

The Indian Leader

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Government photo of incumbent university president Ronald Graham

Faculty senate votes ‘no confidence’ in university President Ronald Graham

JARED NALLY

April 2 — Haskell Faculty Senate unanimously presents Resolution No. 2021-01 to Tony Dearman, Director of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), stating, “Support for a vote of no confidence in the leadership, commitment to shared governance, a collegial culture of academic integrity, and transparent communication of Dr. Ronald Graham, President of Haskell

Indian Nations University.”

The resolution alleges that Graham has violated shared governance, the Haskell Faculty Senate Constitution (2017), and multiple Higher Learning Commission requirements all of which threaten the university’s accreditation and future. Haskell Faculty Senate also alleges multiple issues with the incumbent president, like “[excluding] faculty and academic deans from critical decisions about dual enrollment, effective scheduling of on-line courses, and use of the limited full-faculty Haskell currently has.”

The resolution also addresses concerns for free speech and expression, saying, “President Graham has demonstrated disdain for collegial academic culture and the unique Indigenous character of Haskell, as evidenced in his disregard for academic freedom, the free speech rights of our students and faculty, and by the autocratic manner in which he seeks to run, not lead, Haskell,”

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Review team visits HINU following “vote of no confidence”

JARED NALLY


An “impartial administrative review team” is visiting the Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) campus this week at the direction of Tony Dearman, Director of the Bureau of Indian Education in response to the Haskell Faculty Senate’s “vote of no confidence” resolution in incumbent University President Ronald Graham. Dearman’s announcement of the investigation said, “Our goal is to use this impartial review to help make sure HINU continues to function as a premier standard for post-secondary education in Indian Country while supporting the rights of students and staff.”

If HINU faculty, staff, adjunct instructors, or students have concerns they want the team to address, they have been instructed to send emails to Tamarah Pfeiffer [Tamarah.Pfeiffer@bie.edu], Francine Jaramillo [Francine.Jaramillo@bie.edu], and Margaret Coffey-Pilcher [Margaret.Coffey-Pilcher@bie.edu].

Safety for returning students to be discussed in virtual meeting

JAMES BENSON

Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) faculty, staff, and students are invited to participate in a virtual discussion on safety following an announcement that students will be returning to campus this fall. The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) announced it is, “seeking stakeholder input on its plans to rely upon the latest U.S. Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance regarding... safe delivery of in-person and hybrid instruction and determine if BIE schools should include additional guidelines.” HINU community members can register for the zoom meeting which will take place on Tuesday, May 11 at 3 p.m. CDT.



**Haskell
Indian
Nations
University**

**Dual
Enrollment
Program Postponed!**

Please excuse our error. In our excitement about the Dual Enrollment Program we announced it before all the i's were dotted, and t's crossed. Stay tuned - we will release specific information about enrollment and courses soon.

Office of the Vice-President of Academics

Announcement from the Vice-President of Academics

HINU delays dual enrollment program following faculty criticism

JARED NALLY

April 7 — Following shared governance criticism by its Faculty, Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) is now delaying a Dual Enrollment Program that would provide Native American high school students with opportunities to gain college credit. The university deleted the original social media posts that announced the program and said, “Please excuse our error. In our excitement about the Dual Enrollment Program, we announced it before all the i’s were dotted, and t’s crossed. Stay tuned – we will release specific information about enrollment and courses soon.”

The announcement to postpone comes after Haskell Faculty Senate unanimously passed a “vote of no confidence” resolution last Thursday which had stated, “President

[Ronald] Graham continues to exclude faculty and academic deans from critical decisions about dual enrollment, effective scheduling of on-line courses, and use of the limited full-faculty Haskell currently has.”

Details about the program were provided to faculty in a memorandum on March 30th, just days before the resolution was certified, where HINU President Ronald Graham said, “The 6th high school signed our Dual Enrollment MOU last Friday. We currently have another 25 we’re working with regarding this same initiative. These are exciting times!! As you’re aware, we are offering 18-units to Native high school juniors and seniors free of charge. We will use Cares [sic] Act monies to fund this. Our recruiting team is doing a phenomenal job.”

