

Grand Valley State University
Native American Advisory Board “Gchi Booskamgaad”
Charter

The Native American Advisory Board “Gchi Booskamgaad” is established by the Vice President for Inclusion and Equity to advise the Vice President on outreach and retention strategies for Native American students, faculty and staff. Through the Division of Inclusion and Equity, the Native American Advisory Board (NAAB) works to advocate and support Native American perspectives at Grand Valley State University. The advisory board is committed to fostering strong relationships between the University and the larger Native American communities.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Foster an environment of trust and engagement between the University and the larger Native American communities;
2. Facilitate open communication between Native American community and the University
3. Provide advocacy and support for Native American students, staff, and faculty;
4. Provide guidance for the Grand Valley community and leadership in matters related to and/or of importance and relevance to Native Americans;
5. Serve as a conduit between the local, state, and national Native American communities.

BOARD GOALS

1. Create and facilitate an inclusive environment for Native American students, staff, faculty, and community
2. Advocate and support the recruitment, retention and advancement of Grand Valley Native American faculty, staff, and students
3. Support cultural competence as it relates to Native American culture
4. Influence curriculum to incorporate Native American content across the disciplines
5. Develop, promote, and sustain meaningful community partnerships

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Open to Grand Valley students, staff, and faculty committed to and engaged with issues and matters related or important to Native Americans. The majority of the board should consist of Native American community members with a minimum University representation from the following areas: one representative from the Division of Inclusion and Equity (chair), one representative from the Provost’s office, one representative from the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Native American Student Association President.

Meetings are held monthly and terms are 3 years and are renewable. Members are invited to participate by the Vice President for Inclusion and Equity.

All members are eligible to vote. More than 50% of the voting members for each vote must be Native American community members who are members of the NAAB.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This committee will consist of the chair, one University designee, two Native American community members, and the president of the Native American Student Association.

BOARD COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee shall appoint committees or sub-committees as deemed necessary.

REPRESENTATION OF NAAB

When matters of NAAB representation are necessary (i.e. signing documents, talking to the media), the Executive Committee may designate a Native American NAAB community member best able to represent the NAAB.

AMENDMENT OF CHARTER

The Charter may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board membership by ballot. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the membership at least one meeting of the membership prior to the amendments being submitted to a vote. The Charter will be reviewed annually at the July meeting.