



## SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

July 30, 2020

Dr. Janet Napolitano  
President, University of California  
Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607  
Via [RPAC@ucop.edu](mailto:RPAC@ucop.edu)

Dear President Napolitano,

The Society for American Archaeology respectfully submits the following letter regarding the University of California's new Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation Policy, in lieu of the now-rescinded document dated June 18.

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 nearly 7,000 members, SAA represents professional and avocational archaeologists, archaeology students in colleges and universities, and archaeologists working at Tribal, state, and Federal agencies, universities, museums, and the private sector. SAA has members throughout the U.S., as well as in many nations around the world.

The letter of June 18 was drafted without consultation with important advisors at the Society. We have now completed those vital conversations and we cannot affirm strongly enough our appreciation that the UC system has developed its guidelines in close conversation with California native communities. We applaud this process and in fact hope to rededicate our Society to closer conversations with THPOs and Indigenous members.

SAA now offers its full support of the UC repatriation policy draft that was released in April. California has long been at the forefront of passing statewide legislation that adheres to both the letter and the spirit of federal laws, and CalNAGPRA is no exception. The UC repatriation policy provides a thorough and systematic framework for the UC system to both adhere to CalNAGPRA and enhance the University's repatriation activities. It will do so in a way that will be standardized across all UC campuses, include both federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribal communities, and return agency over human remains and associated materials to California indigenous and tribal organizations.

SAA also encourages the UC system to provide adequate funding for the implementation of the policy, to ensure that meaningful and respectful repatriation and curation activities can proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Watkins". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joe E. Watkins, Ph.D., RPA  
President