No information has been provided at this time as to how long the program will be delayed.

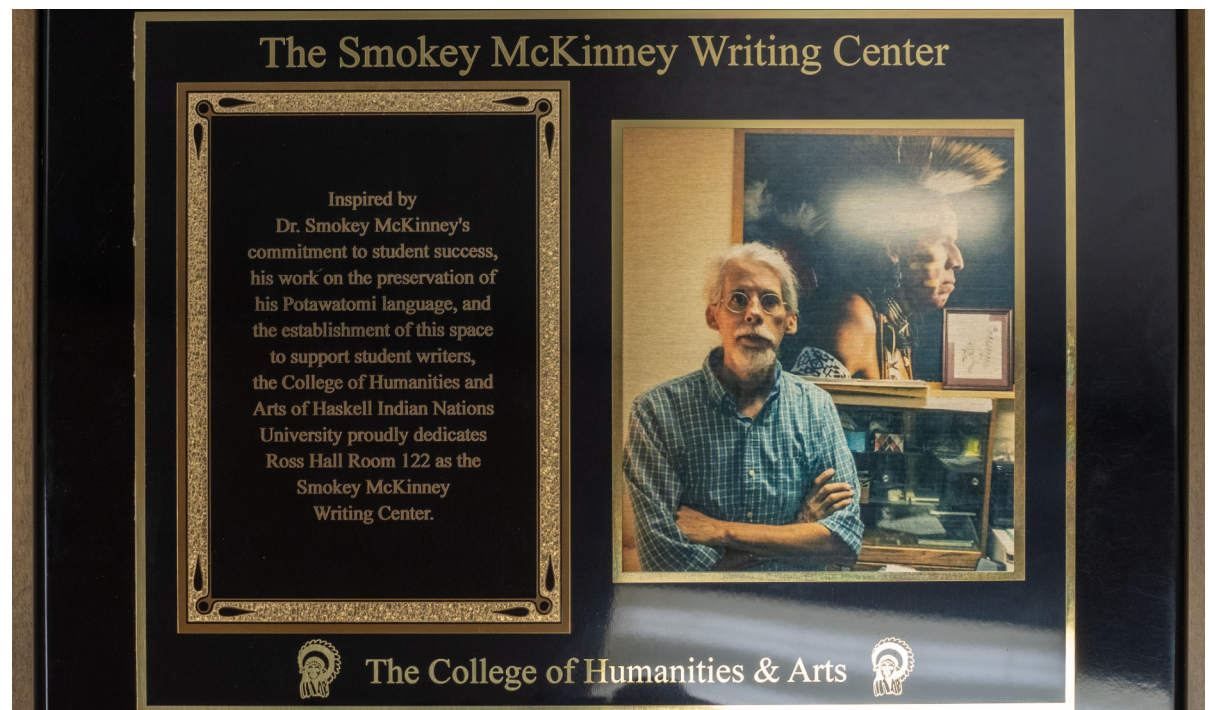
LKPD excited for a proposed new criminology program, faculty left out of discussions

JARED NALLY

When incumbent University President Ronald Graham came to Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) last May, he brought with him years of experience — nearly 15 years as a Criminology Professor at Fresno City College as well as almost two years as Director of Criminal Justice at NW Christian University. Adding to Graham's background, Daniel Burland, Ph.D. was announced as Dean of Students in early March in an email that stated, "Dr. Burland has over 20 years of college teaching experience, first in French language and then in the related fields of Sociology, Criminology, and Legal Studies." The culmination of experiences in criminology is resulting in a proposed online criminology program at HINU.

