



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government Services Committee removes three members of Diné College Board of Regents

Members were Fannie L. Atcity, Loretta Draper, Clinton Jim

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Government Services Committee of the 21st Navajo Nation Council removed three Diné College Board of Regent members, April 26 during a regular committee meeting after nearly two years of unrest at the college. The board members were Fannie L. Atcity, Loretta Draper and Clinton Jim.

In April, the committee received complaints from Diné College students and on April 13, the Office of Legislative Counsel was directed by the committee to draft a resolution, Resolution GSCAP-15-10, for the removal of the three members.

In December 2008, a joint report by the Government Services Committee and the Education Committee of the Navajo Nation Council was drafted to address the disagreements, which ranged from alleged conflicts of interests, favoritism, improper board actions and personnel disputes. The Board of Regents did not comply with the 24-page document, displaying a lack of cooperation by the board.

Further findings suggested the removal of the appointed board members was best for the college.

The committee resolution requests the President of the Navajo Nation to recommend five new appointees to fill the vacancies, which include the three positions recently vacated, in addition to two other extended vacancies the President has not filled. The three recent vacancies are for representatives from the Northern Agency, the Central (Chinle) Agency and the Eastern Agency of the Navajo Nation. The other vacancies are for Fort Defiance and the Western Navajo Agency.

Three of the eight-member board remain, they include: Andrew Tah, Superintendent of the Navajo Department of Diné Education; Andy Ayze, chairman of the Education Committee and Georgeett Cook, Student Body President of Diné College. According to 10 N.N.C. § 2003, the Board of Regents shall consist of eight members, including the Chairperson of the Education Committee or the committee's designee, the Navajo Nation Superintendent of Schools and the president of the Diné College Student Body who shall be full official members. Five shall be enrolled members of the Navajo Nation and subject to confirmation and removal by the Government Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

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