

Transcribers note: The material and meaning of each speaker's words was represented as closely as possible to original intent. Words like "um, uh, you know, and just" were removed in some places for clarity.

Felix: I want to say a few things if I can, thank you Polly for your statement and I think it's important to recognize the time that we are in right now and what the contemporary terminology is. I mean like Polly said it's sort of you know mutated over the decades about what people should call us and what is the correct term and I think we're right now in a contemporary mode of Indigenous makes the most sense which is you know completely fine. But one thing I want to say is you are making a decision for this group right now but you're also making a decision for students who will come after you and so just keep that in mind in terms of that progression that will naturally happen in the next 10 years it could be something else and I really respect the preference of like being identified as the **Diné** that's who I want to be identified as but you know being identified as a collective is really difficult in terms of honoring and respecting people's individual nations and tribes that they come from and while I do have a preference for Indigenous because it makes the most sense right now, I think it's just important of how this will impact the group going forward and they say that from a historical perspective being the chair and co-chair of NASU at CC when I was a student and in the 1990s it was a time when there was a huge influx of Indigenous students to campus and most of them were from my high school actually and it was a time where the college wanted to admit more students of color but having no idea actually how to service us once we were on campus and so our propensity was to create programming where people could understand us. Okay this is the huge time that there's a huge, a larger population of Native students on campus. We have to have them understand us in order for us to coexist on this campus um so it became sort of an out outward looking group you know we want to share our culture we want to show you who we are while at the same time being a group to protect each other and define commonality it seems like a lot of our programming was sort of outward looking. So now as a group of students right now do you want to be a group that's welcoming that a term that that everyone can relate to or understand a bit better that's still sort of outward facing versus do, we want to look inward and this is a group that is more protective of who we are because at some point as a group based on some sort of ethnic racial identity there's still some sort of line there like this is for us and this is for you. So how does this group want to proceed going forward I think there's still that balance of we want to be sharing we want to be welcoming versus there's a line here where this is just for us and so there needs to be some sort of base understanding of this is what this group is and this is what it's for. Is it for us or is it for them? and I think that's also reflective of how times change because like i said when we were students no one knew what to do with us how do they service us how do we succeed as students here on this campus and so then the goal became okay understand this and then you will have some sense of how to how to service us so where are we now in terms of this group where are we where's what's the relationship with campus and everyone else on campus. I hear the goal is to be more welcoming to broaden it out a bit um but where's that line in terms of okay this is for us and this is what we need for this group. We as individual students.

Fer: Felix I um I think I'm having a bit of a hard time understanding your question but is what you're asking: how we as an organization are going to uh kind of balance it and confront just like being able to have spaces for people of different Indigenous identities?

Felix: I don't think I really have a question here I think I'm just sort of speaking from my experience about how we wanted to formulate the group when I was a student and I'm recognizing that that does change over time and so where this group finds itself now in terms of wanting to change the name for various reasons. You know, having a sense of: we're doing this protect us even further or we do this because we want to broaden the group out a bit more? You know and any sort of land base across the country has it, across the world, has its own Indigenous population because Indigenous can be a fairly broad term. So, as you brought in that with that word is it is it helpful for the group or is it helpful for people who may want to join the group for various reasons based on that change in that word. I think just thinking a bit more about, if we change this how does the change to group dynamic, how does a group see itself within itself and how does it see itself as other people looking in to this group.

Polly: I'm just gonna interject for a second I think you know what I feel like I'm hearing Felix say is with based on the history of CC there's not a strong advocacy for Native American students especially from um reservation spaces, right? So, I think that's like a big concern that I hadn't thought of when I was talking, am I right Felix? And sort of thinking that through, so there's I think that there's... When I think about the big diversity picture there's diversity, which is a goal, we see diversity in our classrooms, right? and then there's diversity specific. You know like the Black Lives Matter movement was a specific issue, that then people are like "oh well we're inclusive so all lives matter" and I think there's there could be that tension that could come up in the in like how do we advocate, who are we advocating for, and how do we advocate whether it's an international student or a person with international student background, a background that has indigeneity. Their needs are going to be very different from a person that like Felix if we have a whole group of students coming from a particular high school that was targeted and happened to have a person to do outreach and then attracted all of those students at once or something like that. I think that's a great point Felix.