"Our online Criminal Justice and Humanities programs are almost ready to submit to the Curriculum Committee for review, discussion, and approval," said Graham in a memo to faculty on March 30. The announcement received criticism. "President Graham proposes new baccalaureate, masters, and Ph.D. degree programs without any engagement or consultation with Haskell Faculty Senate or the Haskell Board of Regents," said the Haskell Faculty Senate in a "vote of no confidence" resolution passed just days later. The resolution included multiple allegations that Graham has not effectively communicated with faculty and has not participated in shared governance.

While Graham has not consulted with Haskell Faculty Senate or the Board of Regents, he has met with the Lawrence Kansas Police Department (LKPD). "We have had informal preliminary discussions with the HINU administration about a potential criminology program. As the primary responding law enforcement agency to HINU, we are excited about the prospect of being involved in this type of program and its potential," said Patrick Compton, Public Affairs for the LKPD.



Announcement from the Vice-President of Academics

HINU announces 1k in technology aid

JARED NALLY

April 28 — "To have something named after you is pretty damn cool," said Smokey McKinney responding to a surprise dedication ceremony for him.

At the ceremony, McKinney, an English instructor and founder of the writing center, was presented with a plaque inscribed, "Inspired by Dr. Smokey McKinney's commitment to student success, his work on the preservation of his Potawatomi language, and the establishment of this space to support student writers, the College of Humanities and Arts of Haskell Indian Nations University proudly dedicates Ross Hall Room 122 as the Smokey McKinney Writing Center."

The dedication ceremony featured an honor song, a tribute video by past students, and words from colleagues, students, and community members whom McKinney has impacted over his tenure at Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU).

In McKinney's thank you address, he thanked Joni Rains, interior designer and spouse of Dean of Humanities Jim Rains, for bringing his vision for the space together.

The space is designed around the concept of a circle and the movement of pendulums. McKinney said the space changed his life for the better, and it encompasses everything symbolically he's come to learn. McKinney described coming into the space as, "an incredible feeling of newness, of a new beginning."

The dedication continues the commitment McKinney and his colleagues have to the creation of the Smokey McKinney Writing Center and their commitment to students. "The McKinney Writing Center is a place of hope and healing," said Jim Rains.

New Indian Leader Logo





Photo courtesy of Jolona Shield-Dzakic

Jolona Shield-Dzakic, new head softball coach

KAYLA BOINTY

The Indian Leader would like to welcome Jolona Shield-Dzakic to the Haskell family as the Head Softball Coach for Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU)!

Jolona was born and raised in Lawrence, Kansas. She is an alumni student of Lawrence High School, where she was awarded 6A Sunflower All-Conference and 6A All-State for the softball program. After graduating high school Shield-Dzakic attended Cowley County Community College as a student-athlete for their Tiger softball program. At Cowley, she was awarded 1st Team All-Conference both her freshmen and sophomore year, Cowley College Student-Athlete of the Month, NJCAA All American, and Dean's Honor Roll. After graduating from Cowley, she transferred to Mount Mercy University as a

student-athlete to round out her Junior and Senior years. While at Mount Mercy University, she was awarded 1st Team All-Conference, broke the Single Season RBI record, and tied the Long-Standing Home Run record. As an athlete, Shield-Dzakic played as a pitcher, 1st baseman, and a power hitter. In May 2019, she graduated from Mount Mercy University with her Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Administration.

Shield-Dzakic previously volunteered her time to help the Haskell Softball program in the fall of 2019. In spring 2020, Shield-Dzakic was hired as one of the assistant coaches for the Softball program at HINU. Jolona Shield-Dzakic is now excited to be given the opportunity to be the Head Coach for the HINU softball program.

Shield-Dzakic descends from the Apsalooke and Oglala Lakota peoples. Both her parents are Haskell Alumni. Onward Haskell!

Continued from page 1.

A total of nine “whereas” clauses lay out the foundation for the senate’s resolute statement, “And Now Therefore Be It Resolved, the Haskell Faculty Senate declares no confidence in either Dr. Graham’s leadership or his effective use of shared governance for Haskell Indian Nations University.”

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