



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

June 9, 2022

Ms. Melanie O'Brien
Designated Federal Officer
Native American Graves Protection
and Repatriation Committee
National NAGPRA Program (2253)
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–33503

Dear Ms.O'Brien,

I write in response to the call for nominations, published in the April 13, 2022 edition of the *Federal Register*, for a representative of national museum and scientific organizations for the National NAGPRA Review Committee. We in the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), are pleased to nominate two professional archaeologists for this position: Dr. Francis P. McManamon (current committee member) and Dr. Jennifer Raff.

The SAA is an international organization that, since its founding in 1934, has been dedicated to research about and interpretation and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With more than 5,500 members, SAA represents professional and avocational archaeologists, archaeology students in colleges and universities, and archaeologists working at Tribal agencies, museums, government agencies, and the private sector. SAA has members throughout the U.S., as well as in many nations around the world.

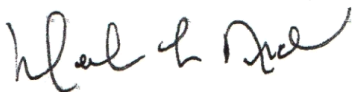
Dr. McManamon is a long-time member of SAA and many other prestigious scientific and professional organizations. He served as the Chief Archeologist of the National Park Service and the Departmental Consulting Archeologist (DCA) of the Department of the Interior. During that time, he not only performed the myriad federal public archaeology duties of the DCA, but also ably oversaw the management of the National NAGPRA Program from 1990 to 1999. He is the founding Director of the Center for Digital Antiquity (Digital Antiquity) at Arizona State University's School for Human Evolution and Social Change (SHESC). Digital Antiquity is "devoted to improving the access to archaeological data and documents and ensuring their long term preservation and availability for current and future uses." Dr. McManamon retired from Digital Antiquity in 2019. He currently teaches cultural heritage management as a member of the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University Cultural Heritage Management Program. As a current member of the Review Committee—and its chairman—he has capably led the panel through difficult debates on many issues, including the very momentous revision to the implementing regulations. He strongly deserves re-appointment.

Dr. Jennifer Raff is a member of SAA and many other prestigious scientific and professional organizations. She is an assistant professor at the University of Kansas. As an anthropological geneticist, she studies the genomes of contemporary and ancient peoples in order to uncover details of human prehistory. Her research is collaborative, respectfully engaging with indigenous Native American communities. This work is reflected in her recent book, a New York Times best seller, "Origin: A Genetic History of the Americas." Dr. Raff brings to the NAGPRA Review Committee not only an understanding of the current methods of scientific inquiry but also the sensitivity and respect for tribal knowledge and beliefs.

Both nominees are authors, co-authors, and editors of numerous books and articles on many topics in archaeology, including repatriation, and are the recipients of many awards from government agencies and professional groups. It is our understanding that the Alliance of American Museums intends to nominate Dr. McManamon, as well.

As the president of the SAA, I am authorized by the Board of Directors to submit these nominations for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Deborah L. Nichols, Ph.D., RPA
President
deborah.l.nichols@dartmouth.edu
802-779-2805

Nominee information:

Dr. Francis Pierce-McManamon
fpiercem@asu.edu
(480) 784-7465
5702 East Oak Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Dr. Jennifer Raff
jennifer.raff@ku.edu
(801) 580-7970
2112 Greenbrier Drive
Lawrence KS 66047