

American Indian Alliance at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Bylaws  
(Draft — September 2013)

Article I: Name

The name of the organization shall be the UNLV American Indian Alliance. The official abbreviation shall be AIA.

Article II: Mission and Goals

The mission of AIA is to increase the recruitment, retention, progression, and success of Native American people at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. AIA promotes an academic and social environment at UNLV that recognizes, respects, and welcomes the great value of Native American people and their cultures. AIA seeks to focus on initiatives specifically related to the well-being of UNLV's Native American faculty, staff, and students, including but not limited to:

1. Creating and sustaining an active Native American community at UNLV that celebrates achievements, acknowledges milestones, represents concerns, and provides advocacy for community members when needed.
2. Creating an environment that attracts, welcomes, and retains Native American faculty, staff, and students.
3. Developing effective, ethical, innovative, respectful, and culturally appropriate partnerships with our tribal communities and with Native American faculty, staff, and student groups at other schools in Nevada and out of state.
4. Improving the career pipeline for Native American faculty and staff at UNLV.
5. Awarding scholarships to Native American students at UNLV.
6. Recruiting Native American students, faculty, and staff to UNLV.
7. Developing, supporting, and expanding academic programming at UNLV related to Native American studies and/or American Indian or indigenous issues.

Article III: Governance

The responsibility for the administration, management, and operation of the business affairs of AIA shall be vested in the executive committee, except that the full membership must have notice of and the opportunity to vote on officer elections, new-member approval, and membership revocation. The executive committee shall consist of all elected officers and the appointed chairpersons of any committees. The executive committee shall meet to conduct AIA's general business. The executive committee shall prepare the agenda for the AIA membership meetings.

Article IV: Membership

Membership shall be open to all university faculty, unclassified/classified staff, and graduate student teachers who are interested in and supportive of the objectives stated above. Any member of the community, whether invited or not, may make a request to

join. All requests will be considered and, if appropriate, approved by the current membership.

Once invited or approved as a member, an individual shall remain a member of AIA until the expiration of the member's term of service with the university or until the individual renounces membership or is asked to leave the organization. No individual will be asked to leave the organization without good cause and the vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting, provided that notice was given to the full membership that a membership revocation would be considered at the meeting.

#### Article V: Officers, Duties, and Elections

The membership shall elect individuals to serve, without financial compensation, in the offices of president, secretary, and treasurer and may, as needed, elect an individual to serve as vice president.

The president shall: (1) convene and lead AIA meetings; (2) appoint any and all committee chairs; (3) represent AIA at the university level and in the community; (4) act as the authorized signatory for AIA for business matters; and (5) act as an authorized signatory for financial matters. The president may delegate any of these duties as needed on a case-by-case basis.

The secretary shall: (1) record, distribute, and archive AIA meeting minutes and related official documentation; (2) maintain a current membership list; (3) manage any AIA email lists, websites, and calendars; and (4) oversee annual elections, including preparing and distributing ballots.

The treasurer shall: (1) act as an additional authorized signatory for financial matters; and (2) provide the Office of Financial Aid with an annual list of names of individuals selected to receive AIA scholarships.

Following the inaugural elections (*insert date*), the election of officers shall be held annually during the last meeting of the spring semester. Anyone nominated at or before the prior meeting shall be eligible to run for office. Elections shall be by paper ballot, with email proxies permitted, and the person receiving the highest number of votes for each office shall prevail. Newly elected officers shall assume the duties of their respective offices on July 1 following the election. Officers shall serve for one year beginning July 1, but all officers are eligible to run for re-election.

It is the policy of AIA that, whenever possible, Native American employees of UNLV shall serve as officers, with preference given to American Indian and Alaska Native individuals.

#### Article VI: Meetings, Quorum, and Voting

General membership meetings will generally be held once per month during the academic year. All Native American student groups are invited to send a nonvoting representative to every general membership meeting. Special and/or emergency meetings may be called by the executive committee.

A quorum for conducting the business of the executive committee shall consist of 50 percent of the executive committee members. It is at the discretion of the executive committee to allow proxy voting on a particular issue. Voting upon matters coming before AIA and the executive committee shall be determined by a majority vote.

#### Article VII: Funds

Organizational funds shall be maintained in an account maintained by the American Indian Research and Education Center (AIREC). In addition to the president and treasurer, a representative from AIREC shall be an authorized signatory on the account.

The executive committee is authorized to make decisions regarding financial expenditures, but any expenditure over \$1,000 must be approved by a majority vote of the full membership.

#### Article VIII: Amendments and Revisions

The bylaws may be amended at general meetings by a majority vote of the members present, provided that notice was given to the full membership that an amendment would be considered. Amendments shall be proposed by the executive committee or upon the written request of any three members of AIA.

#### Article IX: Vacancies and Resignations

In the event an officer or committee chair chooses to resign during the year, that individual must notify the president or executive committee. If a vacancy should occur in the office of the president, the remaining members of the executive committee shall appoint a person to the presidency. Vacancies in any other office shall be filled by presidential appointment, subject to the approval of the executive committee. The term of office under these circumstances shall be until the next official election. Any appointee to an unexpired term of office is eligible to be nominated for that next year's election.

#### Article X: Dissolution

Although AIA is created with a perpetual term of existence, all AIA assets shall be used to fund scholarships for Native American students at UNLV in the event of AIA's dissolution.