



NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN 49855

DEAN OF STUDENTS
American Indian Programs
(906) 227-2143 and 227-2146

MEMORANDUM
May 4, 1981

TO: Dr. Norman E. Hefke

FROM: Pauline I. Lakanen *Pauline Lakanen*

RE: Nishnawbe News Bylaws

The draft of the Nishnawbe News bylaws requested on February 18, 1981 has been tentatively completed. There is a disagreement regarding the number of representatives on the Board of Directors.

Jim St. Arnold wants seven members on the Board of Directors with the chairperson being a non-voting member except in the event of a tie vote. (Delete one student member and the faculty representative as listed in the attached bylaws.)

The American Indian Programs staff would like a nine member Board of Directors as listed in the bylaws with the chairperson having voting privileges.

The Freedom of Press Statement has to be written.

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Attachment

cc. Nancie Hatch
Karen Reese
Jim St. Arnold
Jim Carter ✓

PREAMBLE

The North American Indian Students at Northern Michigan University, Marquette Michigan, in order to foster better communications between the members of the Great Lakes American Indian community do establish a newspaper to be known as the Nishnawbe News, published at Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan.

Freedom of Press Statement

(To be prepared)

Purposes of the Publication

The purpose of the Nishnawbe News Board of Directors is to publish and distribute a quarterly newspaper which provides an open forum for expression of ideas and opinions and contains news of interest to American Indian students of Northern Michigan University and to members of the Great Lakes American Indian community.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the general management of the newspaper. This responsibility will include the publication of quarterly issues of the paper: Summer, Spring, Winter, and Fall. It will also include the selection and appointment of a Native American Editor, the approval of the Managing Editor selected by the Editor, the approval of a budget for each six month period as presented by the Managing Editor of the newspaper, and the establishment of general policies and procedures for the conduct of the paper.

While the Board recognizes the prerogatives of the Editor in regard to the design and content of the newspaper and the selection of the Native American editorial staff, the Board will ensure that the newspaper provides adequately for timely and accurate coverage of American Indian issues, problems, events and activities. For the purpose of carrying out this responsibility, the Board of Directors shall survey the subscriber's opinions regarding the Nishnawbe News in conjunction with the Summer issue. The results

of this survey will be published in a subsequent issue of the Nishnawbe News.

The Board of Directors may terminate the Editor and/or Managing Editor by 2/3 majority vote for dereliction of duties or demonstrated inability or unwillingness to carry out the responsibilities of this position as determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. A Board member may initiate a motion to terminate in writing and distribute it to the members of the Board of Directors and the person being charged at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the motion is considered. The motion must be accompanied by appropriate rationale. The person against whom the motion to terminate is made shall have an opportunity to present a defense in his/her own behalf.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Membership Qualifications and Terms of Office

The membership of the Nishnawbe News Board of Directors shall consist of the following.

1. The Editor of the Nishnawbe News.
2. The Managing Editor of the Nishnawbe News.
3. Two American Indian students selected by the Board of Directors. These positions shall be made known to the student body through advertising in available media at least two weeks prior to the scheduling of interviews with selected candidates. Application forms are required.
4. The Dean of Students or his designate. As long as the American Indian Programs exists, it shall be a representative of that Program. This member of the Board shall serve as the Financial Advisor to the newspaper's Managing Editor.
5. One member of the faculty who shall be recommended by the Board of Directors for appointment by the Academic Senate of N.M.U. Preferably, a member of the faculty will be solicited for this position who has skills and interests pertaining to American Indian culture and history.

6. The Journalistic Advisor, also a member of the faculty or administration who shall serve in an ex officio capacity with voting privileges. The Journalistic Advisor shall be selected annually by the Board of Directors from the members of the faculty or administration, based on recommendation of the editorial staff of the Nishnawbe News.
7. Two representative Indian community leaders from outside the University to be appointed by the President of the University. The Nishnawbe News staff and the American Indian Programs will submit their recommendations for community representation to the President. The President is not required to select from the suggested lists.

All students must carry at least six (6) credit hours during the fall and winter semesters of their term of office and have a G.P.A. of at least 2.0 based on at least 12 hours of credit at N.M.U. They may not be on "Disciplinary Probation" as defined in the Student Code. In addition, student members may not be regular employees on the Nishnawbe News staff.

The term of office for all appointed members of the Board, with the exception of the Journalistic Advisor and the representative, shall be two (2) years. However, for the first year of implementation of these bylaws, one of the student positions in category number "3" shall be filled for one year only. Members may be reappointed to positions. All terms shall begin at the beginning of the fall semester.

Vacancies which occur due to resignations or terminations shall be filled as soon as possible by following the procedures described herein.

Officers of the Board of Directors

The officers of the Board of Directors shall include a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary. (The chairperson will be a non-voting member except in the event of a tie.)

All officers shall be elected from the membership of the Board by majority vote within four (4) weeks of the beginning of the fall semester. Terms of office shall be one year.

