**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**

**The President’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council**

**Meeting Minutes, November 20, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Kayla Begay, Malluli Cuellar, Nikola Hobbel, Tasha Howe, Katia Kradjova, Michael Le, Jenessa Lund, Meridith Oram, Linda Parker, Fernando Paz, Sasheen Raymond, Edelmira Reynoso, Tracy Smith, Roman Sotomayor, Brandilynn Villarreal, Mark Wicklund, Recorder: Jeanne Riecke

**GUEST**: Dr. Cutcha Risling-Baldy, Chair of Native American Studies

**The meeting started at 3:05 PM**.

Dr. Reynoso advised that Chief of Staff, Sherie Gordon was not able to attend the meeting because of illness.

**PRESENTATION:**

Interim Executive Director Edelmira Reynoso introduced Dr. Cutcha Risling-Baldy, Chair of the Native American Studies Program

**Dr. Cutcha Risling Baldy’s, presentation entitled, “What Good is a Land Acknowledgement? Radical Imaginings for Decolonial Futures”.**

Dr. Risling-Baldy addressed Land Acknowledgment for Indigenous Tribes. She relayed the story of herself addressing a group, when she told them that Land Acknowledgment includes the work behind the acknowledgement with the actual giving the land back. There is no justice until the land is returned to indigenous people.

She also mentioned there is the Sonora-Te Land Trust, in the Bay Area, where you can pay your taxes. This fund helps buy indigenous land back for Native American Tribes, not recognized in the Bay Area.

Dr. Cutcha Risling-Baldy discussed the land return, recently, by the City of Eureka of the Tuluwat Island to the Wiyot Tribe.

Comment that Indigenous Land is where biodiversity is surviving now. Discussion regarding repercussion of what is going to happen to the people already on the land here.

Reconnection to the land is important to Indigenous people to move forward into the future. Currently nothing is imagined beyond apocalypse and that is scary to people, Dr. Risling-Baldy said that we need to imagine a future beyond capitalism.

She gave examples of management of the land with governmental agencies, co-management of land, shared land use and other policies, used to pre-empt any actual return of the land. You have to be working on returning land to indigenous people.

**Dr. Cutcha Risling-Baldy’s Land Acknowledgement**

“We begin by acknowledging that we are on the land of the Wiyot peoples which includes the Wiyot Tribe, Bear River Rancheria, and Blue Lake Rancheria. Arcata is known as Goudi’ni meaning “over in the woods” or “among the redwoods.” Wiyot peoples continue continue to remain in relationship to these lands through ceremony, culture and stewardship. They are important parts of not only the history of this area but also in continuing knowledges of this place.”

A Land Acknowledgement must:

-Know who the people are in the region.

A sense of place, identifying the local tribes in the region. Karuk, the three tribes of the Wiyot territory, Hupa, Rohnerville Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Table Bluff is now the Wiyot Tribe. Trinidad Rancheria, Resighini Rancheria, Elk River Rancheria, Smith River Rancheria.

-If there is more than one tribe in the aboriginal territory and the names all of the tribes.

She commented on the 884 Acre forest piece of land that was purchased and donated recently to HSU. It is situated in the Wiyot Tribe’s ancestral land and currently, all three tribes from this ancestral territory have no forest land.

-It is important to use the language, the name of the place before colonization, to e-establish this relationship.

Indigenous History is an important part of now and the future.

-Use the present tense when describing the Tribe.

A Land Acknowledgement needs to be in present tense.

-Always ask yourself: “What does this compel me to do? What actions will I commit to practicing.”

Also mentioned was that the Wiyot Honor Tax is available to help the Wiyot Tribe purchase land back in this area.

Hayden King stated that he had regrets writing Ryerson University’s territorial land acknowledgement, as it excuses them, by giving them an alibi, not do anything for the people there. It does not require much work on behalf of the people who are reciting that territorial acknowledgement. It effectively excuses them and offers them an alibi.

**Exercise-Discussion**

She offered time for everybody to get together in groups of two and come up with some ideas for action in returning land for report back to the group.

After discussion the group came together to report on their ideas to the DEIC members.

Fernando Paz discussed rejecting capitalist possession of the land and Communism’s false dichotomy. He mentioned the Sandanista’s, in 1994, rejecting capitalism. The Sandanista movement was based on Indigenous beliefs and ways, their ancestor’s way of living. A questioning what a society is supposed to be like. Dr. Risling-Baldy said that there has to be an Indigenous Story to bring it into being and that nothing can become anything, until it is spoken.

Dr. Cutcha Risling-Baldy asked the group, “what are you compelled to do?” She mentioned the Wiyot honor tax.

Stacy Smith mentioned individually setting aside some money for the Wiyot Honor Tax and introducing the conversation to the students that she speaks with, asking “Why is it like that?” with support and backing up question. Also addition of Curriculum to study, “Why this is important.”

Dr. Cutcha Risling-Baldy says she does not know if HSU pays the Wiyot Tribe an Honor Tax. Comment that the Arcata Playhouse, or QR Code, to please pay the honor tax. She said the Tribe uses it to help with scholarships and Tribal cultural programs. The Wiyot Tribe is thoughtful about what people are doing for an honor tax.

Roman Sotomayor, AS Student Representative, reported that Associated Students could write a resolution re: Student Interest in the return of the forested land to the Wiyot Tribe. He mentioned another entity on campus, the Student legal fund.

Reportedly the Wiyot Tribe would like to have spoken with HSU about 10 years ago re: the purchase/donation of the 884 forested acres and about how it is to be used.

She said that the number one thing you can do is to bring up the subject. Bring it up in every space that you are in.

Dr. Risling-Baldy said that Meridith Oram’s Land Acknowledgement given at the Equity Summit was the best that she had ever heard.

**Annoucement**

Brandilynn Villarreal announced that the “Moving Beyond Bias, Train the Trainer Workshop” needs 6 more faculty nominations, for Collaboration in the UC and CSU System wide, , Faculty, Staff and Students are needed, so that there are trained people for this campus. She will send the announcement to DEIC members.

**The meeting ended at 3:50 PM.**