Committee on Native American and Indigenous Philosophers

2019-2020 Membership

Lori Underwood, chair (2020)

Andrea Sullivan-Clarke, associate chair (2020), newsletter editor

Robert M. Figueroa (2020)

James Maffie (2020)

Alex Guerrero (2021)

Christopher Kavelin (2021)

Brian Burkhart (2022)

Joel Martinez (2022)

Agnes B. Curry, newsletter editor

Anne S. Waters, newsletter editor

Shay Welch, newsletter editor
Hensci! (Greetings in Muskogee!)

I imagine that our committee is quite small as compared to the other communities. We have approximately 11 members with some members being more active than others. In spite of our size, we undertook a couple of projects in 2019-2020.

First, we drafted a land acknowledgement statement for the APA. The statement was drafted by the editorial board, led by Dr. Anne Waters. Given the diversity of indigeneity in Turtle Island, we sought input from the members and submitted a short and long version. This project was completed.

I think what works well in our committee is our ability as a community to work together on what we see as issues of great importance. This project was not merely a task to be completed, but something very serious concerning all Indigenous people.

If I were to make a suggestion, however, I would suggest that with respect to projects similar to land acknowledgement statements, it might be better for non-Indigenous people to create a draft and then seek the advice of the committee. This provides a learning component for non-Indigenous people. It is a way to do some research without expecting an oppressed group to teach, per Audre Lorde. This is not to say that we are not willing to do the work, we did. I merely mention that it would be an opportunity to collaborate and hopefully promote understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars.

Our second project was to reorganize our committee. A shortage in graduate students entering the job market has impacted committee membership. Several of the more senior members were keeping the committee going. We have a few new prospects as regards graduate students, and have begun to develop a program of networking and mentoring them. This will be led by Dr. Brian Burkhart. We are considering an undergraduate writing prize. We have also revamped our data on members and job market outcomes in order to keep a record for future use. The challenges of COVID-19 have taken attention away from the entire project (as many tribal communities have been deeply impacted by the pandemic), but we expect to return to it this year.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to working with you.