Committee on Native American and Indigenous Philosophers

2021–2022 Membership

Andrea Sullivan-Clarke, chair (2023), newsletter editor

Brian Burkhart (2022)

vacant (2022)

James Maffie (2023)

Lori J. Underwood (2023)

Andrew F. Smith (2024)

Sterling Knox (2024)

Agnes B. Curry, newsletter editor

Anne Waters, newsletter editor

Shay Welch, newsletter editor
APA Committee Chair Report
Native American and Indigenous Philosophers
September 2022, Dr. Andrea Sullivan-Clarke

Hensci! (Greetings! in Muscogee)

The Committee of Native American and Indigenous Philosophers has had a fairly busy year. We have several members who are taking the initiative in developing recruitment and undertaking projects on behalf of the group.

First, we initiated a social zoom meeting for our members. Meeting a couple of times a term has provided the opportunity for interaction that was lost due to the pandemic. Although by no means a perfect alternative to meeting in person, the online meetings enabled us to present concerns and look for solutions. It also provided a chance to connect to the history of the group when the meetings were attended by Dr. Anne Waters (who played a key role in the formation of the group).

On our agenda for this year is the development of a prize for a paper on Indigenous Philosophy. Currently, we are in the process of fundraising. We are appreciative of the support from the leadership and association in the maintenance of the prize.

Another project is the recruitment and professional development of students. Word is getting around of our existence and I have been contacted by a few professors who have students that identify as Indigenous and are looking for community. It is exciting to think of the possibility of the group increasing its numbers.

There are a couple of issues that I bring to your attention on behalf of our committee. The first is the number of requests to provide presentations on teaching Indigenous philosophy when there are resources already available. For example, past newsletters contain various syllabi as well as articles on teaching. There are the standard textbooks—such as Indian from the Inside and American Indian Thought. There are also wonderful research guides at several university libraries and they list recent works and authors in the area. This committee is small and the majority of its members are junior faculty. We ask that fellow instructors should keep this in mind when requesting assistance from the committee members.

The second issue is the good practices document that will be presented to the board for endorsement. While the committee recognizes the work and effort put into the document, it has opted not to endorse the document at this time. The primary reason is the lack of consultation from our committee in the development of this document. When I informed one of the authors, who gave the context of the document to the Inclusiveness committee (our committee did not receive a presentation), I was told that they had consulted many people. Native Americans and Indigenous people are marginalized in many ways within our discipline. It is disappointing—we were not consulted and then subsequently dismissed. We wish to remind our colleagues that Indigenous allyship requires recognition of our autonomy and failing to consult silences Indigenous voices.

Mvto! (Thank you!)