

Gwendolyn White, Director  
(907) 450-8191  
(907) 450-8181 fax  
gwen.white@alaska.edu



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
*Many Traditions One Alaska*

Institutional Research & Planning  
PO BOX 755260  
910 Yukon Drive Ste. 108  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5260

To: Jeannine Senechal

From: Gwen White

Cc: Pat Pitney  
Beth Behner

Saichi Oba  
Mary Gower

Ardith Lynch

Date: May 2, 2007

Re: Federal Data Collection Requirements for Race and Ethnicity

This memorandum provides a written recap of our meeting yesterday regarding UA's federal data collection and reporting requirements for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

The Department of Education published proposed guidelines<sup>1</sup> for comment on this topic in August 2006. Educational institutions are required to implement the final guidelines by fall of 2009. The requirements for post-secondary institutions are not likely to change significantly beyond what is outlined in this document.

Complying with the *data collection* requirements will drive UA's ability to comply with the federal *reporting* requirements. Based on the guidelines, UA student and employee data collection and Banner forms must allow for the selection and recording of:

- A) Hispanic or Non-Hispanic ethnicity
- B) One or more of the following races, with each respondent having the option to identify up to five race categories at the same time<sup>2</sup>.
  - (1) American Indian or Alaska Native
  - (2) Asian
  - (3) Black or African American
  - (4) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
  - (5) White

Respondents identifying more than one race will sometimes need to be reported in a 'Two or More Races' category for specific federal reports. However, UA will be required to collect and record information on the specific race(s) identified by each individual. Clear identification of minority and/or Alaska Native individuals, whether of one or more races, is critical to maintain eligibility for federal grant programs such as Alaska Native Serving Institution and Minority Serving Institution grants. From a revenue standpoint, these federal programs currently provide more than \$15 million annually in grants such as Title III.

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2006-3/080706d.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> An alternate solution would be to provide employees and students the option of selection one of 31 unique race combinations on data collection forms with the full detail then recorded in Banner. However, this may be confusing from a respondent's point of view and may take a large amount of space on each collection form.