

DATE: January 18, 2023

TO: Dr. Thomas Whitley, Director, Anthropological Studies Center  
Giovanna Bacigalupi, Business Manager, Anthropological Studies Center

FROM: Ming-Tung "Mike" Lee, President and Karen Moranski, Provost and Vice  
President for Academic Affairs

RE: Suspending new intake of NAGPRA-related collections

Following the legislative hearings in September 2023, our new compliance plan for repatriation, and our conversations with the CSU's CalNAGPRA project manager, Adriane Tafoya and representatives of the Tribal Council for the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, and in consultation with Cabinet, Sonoma State University has decided to suspend collection of NAGPRA-related materials, effective February 1, 2024. The decision to suspend NAGPRA-related collections is driven by the need to focus existing resources on timely completion of the repatriation process for SSU's current collections.

I offer my sincere appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the staff and faculty at the Anthropological Studies Center. In the coming weeks, Provost Moranski is available to assist in developing a plan to ensure a smooth implementation of this suspension and continued implementation of the repatriation plan. This decision is specifically targeted at NAGPRA collections and is not intended to impede other anthropological activities within the center.

Cc: Adriane Tafoya, CSU CalNAGPRA Project Manager  
Dr. Troi Carleton, Dean, School of Social Sciences

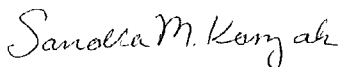
The David A. Frederickson Archaeological Collections facility at Sonoma State University (ACF) is committed to working toward the timely and respectful repatriation of Native American ancestors and cultural items to their rightful Tribes. In accordance with the memo issued on January 18, 2024 by President Ming-Tung "Mike" Lee and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Karen Moranski calling for Sonoma State University to suspend acceptance of collections that may contain cultural items subject to Federal NAGPRA and/or CalNAGPRA, the ACF will NOT be accepting any such collections, with the following exceptions:

1. When full NAGPRA, or CalNAGPRA, consultation has already been carried out by the lead state or federal agency in the project or undertaking, AND where there is an explicit and signed written agreement between the lead agency and the appropriate Tribe(s), AND where the Tribe(s) has/have requested the ACF hold the collection in trust for them until some point in the future when they can take possession of it. Control of these collections will remain with the Tribe(s) requesting curation, or will be assigned according to their preference.
2. In the case of reunification of previously-divided collections for the purpose of more efficient repatriation and respectful conditions of housing, collections items may be transferred to the ACF, to be held in trust, by request of, AND with explicit written agreement by, the appropriate Tribe(s).
3. Collections for which curation agreements, and/or authorizations, have been initiated prior to February 1, 2024 will be accepted, with the understanding that the appropriate NAGPRA, or CalNAGPRA, Tribal consultation is already underway, even though it may not yet be complete.
4. Orphaned collections (those for whom curatorial possession is/was unknown, disputed, or neglected) will be accepted on a temporary basis until the appropriate Tribe(s) can be identified and consultation can be initiated and concluded. The ACF has a curatorial responsibility to make sure that sacred cultural items and human remains are repatriated properly rather than be discarded or destroyed by non-compliant parties.
5. No new curation agreements or authorizations will be issued beginning February 1, 2024, that do not meet any of the above stipulations.



1/29/2024

Dr. Thomas Whitley, Anthropological Studies Center Director



1/29/2024

Sandra Konzak, Anthropological Studies Center Collections Manager