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## **New Tribal Consultation Policy Approved by ABOR**

(Tempe, Ariz.) – The Arizona Board of Regents today approved a tribal consultation policy which implements consultation and communication principles governing interactions of Arizona’s public university with Arizona’s tribal nations on issues such as land use, education policy and research.

The groundbreaking policy reflects the commitment of the board and universities to communicate in good faith with Native American nations on proposed initiatives, agreements and policies that may have implications for Arizona’s tribes.

Regent Luann Leonard, an enrolled member of the Hopi Tribe and a descendant of the Tohono O’odam Nation, was instrumental in working with the universities, the board, tribal leaders and the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona. Her leadership was crucial in shepherding the current policy that replaces the three separate policies with one single board-level policy.

Arizona’s three public universities – Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona - have each developed strong partnerships with tribes across the state. “The Tribal Consultation Policy is a historic measure that will positively affect relations between Native American nations, the Arizona Board of Regents and our universities in the future. By establishing a policy at the board level by which universities and tribes work together, there is one defining document that outlines proceedings with tribes, leading to efforts that are productive and meaningful for tribes and our universities,” Leonard said.

The board’s new policy is guided by principles that emphasize the board’s and universities’ desire to develop relationships with sovereign tribes with respect for and acknowledgement of tribes’ cultures, traditions, beliefs, governance, laws, codes, regulations and protocols as well as complying with all applicable tribal practices and regulations.

Arizona Board of Regents President Eileen Klein serves as the board’s tribal liaison under the new policy and each university president designates a liaison for their institution.

“Our universities have historically benefitted from many successful relationships with Arizona’s tribes,” Klein said. “This policy establishes a solid framework for relationships between tribes and Arizona’s public universities through defining principles, respect and compliance with applicable laws and practices. We hope that other universities throughout our nation will follow suit with similar policies.”

Consulting with tribes and tribal organizations on the part of the board and universities will reflect information sharing and input in advance about policies or initiatives that will affect tribes while institutional review boards and contracting departments will be required to document consultation with tribes regarding research, land use or other agreements.

“This is an important policy that clarifies and strengthens relations with our tribal nations and Arizona’s public universities,” said Arizona Board of Regents Chair Jay Heiler. “This policy will guide interactions with Arizona’s tribes and provide a working framework on which we build future projects and initiatives with Native nations.”

The policy promotes research that is based on collaboration, consultation, data ownership agreements and confidentiality. Consultation is required for any university sanctioned research that takes place on tribal lands, studies that may result in implications for tribal members or tribes, research involving human subjects or remains and studies that involve objects that are sacred or of cultural significance that are subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Consultation with tribes also is required for initiatives such as educational programs intended for students or employees who are tribal members or are affiliated with tribes and any board or university policy or initiative that may affect a tribe in a manner that differs from that of the general public.

The board’s consultation policy dates to 2011 when the board first formally charged the universities to develop consultation policies at the university level with tribes that reflected shared goals.

After the initial policy was formed, tribal representatives requested a single board-level policy to reflect the Arizona Board of Regents’ commitment to collaboration and consultation. President Klein, Regent Leonard and the board’s office staff worked with the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, the Navajo Nation and university tribal liaisons to develop a single, mutually acceptable board-level policy.

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