The chairperson shall be responsible for convening the Board of Directors, preparing meeting agenda, conducting Board meetings, appointing special committees as needed, and carrying out any other duties needed in transacting the business of the Board.

The vice-chairperson shall assist the chairperson in meeting his/her responsibilities. In addition, the vice-chairperson will facilitate the survey at the Board of Directors directive for the summer issue.

The secretary shall be responsible for preparing the minutes of the Board meeting and having them distributed to Board members and posted in the Nishnawbe News offices. In addition, the secretary shall be responsible for preparing correspondence pertaining to the business of the Board for the chairperson and/or the Board as a whole.

Removal From Board Membership and/or Executive Office

Members of the Board of Directors may be removed from membership on the Board and/or an executive office if they are determined to be derelict in their duties. Such action may be taken by the affirmative vote of 2/3 majority of the remaining Directors. Approval of such action must be given by the American Indian Programs in the case of the removal of students, the Academic Senate in the case of faculty members, and the President of the University in the case of the Dean of Students' representative and the person filling the seat of the journalistic advisor on the Board of Directors.

Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet no less than once per month during the fall and winter semesters, and at least once during the summer.

A majority of the current membership of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum and be required for the transaction of official business.

Meetings of the Board shall follow parliamentary procedures as established by Robert's Rules of Order. The chairperson may appoint a parliamentarian at his discretion.

Selection and Duties of Editor and Managing Editor

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for selecting and appointing the Nishnawbe News Editor and appointing the Managing Editor on a yearly basis. This process shall be initiated as necessary for positions to be filled. In carrying out this responsibility the Board shall see that there is adequate publicity throughout campus for a period of at least ten (10) days regarding the vacancies, that application forms and job descriptions are made available, that qualified applicants are interviewed, etc.

Minimum qualifications for applicants will include a G.P.A. of 2.0, have completed at least 12 hours of credit at N.M.U., and be of American Indian ancestry.

The students appointed to these positions shall be required to carry at least eight (8) hours of credit each semester.

Students who are employed during the summer months must be registered for fall courses at the University.

A. Managing Editor

The Managing Editor shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for the business affairs of the newspaper, including production, advertising, subscriptions and distribution.

The Managing Editor's main concern shall be to administer the operation of the newspaper as efficiently as possible, taking care, however, to work cooperatively with the Editor to ensure the production of a quality newspaper. He/she shall appoint such other employees as may be deemed necessary to assist in carrying out responsibilities within the financial constraints dictated by the budget.

The Managing Editor shall carry out the business affairs of the newspaper in accordance with University policies and procedures.

Attendance at all Board of Directors meetings is required. In addition, the Managing Editor shall be required to present a written report of expenditures, income and accounts receivable for the previous month at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.

B. Editor

The Editor shall be responsible to the Board for the editorial content and tone of the newspaper and for the selection, direction and supervision of the editorial staff. Although given authority to establish editorial policy, he/she shall, nonetheless, be responsible for providing a balanced presentation of news and opinions, striving constantly for completeness, timeliness, accuracy and objectivity, and showing sensitivity toward prevailing community standards in the use of offensive language.

The Editor is expected to work cooperatively with the Business Manager and his staff in the interest of efficiency in the production of the paper.

Attendance at all Board of Directors meetings is required. In addition, the Editor shall be required to present a written report of accomplishments, problems and concerns at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

Advisors and Their Duties

There will be two advisors assigned to provide assistance to the staff of the paper -- a Financial Advisor and a Journalistic Advisor.

The Board member representing the Dean of Students, or his designate, shall serve as Financial Advisor to the paper's Managing Editor. In this capacity he/she shall be responsible for ensuring that all requests for expenditures are in accordance with the Nishnawbe News budget. Advisory assistance will also be provided by the Financial Advisor in matters pertaining to University policies and procedures, developing job descriptions, selecting staff members, maintaining records, collecting unpaid accounts, purchasing equipment, processing payroll time cards, etc.

The Journalistic Advisor shall be available to provide advice in matters pertaining to journalistic style, quality, accuracy, content, objectivity, ethics, etc. Although his/her approval is not required, the Journalistic Advisor shall be expected to review all editorial page material in advance of publication. Funding for the Journalistic Advisor, if any, may be provided by the Board of Directors through the Nishnawbe News budget.

Amendments

Proposed amendments to these bylaws shall be circulated in writing to all members of the Board of Directors at least one week prior to the meeting at which they are proposed for adoption. A 2/3 majority vote shall be required for adoption. Amendments to these bylaws must be approved by the American Indian Programs and Dean of Students, the President and the Board of Control.

Adoption and Implementation

These bylaws must be approved by the American Indian Programs, the Dean of Students, the President, and the Board of Control. They shall be declared adopted immediately following approval by the Board of Control. These bylaws shall, upon their adoption, replace any former bylaws of the Nishnawbe News and the amendments regarding the Nishnawbe News in the 1971 Constitution of the Organization of North American Indian Students.