



1111 Franklin Street
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August 24, 2018

PROVOST BROWN

Dear Michael:

I am writing in regard to questions, comments, and concerns that have arisen from within the University, the Native American community, and policymakers about the University's policy and processes related to the curation, repatriation, and disposition of Native American remains and cultural items in the University's custody. The "Policy and Procedures on Curation and Repatriation of Human Remains and Cultural Items" was first adopted in 1991 and last substantively revised in 2001. It addresses the treatment and disposition of Native American and Native Hawaiian remains and cultural items in the University's custody. The policy also addresses the repatriation of such remains and cultural items (e.g., funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony) under applicable law, including the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Concerns include:

- variances among campus implementation approaches,
- the timeliness of the repatriation process,
- whether policies reflect the most recent regulatory developments, and
- whether there is appropriate consideration of tribal viewpoints.

In light of these concerns, I am asking you to assemble a small committee, in consultation with appropriate members of Native American tribes, the existing University Advisory Group on Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation of Human Remains and Cultural Items, and the Academic Senate, to conduct a substantive review and revision of the University's NAGPRA policies, committee structures, and implementation practices in order to strengthen our policies and practices. The committee should define the circumstances under which the research and teaching use of remains and cultural items in the University's possession is appropriate and the circumstances under which the University will offer repatriation of remains and cultural items beyond that which is required by law.

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The University takes the handling and research of all remains under our stewardship seriously. It is important to me that the University's policy is consistent not only with the law but with the values and principles of our institution.

Please submit a plan for the review and revision of this policy by Friday, September 28, 2018. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet Napolitano
President

cc: Academic Senate Chair White
Academic Senate Vice Chair May
Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff Nava
Interim Senior Vice President Holmes
Vice President Ellis
Chief Policy Advisor Kao
Associate Vice President Flaherty