Felix: There's something to be said of reflecting the multiplicity and the diversity even within Indigenous and Native nations versus always being seen as this monolithic culture that oh does your people write buffalo or do you live in a tipi too in terms of having this romantic racist historic idea of what a Native person is versus: hey I'm walking up and I'm wearing my banana republic sweater and my hair is kind of cropped short and I'm an Indigenous person. We're sort of reflecting that even among this group there's going to be a lot of specificity in terms of, okay this is how I identify as an Indigenous person, but actually to try to reflect that in a name or to educate people around campus of like no there isn't just one type of Native American. If you've seen Dances with Wolves that's the only Indigenous people that exist in the world whereas I know there's a lot of different people. And I think that's just something to think about in terms of an Indigenous person to Ireland is going to be a lot different to an Indigenous person from New Mexico. Even if someone from Ireland would call themselves Indigenous if there's

such a specific cultural group left there. So just sort of consider that as you're thinking about this name change in this discussion. I'm not advocating for one way here just some things to think about

Andres: I think those are all like really good points thank you guys for adding that. I think that's one reason why we wanted to draw this out into multiple discussions rather than just one so that we're really intentional with the way that we went about it and not try to just bulldoze over people and say like this is what we want. We wanna really get the perspective of different folks. I definitely feel that there is a need for specific advocacy and even having a space that's just dedicated for Indigenous folks or Native American folks that may come from reservation spaces or within the boundaries of the US, because their histories, you know although there are similarities, are much different than someone with my background who comes from a diasporic community from Mexico, who's Purepecha. Yeah, I think I think so that's really important so one of the suggestions that we made is that like we keep the name Native American so that we have that at the forefront, but add Indigenous so and that could look like you know like n-a-i-s-u like NAISU. That was one suggestion although, I think I think those are really important points that you bring up, does anyone else want to add?

Fer: Thank you. I want to thank everyone for those points. I think that does start to beg the question of whether or not you know it is a duty of ours to maybe start some type of initiative to include Indigenous identities from around the world not just to the confinements of the United States borders, just because I do think that some that's important you know I think Colorado College has a special way of making um tightrope and frisbee you know part of the culture and just the regular part of everyone's lives and that I feel can intimidate a lot of people to kind of display any other part of their own cultures and I think that you know mostly or a big reason why I wanted to include Indigenous into the name of NASU is so that people who identify as Indigenous may have a space show pride for their culture. But I do agree that Polly you brought up a really good point about this having similarities to the "all lives matter" movement and whatnot that I hadn't thought about but I guess what I'm saying is, what do you guys think it's better to have a separate group for all Indigenous identities and a separate group for specifically Native American students on campus?

Edgar: I think this is really good we're thinking about a lot of different people that we want to include that's something we want to do. But realistically knowing how many students that go through Colorado College and are in the Colorado Springs community at large, I don't really think we've, like this is my opinion and like I would love to hear more on what I'm saying, but I don't really see it feasible that we're thinking of people from Ireland and such. It's not like we don't want to include them, but I don't see how. What are the odds someone's going to come in like that? And just think it's like... I don't think of it it's going toward all things because we're still trying to be not exclusive but inclusive of people like us. And I really do like the idea of having Indigenous because we have students from Central America, Southern America that have those identities, and they want to be part of what we're doing and just more than just SOMOS. So I really do like the idea of Indigenous, but I think at the same time we shouldn't be troubling ourselves too much over the "all lives" kind of thing from what I'm picking up but that those are my thoughts.

Edxi: Hi I wanted to also talk about, just that I think that the comparison regarding if people are going to come into spaces that are namely Indigenous, I think, or centered around indigeneity, I don't know, I think that if that were the case, we would have seen those reflections within Indigenous movements currently outside of the institution. I'm not really seeing that in terms of the Indigenous movements that are currently happening here in these lands. We're not really seeing a lot of Indigenous uh people from like Ireland or even Africa lending their kind of like concern or voice or contention in the context of the lands that that we're on. I think I like the idea of Indigenous Student Union or Native Student Union only because I brought it up before that there's a strong, in the context of what's happening now, I think there's a pretty strong, growing anti-colonial or decolonial analysis that regardless of, like some people, yeah aren't wanting to even acknowledge the Americas as a legitimate kind of factor that they want to kind of attempt to de-legitimize it by not giving it that weight. So I think there are political reasons but I also think it's important... I think reflecting the times and acknowledging... I think that does acknowledge the future and I do also like the idea of talking about what Indigeneity actually is because often at times we know that when people say the word Indigeneity they think of a certain person or a phenotype and won't think about the similarities of Indigenous people globally.

Carissa: go ahead

Monique: Oh, I thought you were going to say something sorry um...

Carissa: Miguel had his hand up.

