

POSITION PAPER

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

APRIL 26, 1974

The incidents at the University of Idaho over the past week regarding minority programs, racism, financial aids, and minority representation as students or staff, have put the Native American Student Association of the University of Idaho in a position of having to respond to these issues at this time. The following is the position of NASA-UI and rationale for it.

It is our belief that the major role of the University of Idaho is to serve and be responsible to the educational needs of the citizens of the State of Idaho, and in particular, the northern portion of the State often referred to as the ten Northern Counties. A secondary role is to serve the educational needs of the Northwest area, and lastly, to serve the national needs in a manner to assure the citizens of Idaho a progressive and balanced education.

Is the University of Idaho meeting the educational needs of all the citizens of the State of Idaho? In order to keep emotionality and subjectiveness from clouding this issue, part of the answer to this question will be based upon the 1970 census for the State of Idaho.

The 1970 data lists the Indian population for the State at 6,687 or 0.94% of the total population of 712,567. The Indian population can be considered as being unrealistically low because many of the enrolled Tribal members who are attending schools are out of the State on Census Day such as attending BIA Boarding Schools and other colleges. In addition, poverty conditions on the reservations have forced many Indians to leave Idaho in search of jobs. This situation is encouraged by the BIA through their "relocation programs". The Northern Idaho Indian population is listed as 2110 and represents 1.27% of the total population of 166,107.

The Black population in 1970 was given as 2130 or 0.29% of the total State population. However, this number is highly inflated by two Job Corps Centers, Cottonwood (148), Marsing (112), and Mountain Home Air Force Base (675). A more realistic number would be 1195 after correction for the above. This represents 0.17% of the State's population. Again this number is still unrealistically high because it includes the Black student populations at institutions of higher learning and cannot be considered as residents of the State of Idaho in the normative sense. For example, the 1970 census data for the Moscow division of Latah County lists 35 Blacks being present on Census Day, April 1, 1970. The Black population in Northern Idaho is listed as 99 (omitting Cottonwood Job Corps) and is 0.06% of the total population in the ten northern counties.

The "Chicano" population statistics for Idaho are not clearly defined in the 1970 census. There are persons of Spanish language listed or persons of Spanish origin or descent, and persons whose mother tongue is Spanish. These numbers differ in their total. For example, there are 13,207 persons listed who claim their mother tongue is Spanish as oppose to 18,476 who are listed as persons of Spanigh language. These numbers represent 1.85% and 2.54% of the State's population. Southern Idaho is within the migratory routes of farm workers and these figures may be somewhat inflated on Census Day of April 1, 1970, in that farm work in Sourthern Idaho is normally in progress by this date.

The ten Northern Idaho counties listed 1076 persons of Spanish language and only 519 persons whose mother tongue is Spanish. These numbers represent 0.65% and 0.31% of the population in Northern Idaho. Persons whose mother tongue is Spanish may very well represent the Chicano better than the general term Spanish language. Of course, these figures have not been adjusted for the migratory workers who may not be residents of Idaho.

What would be a fair representation of minorities at the institutions of higher learning in the State of Idaho? If the primary role of the University of Idaho is to serve the educational needs of the citizens of Idaho, especially those from the Northern portion of the State, while Boise State University serves the State with special emphasis in the Southwestern por-

tion, while Idaho State University primarily serves the Southeastern Idaho and the State in general, then perimeters can be drawn around the term "fair representation" based upon the 1970 census data and a student population of 7100 at the University of Idaho.

Using the present minority for Northern Idaho and the State of Idaho in general, then fair representation at the University of Idaho would be as follows:

1. Indian students: 90 to 67, with the high number being associated with Northern Idaho percentage.
2. Black students: 4 to 11, with the low number representing the percentage from Northern Idaho.
3. Chicano students: 22 to 131, with the low number representative of Northern Idaho percentage of persons whose mother tongue is Spanish.
4. Non-minorities: the uniformity and high number of non-minorities in all sections of Idaho would not reflect any appreciable changed percentagewise.

The above then reflects what the fair percentages of the number of minorities should be at the University of Idaho. Based upon the above parameters, it is the Indian that is not represented at the University of Idaho! Therefore, any action to aide and assist minorities, as demanded by the Blacks, should seriously consider who are the citizens of Idaho and the prime area of responsibility of the University.

Therefore, the Native American students of NASA-UI --- in response to the Black students demands --- takes the following position.

1. Minority to be Director of Intercultural Programs.

If this position is to be filled by a minority person, then this position be filled by an Indian. Further, that this position be modified to reflect its mission of minority admissions, financial aide, and recruitment. This position to be filled by an Indian by July 1, 1974. Lastly, Ms. Corky Bush be retained during the interum period so as to finish the on going activities.

2. Recruitement

In as much as the Native American student is under represented on campus of all the minorities, any effort taken to recruit should be aimed at the Native Americans. Furthermore, any effort to recruit from out-of-State before any effort is taken in-State would not be in keeping with role of the University of Idaho to the State's citizens.

3. Financial Aides

The Indian students and population are counted in the request for Federal funds for disadvantage students. However, they do not receive their fair share of these funds because BIA and Tribal funds are considered first. If any auditing of financial aides is to be taken, NASA recommends President Hartung to appoint a commit-

tee or organization from within the State of Idaho rather than persons or parties from out of State because they are not responsible to the citizens of Idaho.

4. Staff Positions on Campus


Native Americans are not now employed in staff positions of the administration or in the Student Advisory Services Division. If any more minorities are to be employed, every effort should be made to employ an Indian so as to balance out their fair share of representation.

5. Racism

Racism does exist in the University community. Ignorance about Indians plays a large part of any discrimination felt by Indians. Discrimination is a national problem that cannot be solved overnight and crash programs appear worthless.

6. Black Athletes

Every effort must be made to explain to Black athletes the nature of Northern Idaho and the University so as to prevent their making unreasonable demands without clear understanding of the University and surrounding community.



John Wheaton, Jr.
President, NASA-UI