Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to invite your participation on a UC Davis Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor. The effort of the committee will be focused on implementing a proactive consultation effort with Native American tribes to ensure effective implementation of NAGPRA including the culturally unidentifiable (CUI) rules.

The NAGPRA committee has a long history at UC Davis as it was initiated in 1992 and reactivated many times since then to respond to changes in the legislation. In May 2010, new regulation related to the transfer of culturally unidentified remains is forcing us to regroup the committee.

I have attached a detailed description of the UC Davis NAGPRA Committee and the role I hope it will play in helping the campus formulate clearly the required resources, organizational structure, and campus policies that are needed to effectively implement this effort. I refer you to the attached for that fuller description.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research will provide staff support for the committee and make detailed background information and analysis available to members prior to the initial meeting. We will work with the committee to identify best practices from our sister campuses and peer institutions nationally. Staff will contact you shortly to schedule the committee’s first meeting. We are hoping to call meetings during the summer, but the primary work of the committee will begin in September. You need not respond to this letter unless you are unable to serve.

I very much appreciate your willingness to support this critical effort for our campus and nation.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Hexter
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Enclosure