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NAFSAPA

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Native Faculty/Staff Organization Becoming Active

by Faith Price

After several years of dormancy, the Native American Faculty Staff and Administrative Professionals Association (NAFSAPA) is being revived at WSU.

The group met in November and discussed the purpose of having an active organization. Members voiced a strong desire to network and connect with other Native professionals at WSU, in order to increase visibility, get to know resources, and collaborate on efforts involving student success.

NAFSAPA formed on campus around 7–8 years ago, according to Barbara Aston, one of the founding members. Back then, they had co-chairs, one from faculty and one from the staff/AP. Thus far, the group is meeting on an informal level, and trying to encourage community.

NAFSAPA met again in January the week before classes began and made plans for some activities spring semester that would encourage information exchange and community building. NAFSAPA hosted a coffee and donut hour Thursday the 23rd of January down in the Plateau Center at Cleveland Hall. WSU Native Programs provided coffee and treats, and the opportunity for Native faculty and staff to visit in an informal setting. The group hopes to continue with coffee hours twice a month, with the next scheduled for February 6 from 7:45–9:30am.



Goodies were in abundant supply at the first Native American Faculty Staff and Administrative Professionals (NAFSAPA) Coffee Hour.

In addition, Brown Bag lunch gatherings are being formulated where NAFSAPA members can share their own expertise or area of interest, as well as news from their department. The first Brown Bag will be held February 20 at 12:10 pm in Cleveland 27B, with Barbara Aston, Director of Plateau Center for Native American Programs, presenting information on the Tribal Nation Building Leadership Program and the MOU Tribal Scholarship.

WSU Native staff, faculty, and administrative professionals who are interested in receiving updates on NAFSAPA activities can subscribe to the NAFSAPA listserv at lists.wsu.edu/join.php, list name NAFSAPA.

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