

By-Laws
Global Indigenous Forum
Florida International University
Version of July 14, 2015

Mission: To bring global Indigenous issues, voices and awareness to the FIU campus and world community through activities and academic programs.

Goals: In this way we can better achieve our overall goals to:

1. Stimulate Indigenous campus events, especially during the fall semester Native American Week.
2. Encourage Indigenous students to attend, feel welcome, and succeed at FIU.
3. Support a vibrant Indigenous Student organization - GIG - Global Indigenous Group.
4. Stimulate an Indigenous Studies curriculum, academic programs, certificate, conferences, etc.
5. Promote faculty and student research on Indigenous issues.
6. Encourage the hiring and support of Indigenous Studies faculty
7. Collaborate on these activities with Miccosukee, Seminole and other Indigenous groups.
8. Foster support for Indigenous community development goals.

Vision: With the Indigenous leadership of the Global Indigenous Forum, the vision is for FIU to be known as a welcoming institution for Indigenous faculty, staff, students and Indigenous peoples from local, regional and worldwide communities.

Recognizing our common values for land, territory, cultural preservation, a good life, and all our relations, through engaged partnerships and collaborations our mutual efforts focus on the issues and perspectives of Indigenous peoples locally and worldwide.

Through GIF efforts FIU will be recognized globally as a place for Indigenous issues to be openly and fairly discussed through courses, dialogs, conferences, media, exhibits, research publications, and engaged action oriented activities."

Membership: GIF's open membership welcomes and engages FIU faculty, staff, students, alumni, community and tribal representatives.

Director: The Director is an FIU faculty member with national or international recognition for work with Indigenous peoples and issues. The Director serves as the Chairperson of the GIF Advisory Council. Appointed by the Director of the School of International and Public Affairs who considers the recommendations of the Advisory Council. Initial term is for three years with eligibility for reappointment. The GIF Director:

1. Plans and implements the GIF Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives.
2. Represents GIF to the University and public.
3. Facilitates faculty and student initiatives.
4. Supports and motivates the student club – GIG – Global Indigenous Group
5. Manages resources and seeks funding opportunities
6. Coordinates communications through the various media.
7. Supervises staff and volunteers.

Staff: Initial support is negotiated from the Academic Department of the Director.
Support staff, Assistant Directors, etc. are added based on additional funding.

GIF Advisory Council

Advisory Council Mission:

The Global Indigenous Forum (GIF) Advisory Council is a cornerstone for engagement, linking and planning of FIU GIF programs and initiatives with Indigenous peoples, the general community, tribal organizations, and with other educational institutions. Advisory Council meetings are a forum for interchange of ideas to support the mission, goals and programs of GIF.

Advisory Council Role:

Advisory Council Members voluntarily donate time and resources to advise the GIF Director and leadership, identify opportunities, contribute to and assist with planning, resource development, and help increase public awareness of GIF mission and goals. Advisory Council Members volunteer and commit to:

1. Planning of the Global Indigenous Forum, its mission and programs;
2. Provide advisory leadership to the GIF-Director, related faculty and students;
3. Serve as goodwill ambassadors connecting GIF with the community, alumni, prospective students, prospective donors, Indigenous peoples, Nations and other constituents;
4. Advise on and pursue possible funding opportunities;
5. Assist with development by networking and promoting GIF among other individuals and organizations capable of contributing time/talent or opportunities/resources;
6. Help bridge GIF to the community and assure that GIF programs have real-world relevancy;
7. Advise, assist and plan activities that provide practical experiences for students – including mentorship, internships, research projects, service learning and experiential opportunities, summer jobs and post-grad employment.

Unless they have other GIF roles, Advisory Council Members do not engage in the administrative or management affairs of the Global Indigenous Forum and they carry no fiduciary responsibilities.

Advisory Council Membership:

Members are to be representative of the FIU faculty, staff, students, alumni, community and tribal representatives. The GIF Director is the Chairperson. FIU students are represented by the President, or immediate Past President of GIG, the Global Indigenous Group student club. The Chair of the GIF Circle of Friends, and GIG Faculty Adviser are members. Leadership by persons of Indigenous heritage are valued. Appointment to the Advisory Council is at the discretion of the GIF Director, based on recommendations from the Advisory Council, and is for an initial term of two years, with eligibility for reappointment.

Advisory Council Officers:

Officers of the Advisory Council shall consist of Chair, First Vice-Chair (Internal) and Second Vice-Chair (External). Vice-Chairs are appointed by the Director based on recommendations from Advisory Council members and serve two-year terms.

The *Chair* conducts meetings, works with GIF faculty and students to establish meeting agendas, and represent the Advisory Council to other forums as needed.

The *First Vice-Chair (Internal)* will be an FIU employee. The First Vice-Chairperson exercises the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair. The First Vice-Chair encourages interdisciplinary activities, including other academic units, centers, institutes, student organizations and administrative offices. The First Vice-Chair records and documents the membership, meetings and decisions of the Advisory Council.

The *Second Vice-Chair (External)* is not an FIU Employee and is selected from the community or tribal representatives. The Second Vice-Chair facilitates engagement activities, including outreach to schools, professional communities, tribal organizations and the public.

Advisory Council Meetings:

Advisory Council meetings will be held at least twice per year, usually during the Spring semester. In-person participation of members who reside in South Florida is preferred. Virtual participation by Members outside of the south Florida area will be accepted. These formal meetings are announced to the GIF members and interested community who are welcome to attend.

GIF Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends is composed of individuals who have a dedicated commitment to the success of GIF mission, goals and objectives. Integrally engaged in GIG activities, our Circle of Friends shares our vision with those around them. Members have made significant contributions to the well-being of GIF and are appointed by the GIF director. Continuing membership is based on their contributions to the organization. The Chair of this committee serves on the GIF Advisory Council and is appointed by the GIF Director.

GIG - Global Indigenous Group, Student Club

Global Indigenous Group (GIG) is a student-led organization of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples who seek to celebrate and share global Indigenous heritages, sovereignties, memories, and knowledges. GIG works to raise awareness around various issues that Indigenous peoples face around the world and advocates for the social and communal development of Indigenous communities. The student club works to support and network with Indigenous students, professors, and professionals. GIG maintains the requirements of a student club recognized by the FIU Council of Student Organizations (CSO). The club constitution is re-registered in the fall and spring semesters with the CSO. Student members vote for the Officers and select the Club's Faculty Advisor.

GIF, the Global Indigenous Forum encourages continued leadership and member activities of the student club by promoting social, educational, artistic and service events. GIF works with the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services to support GIG. The GIG President and Faculty Advisor are members of the GIF Advisory Council.

GIF Communications Committee

Members of the GIF Communications Committee work to coordinate Internet communications to reflect GIF mission, goals and objectives while insuring an honorable and accurate presentation of Indigenous issues to the public and University community.

Members have skills in internet social media, web design and editing.. Faculty, staff, students, alumni and Indigenous community members can serve in this capacity. The A&S/SIPA web designer is a vital member

The committee is responsible to work with the GIF and GIG leadership to coordinate effective communications. Under the direction of the GIF Director, the Committee is responsible for an actively changing and well-designed GIF web page and social media. Committee members work with the student GIG President to maintain coordinated communications with the Facebook page and orgsync.com.

Intertribal Celebration Committee

A major event of the year, the Intertribal Celebration brings the Indigenous voice and issues to campus with performers, speakers, videos, music, art, etc. This event requires consistent leadership and a well-coordinated working group of volunteers encouraging the involvement of Indigenous peoples and the community. A GIG student leader serves as Co-Chair with a member of the GIF Advisory Council.