merit or the essay and Erin Oliver suggested we look at financial need as the final determination if, for example, it came down to two candidates and there was only one scholarship left to award.

Pete Magnant stated he has no difficulty awarding a scholarship for remedial courses but is not comfortable doing so for a repeated course and Erin Oliver added that it might depend on the grade.

Sarah Ancel suggested we not get too nuanced because it can complicate things. Pete Magnant added that it might be good to have tighter constraints in the beginning and possible loosen them in the future.

Kerry Steiner asked who would check to see if a class has been repeated and Josh Garrison said there are two kinds of scholarships: Tuition Scholarships that are only for tuition and fees, and General Scholarships that can cover non-tuition costs such as books and room and board.

Shannon Turner asked how will we know how the money is being used and Josh Garrison responded it relates to cost of attendance. Pete Magnant added that we will know more after the first year.

Kerry Steiner noted that on AICI's application there is mention of Nepotism/Favoritism section it asks if the the scholarship applicant has a direct family member who is associated with AICI, such as being a staff or board member, and whether INAIAC wants to include similar language. Sarah Ancel reiterated

that INAIAC would be selecting the applicants. Pete Magnant suggested not allowing that family member to vote.

Shannon Turner researched on the internet and clarified that the term 'lineage' refers to linking back to the tribe.

Pete Magnant asked about the student maintaining a "C" average as noted on the AICI documents and asked how many applicants would we be reviewing? Kerry Steiner responded that her guess would be about 15 – 20 the first year or so and possibly up to 100 in the future. Pete Magnant added that anything less than a 100 class would skew the Grade Point Average.

Josh Garrison asked who the applicants would be, high school seniors or graduate students or both and he was informed it would be both. Sarah Ancel made a motion that the Education Subcommittee approve the proposed scholarship amounts of four (4) \$2,500 academic year scholarships and five (5) \$1,000 summer school scholarships, with the caveat that in January 2016, INAIAC would award eight (8) \$1,250 scholarships for the academic year since it would only be for one semester; the full scholarships would be effective the 2016-2017 school year. Pete Magnant seconded the motion. There was no opposition and the motion carried.

Josh Garrison noted that based on his experience the scholarship selection process can become very time consuming and offered that INAIAC may want to consider forming a Scholarship Selection Subcommittee consisting of three people. It was decided that the Scholarship Selection Subcommittee would be decided after getting through the first selection process.

Shannon Turner asked what the proof is that's required for Item #4 on the AICI form; what is meant by a verifiable birth certificate. Kerry Steiner suggested it could mean a birth certificate that came from the state board of health that has the state seal affixed to it, but clarification will be sought from AICI. Kerry Steiner confirmed with the Education Subcommittee that all agreed we would use Items 1, 2 and 3 and that Kerry Steiner would get clarification on Items 4 and 5.

Josh Garrison added that we could include our criteria in the MOU and Kerry Steiner added that it would also include reporting and auditing language.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04pm.