

**American Association of Biological Anthropologists
Early Career Liaison Report, 2023-24**

Submitted by Justin Lund

The early career liaison proposed several initiatives to make the AABA meetings more welcoming to Indigenous scholars, community members, and Tribal leaders, the proposal aligns with other anthropology associations. The proposed suggestions were (1) to create a special interest group specifically for Native American and Indigenous biological anthropologists, (2) provide free or reduced rate fee for membership and conference registration for Tribal members, and (3) create communication to alert conference participants of human remains images.

1. The inaugural meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Biological Anthropologists (NIBA) has been scheduled for Friday, March 22, 2024 from 10-11:00AM. To facilitate a comfortable environment for discussion the meeting will be held offsite at Bluestone Lane Coffee.

Current NIBA agenda items:

- a. What should we call ourselves?
 - b. Mission and vision
 - c. Organizing a special poster session or panel for AABA 2025
 - d. Reduced rate for Tribal members logistics
 - i. Who is a tribal member?
 - ii. Committee to review Indigenous status
 - iii. Storage/Confidentiality of information
 - e. NIBA meeting 2025
 - f. Human remains sensitives and possible solutions
2. Providing free or reduced rate fees for Tribal/Indigenous members was discussed with the Executive Committee. The ExComm suggested reduced rate fee similar to that of *Special Member – qualifying country rate*. For many, enrollment documentation could likely be provided as proof of Indigenous status. However, documentation may not be available for some who identify as Indigenous. Other organizations have accepted narrative submissions describing this lack of documentation. In consultation with one organization (American Association of Anthropologists), it was suggested that a committee of 3 or more people evaluate documents and narratives. It was also strongly encouraged that a confidentiality policy be put into place for tribal affiliation documentation and narratives. NIBA will discuss our thoughts and provide recommendations to the Executive Committee.
 3. To address human remains sensitivities language was added to the abstract submission portal to encourage presenters to be thoughtful of their language and imagery. "We ask

scholars in all subdisciplines of biological anthropology to please carefully consider the language used and images chosen to describe your research. Offensive language and images should not be used. In addition, please be mindful of whether the language in your presentation may inadvertently contribute to marginalization of underrepresented groups in biological anthropology. Please consider each image carefully to avoid unintended harm and if an image is essential but may cause difficulty for some viewers, please consider contextualizing or alerting audience members in advance." NIBA will discuss human remains sensitivities and provide feedback and recommendations to the Executive Committee.