

UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN COLORADO

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA ITEM

Meeting Date: November 11, 2022

☒ Action Item ☐ Discussion Item ☐ Information Item

**Name of
Item:**

Delegation of Authority and Implementation of UNC NAGPRA Process

Responsible Staff Member: Jacquelyn Rich Fredericks

Summary of Issue: Recommended approval and implementation of UNC NAGPRA Process, and delegation of authority.

UNC recognizes and respects the rights of Federally recognized Native American Tribes and is committed to complying with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 ("NAGPRA"). NAGPRA requires that institutions that receive certain funds report collections of Native American artifacts ("cultural items") and human remains ("ancestors"), to culturally affiliated Native American Tribes. UNC's Anthropology Department Collections cares for 38 individual Native American ancestors, as well as archeological and ethnographic cultural items. UNC's desires to ensure respectful and dignified treatment of ancestors and to be respectful of the wishes of living descendants, in its compliance with NAGPRA and the [State of Colorado](#) process for consultation, transfer, and reburial originating from inadvertent discoveries on Colorado land.

Since 2020, UNC's NAGPRA Committee, including Drs. Creekmore and Kyle, worked with the Provost and President to inventory the ancestors in UNC's care. A summary was submitted to National NAGPRA. UNC contacted and consulted with nearly three dozen Federally recognized Native American Tribes. UNC is now ready to move forward with the disposition and repatriation of ancestors.

Since UNC has not historically had a formal process for the purpose of NAGPRA, the Board is now asked to approve an initial process document, and to formalize a delegation of authority to the President, as well as any necessary sub-delegation(s) to the Office of the Provost and the Department of Anthropology Chair, so that UNC may proceed with the specific disposition and repatriation of the ancestors in our care, as well as to codify an ongoing de-accessioning and transfer process pursuant to NAGPRA.

Moved that in order to meet its legal and ethical obligations regarding the NAGPRA-compliant treatment of ancestors and cultural items, the UNC Board of Trustees directs the President and the Provost to formalize UNC's process for the respectful service under and compliance with NAGPRA. The Board gives the President or his designee signature authority to give necessary notice, and to sign off on repatriation and transfer of University-held ancestors and cultural items as recommended by the NAGPRA Committee.

Recommended Action by BOT: ☒ Approval ☐ No Action Needed

Change to Board Policy Manual: ☐ Approval ☒ No Action Needed

If yes, Section:

Administrative Recommendation (Motion): Approve

Jacquelyn Rich Fredericks 11/7/22
Signature of Vice President Date

Signature of President Date