



PHOEBE A. HEARST

MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

September 16, 2008

UPDATE ON UC BERKELEY ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE
REPATRIATION PROCESS AND OTHER INTERACTIONS
WITH THE NATIVE COMMUNITY

We continue to make important changes in the ways in which we carry out the NAGPRA repatriation process and in which we interact with the native community. As reported before, we have done this after careful consideration of input that we have received from

- the meetings with tribal stakeholders on April 4, 2008, and July 18, 2008,
- regional meetings with native stakeholders in December and January in Santa Rosa, Reno, Redding and Palm Springs,
- several NAGPRA, THPO and museum conferences,
- tribal visits to the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology during the past year, and
- visits to museums and an analysis of NAGPRA practices of comparable museums.

Campus NAGPRA Repatriation Committee. The Repatriation Committee which existed at the level of the Hearst Museum was discontinued, and a new NAGPRA Repatriation Committee was formed at the campus level, appointed by the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, George Breslauer. This new committee reflects campus expertise more broadly. Initial members of the new committee, starting September 15, 2008, are:

Philip Frickey, Professor, School of Law (Chair)
Karen Biestman, Lecturer, Ethnic Studies
Ira Jacknis, Research Anthropologist, Phoebe A. Hearst Museum
Kent Lightfoot, Professor, Anthropology
Joseph Myers, Lecturer, Native American Studies
Tim White, Professor, Integrative Biology

Half the members are scientists involved with the museum. Other members are drawn from throughout the campus and reflect backgrounds and relevant expertise in areas such as Native American traditions and circumstances, federal Indian law, first-hand familiarity with California tribes, and linguistics.

The primary function of the NAGPRA Repatriation Committee is to review and make recommendations regarding specific tribal requests pertaining to repatriation. For the most part, these requests ask for reclassification to the Culturally Affiliated category of holdings that are currently in the Culturally Unidentifiable category.

Native American Advisory Council. We shall form a Native American Advisory Council, which will meet with the chancellor and appropriate vice chancellors and staff, as appropriate to the topic. The Council will be administered and supported in its work by the Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion. The Council will meet twice per year and will deal with campus issues relating to Native Americans. These will include education of students, outreach and admission, campus climate, and repatriation and interactions with the Hearst Museum.

The Council will have six to eight members. Appointments will be identified and made in a way that is analogous to that for the Native American Advisory Committee to the California State Department of Transportation. Mr. Joseph Myers has graciously agreed to be the initial Chair of the Council. He will seek and receive nominations from tribes within California. He will then present recommendations for membership to the Berkeley chancellor, who will make actual appointments.

One of the functions of the Native American Advisory Council will be an annual review and commentary on the NAGPRA repatriation process.

Facilitation of the NAGPRA Process. We recognize that the present process for development and review of NAGPRA-related claims is cumbersome. We are continually looking for ways to facilitate that process for tribes. This includes better indexing and search capabilities for records, as well as making information and procedures more readily available.

Several recent and ongoing activities address these needs. The Delphi online collections browser site contains searchable photographs and other information on the collections. The beta version has recently been made available to tribes with requests for comment. We have posted on our web site a description of NAGPRA policies and procedures (<http://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu/repatriation/NAGPRA%20Policies%20and%20Procedures%202-08.pdf>), designed to help tribes understand and follow the process. We intend to design and carry out annual conferences in Berkeley for tribal representatives. These conferences will give attendees greater familiarity with NAGPRA procedures and will delve into related topics as warranted and requested.

New Staff Appointments. Several appointments have been made at the Hearst Museum to positions that interact with, and provide services to, tribes. In addition to the earlier appointment of Anthony Garcia as Repatriation Coordinator, Bradley Marshall is the Tribal Liaison, and Richie Richards is the Native American Education Specialist. Native Americans from the Berkeley campus have been involved in the searches for all these positions, with a substantial number of nominations having come from the tribal community.