Miguel: Thank you Carissa, yeah we're all triangulated, I'm just really trying to not take up too much space, thank you all, but I just had... I think Edxi and Fer are right on it and to kind of expand on something they were saying, \*waves\* Polly very nice to meet you, I yeah I just want to speak on things that I can speak from in a perspective of conversations I've had similarly, and one I think it's from things that I have thought about with like renaming groups and stuff before, you know I draw an example of like Latinx and Latinidad and the way like I conceptualize it, right? Like if I consider myself Latino, that doesn't necessarily discount the larger umbrella of like Latinx and Latinidad than the importance of having like the "x" there as a inclusive, encompassing thing. Nor does that remove my own identity as a Latino as opposed to like a Latin- you know, I mean no one is removing that identity from me by inviting it to be included in a broader like Latinx identity, right? And similarly with nationality or anything else. So that's just one thing to consider of like, there's that possibility for multiple and complex identities that that are overlapping and non-overlapping, right? And that's totally fine. The second, I think it was it was Fer that was saying on this, was it connects with what the goals of the group are. And I do think that's... I'm totally with Indigenous and Native, and this would be like a third question, but if we're thinking about international students, international populations, even to go off of that Ireland example right, if somebody considers themselves like Indigenous Irish and there is this concern and question and, like their needs for development across college undergrad, you know like in their undergrad years, to reflect on colonialism, to reflect on power, to think about how that has shaped their experience as a Indigenous Irish person as opposed to a you know like colonized colonizing Irish person. I think that is that is valid, right? Those are valid Indigenous conversations. Similarly, if someone is uh Maori from New Zealand, right, they are going to have international student needs and they will very likely also have Indigenous-Native-student-in-undergrad needs or you know like concerns and things. And so, I don't think any of those are necessarily mutually exclusive, right? I'm sure somebody from New Zealand will maybe have to be talking to a lot of international student spaces and how to do all that stuff, but I guess that is the

question, right? Like will they want and would they find a space for their Indigenous Maori questions and explorations you know in this group. And that's the kind of... I think those are some of the questions that I'm hearing here and I think are really important and great. And so my thing to actually end with an actual question, is are there things that the group is leaning towards? Or really... because from what I'm hearing we'll do with people like Indigenous is really on the table and good is the main question like whether to keep the American in Native American? or whether to just keep Native? What you know maybe going back to Edgar's question, like what are the main options on the table? and are there any that people are like, "this is the one that we really want" or "this is the one that we actually don't want" or something. Thank you all again.

Andres: Yeah, this might be a good opportunity to bring up that PowerPoint if possible too, because I think it has some of the options and then we can show that really quick.

Carissa: Sure, before we do that, I wanted to give a chance for people to speak who haven't spoken just keeping track of time so I think Basimah, Julissa is there anything that you guys wanted to add, no pressure if you don't

Basimah: I don't identify as Indigenous but I live in the Revitalizing Nations LLC so I was just curious to see like what was going on at the club and how you all feel about those terms. I guess for me like I know "Indian" that is so outdated and I thought Native American was starting to kind of get outdated too, because what even is American? and then I thought Indigenous was kind of what everyone was moving towards, so yeah that's just I thought.

Julissa: All I wanted to say was that I myself don't identify as Indigenous even though I do have Indigenous ancestry. But I'm mainly here to learn and see what I as a member of the community can do. So yeah, but thank you for asking me

Carissa: Yeah, we're happy to have you both and happy to have you part of the conversation and you can keep being a part of the meetings. If you're interested, you can put your emails in the chat and I'll add you to our listserv so that you can get updates about this and when we have other events, but thank you for joining.

Monique: Yeah I'd also like to point out, thank you again for sharing as well, so I know we've run out of time just to be respectful of everybody's time. We could also follow up on some of these questions in the next meeting, but to end on that note, these are the options that we were talking about. So Native and Indigenous Student Union (NISU) that one again reminded me of the one in Denver. They don't necessarily use American. We do have some students who do identify with Native American so that's still an option and Indigenous Peoples' Student Union (IPSU) was also brought up in 2019 when it was first proposed. It was first proposed to be just Indigenous Peoples' Student Union but also again the second and last one it's just the order. It's not that much different. I could probably post those two on the webpage so people can go back to it. Andres do you wanna end here? do you wanna keep going? how are you feeling?

Andres: Yeah I guess we could. I know some people might have to run off, I think I might have to hop off too, but yeah thank you all so much for coming to our discussion. I know it went by quick, at least for me, but yeah if you'd like to follow up with us feel free to email, reach out to the co-chairs, or just NASU and then also we'll be having two more discussions next week to follow up with that. And I will go ahead and post those times two next discussion will be Monday February 15<sup>th</sup> from two to three...