



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Laphillda Tso, Public Information Officer

Phone: (928) 871-6371

Cell: (928) 255-2942

Fax: (928) 871-7255

September 17, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ltso@navajo.org

www.navajonationcouncil.org

Supreme Court urges President Shirley to fill Diné College Board of Regents vacancies, Council to consider electing regents on Sept. 29

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, in the case of *Ferlin Clark v. Diné College*, urged “the President of the Navajo Nation to fill vacancies on the Board of Regents to address the decisional void” at the Diné College.

The high court had stated that “the removal of Board members without duly appointed successors has left a decisional void in Diné College, a governmental entity, which has already existed for over 5 months and may continue for many more months.”

The Navajo Nation Council’s Government Services Committee took account of this situation in passage of Resolution GSCAP-15-10 on April 26. The committee explicitly requested the “President of the Navajo Nation to recommend the appointment of members of the Diné College Board of Regents for the vacancies created by the removal of Fannie L. Atcity, Loretta Draper and Clinton Jim, from the Navajo Nation Northern Agency, Central (Chinle) Agency, and Eastern Agency, as well as for the current vacancies in the positions from the Fort Defiance Agency and Western Agency.”

Since the passage of Resolution GSCAP-15-10 on April 26, President Shirley has taken no action to recommend the appointment of members to fill the vacancies in the appointed positions for the Nation Northern Agency, Central (Chinle) Agency, and Eastern Agency. In addition to his failure to appoint new members for these Navajo Nation Agencies, President Shirley had for an extended period failed to appoint members to represent the Fort Defiance Agency and the Western Agency.

On Sept. 29, the Navajo Nation Council will convene in Special Session to consider passage of the Diné College Board of Regents Act of 2010. This legislation, sponsored by Honorable Danny Simpson, provides that the “Education Committee of the Navajo Nation Council shall, within 60 days of the effective date of this Act, recommend to the Government Services Committee of the Navajo the appointment of one member from each of the five agencies of the Navajo Nation to serve with the three ad hoc members of the Diné College Board of Regents as the interim Diné College Board of Regents until the elected members of the Diné College Board of Regents are seated in January 2013.”

Members of the Board of Regents representing the five agencies of the Navajo Nation would be elected by the Navajo people, beginning in the 2012 Navajo Nation Chapter Election.

For more information on the special session, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org.

###