

From: Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs <Provost@csusb.edu>

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2025 1:17 PM

To: Faculty <faculty@groups.csusb.edu>

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Subject: NAGPRA Systemwide policy

Dear Campus Community,

I reach out to you to inform you that in July, the California State University will formally adopt the [Interim CSU Systemwide Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act \(NAGPRA\) Policy](#). This policy has been developed through multiple rounds of consultation with Tribal nations listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's contact sheet. The policy is being implemented to bring the system into compliance with Assembly Bill 389 championed by Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Tribal member, CSUSB Alumnus and California's first California Tribal Member serving as a state lawmaker, Assemblymember James C. Ramos (D-45).

This policy is aimed at streamlining and expediting the return of ancestral remains and cultural materials to culturally affiliated Tribal nations through both the NAGPRA and state version, CalNAGPRA, respectively. Although NAGPRA has been in effect federally since 1990 and CalNAGPRA in 2001, many state institutions across both the UC and CSU system have delayed making the requisite progress the law dictates. By creating a uniform system and procedural flow, the intention is to ensure there are no delays in full repatriation on behalf of the CSU. Timelines for this process will be in respect and support of the Tribal communities we are collaborating with to complete this important work.

This letter is to inform you that in addition to the creation of this uniform system, there are also provisions regarding teaching, research, and field schools, as well as comprehensive campus searches. These provisions have been drafted in consultation with Tribal nations and will bring the CSU in line with the latest NAGPRA amendment, or "Final Rule", as it is colloquially referred to as. These provisions fall under the "Duty of Care" section which outline the responsibilities and duties of institutions with these holdings.

With regards to the annual campus wide searches which is required by the policy, CSUSB and the Chancellor's office would like to stress that these searches are not intended to be

a breach of privacy or personal space. Rather, these searches are designed to ensure that our campus does not unknowingly hold materials subject to NAGPRA or CalNAGPRA. As stated in the interim policy “Campus searches must be campuswide to include all campus-controlled locations.” As a result, a campus-wide survey will be issued annually where recipients can provide verification of self-search alongside a systematic search of spaces both here on the main campus as well as the Palm Desert campus within the calendar year.

Therefore, I would like to extend an invitation to all faculty and staff who may have questions about how the provisions will affect, if at all, any current curriculums or operations here on campus to attend a policy rollout forum with CSU Executive Director of Tribal Relations, Samantha Cypret on Thursday, September 18th from 5:30 PM until 8:30 PM at Chapparral Hall 123 Conference Room.

Again, I want to stress to you, the goal of these provisions and required searches is not to eliminate any fields of study, nor act as an intrusion upon your individual freedoms rather, they are aimed at ensuring the Tribal nations within our service territory and beyond are receiving the appropriate levels of cultural respect long overdue to these communities. Your cooperation and collaboration are the key to successfully building on the great legacy of CSUSB.

Thank you,

Rafik

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