

## **Criterion 1: Institutional Mission and Goals**

Q 3

There is still a need for the BOR to collaborate and engage more on issues relating to the college mission. For instance, the BOR must actively monitor progress with the college infrastructure issues.

At the opening of every board meeting, the mission statement is read to make sure that everyone is focused on the mission statement and the items on the agenda are in line with the mission statement. The mission statement has been amended with the approval of the board.

## **Criterion 2: Academic Governance and Educational Policies**

Q6

I believe the BOR is well informed by the college administration of any changes with other courses especially in education, however the college must also work more closely with the states to identify areas (courses) that might support employment in the business community as well.

I think the Board exercises authority over more aspects of academic affair then it needs to because we want to know how effective our faculty and staff are in helping students to succeed. there is less interaction between faculty and students. I also feel like we do not get information on how students actually perform in the classes they take at the College although we are provided with periodic reports on retention, persistence, and graduation rates.

The college is a learner center institution and the board is always working to make sure that all aspects of academic affairs are met and meeting the standards. In every board meeting, the board receives clear and comprehensive report on academic affairs of the institution.

### **Criterion 3: Institutional Planning**

Q9

The BOR is given ample time to review planning processes being developed by the college. In most cases, the BOR has been helpful in ensuring the plans reflect the mission of the college.

The board is very much involved and updated in the institutional planning for the college. The president and the administration is very active in updating and involving the board in the college's overall planning. The plans for the college can only be implemented with the approval of the board.

### **Criterion 4: Board-Chief Executive Relationships**

It is important that the President remains committed to the notion to help develop the college for self sustaining. The prospect of decreasing in US funding to education comes 2023 is really a big challenge to the college, therefore it is essential that the BOR and the President must effectively improve dialogue with the nation leadership to look for supplemental funding support to ensure the college is not severely affected after the cut off of sector grants.

The President has good working relationships with the Board; however, there is limited time to sit down with individual Board member to share views/perspectives. The President may need to travel to each State Campus and meet with individual Board members to build relationship.

The relationship between the president of the college and the board is very healthy. The board is very supportive in making sure that the president can do his job well. The president also has great respect for the board.

## **Criterion 5: Physical Plant**

Q15

As you can see, I've rated the BOR barely acceptable in this category because I'm not satisfied with the way the BOR is conducting itself in addressing the urgency of needed constructions in some of the state campuses. I've seen that the National Campus has continued to improve its facilities at a much dissent rate than the Chuuk campus.

We are aware that the Gymnasium, the ball field, and other facilities are open for the public to use; however, we are not sure what other usage can the facilities be made available for especially classrooms. The facilities master plan was done before this Board came in; therefore, we were not involved in the review of details. We realize that there have been some maintenance work to minimize cost, but are still seeing the need to have a list of maintenance needs and ratings on what is needed to maintained daily, periodically, annually, and over a longer period.

The board works very closely with the president and the administration of the college on the physical environment and making sure that all facilities are safe, maintained, and conducive to learning.

## **Criterion 6: Financial Management**

Q18

Since I don't have any financial background in developing a budget, I believe it is more appropriate that the BOR must give ample time to review the budget prior to the BOR, but not during the BOR meetings so we can really understand what the figures meant. In many cases, the BOR approves the budget to make sure it is transmitted timely without fully understand it.

The board is updated on a regular basis on the fiscal management and all matters relating to investment, expenditures, and all financial matters of the institution. The president is doing a great job in updating the board and the board is very much involved in supporting fund raising activities for the college.

## **Criterion 7: Financial Support**

Q21

The BOR is not actively engaged in many of the fund raising activities being conducted by the college except former Regent Mida. I would suggest that any fund raising at the state campuses must require each Regent representing that respective state to participate as an indication of their support of the fund raising activities.

The board is very much updated on the financial commitment of the college and is active in supporting fund-raising activities as well.

## **Criterion 8: Board Membership**

Q24

Although the BOR has participated in training of its members, the piece that is missing is engaging more with the leadership of the nation. It is important to strengthening cooperation with the nation and state leaderships to promote appreciation of the college and to develop the sense of ownership of the college. If these areas are improved, the nation and state leaderships will be more willing to provide more support to the college in terms of financial and in other ways.

The board is comprised of individuals who represent each of the four states and on from the national government. Members of the board are very supportive of each other and new members as well as old members receive regular professional development sessions to make sure that they learn and develop their skills to function well as regents.

## **Criterion 9: Board Organization and Performance**

Q29

I recall an issue with an employee at the National Campus that brought to the BOR attention during one of its BOR meetings in Chuuk. This case has gone to court and to my knowledge I have no idea what's the outcome of the case. The issue with the expired COM staff that just brought to the BOR attention during the recent BOR meeting in Yap. The issue must have been shared with the BOR members timely so they could have appropriate time to review it and perhaps deal with the FSM Immigration office to find a reasonable solution.

The board is well organized and meetings are managed and run smoothly by the chairperson. After each board meeting, the board members evaluate and reflect on how the meeting was conducted and make recommendations on how the next meeting would be improved. Most disputes are settled early without the involvement of the board.

## **Criterion 10: Board Relations with Key Constituencies**

Q34

Since COM-FSM is the only higher institution in the nation, the BOR must improve its relationship with the nation's leadership. The BOR using some of its COM alumni on board must aggressively work closely with the COM alumni organizations in the states to have them engage in promoting the college, and physically participate in college activities, for instance fund raising activities. And promoting the college's image in the community by sharing their experiences with the college; and help support the college's efforts in recruiting students.

There is a need to improve the college's tracking system of its graduates and alumni. The board is encouraging the college to come up with better means to improve communication and support by the college alumni association. The board also would like to have a workable plan that would be encouraging friends of the college to visit the various campuses to witness how the college system is run.

## **Criterion 11: Accountability to the Public**

Q37

I have not been able to effectively promote the college's image in the community; and I believe I should. The BOR must create its own out reach program ( in alignment with the college's mission) to effectively reach out to the community and promote the institution.

The board is satisfied with its effort in keeping the community and leaders informed of the state and performance of the college. The board makes a great effort to make sure that the community meetings are ongoing as well as meetings with government leaders and business leaders.

### **General Assessment**

*What two or three top issues have most occupied the Board's time and attention during the past year?*

- Revising the BOR by-laws.
- Discussions of the upcoming COM-FSM 25th anniversary.
- Chair joining COM President giving testimony of COM- FSM credentials at the Accreditation committee.
- Accreditation related issues Facilities construction projects
- Students performance: Why enrollment continues dropping/decreasing? Why students take more time and take longer to graduate. Facility maintenance and construction.
- Student Success, Governance, and Accreditation.

*What were the one or two particular successes during the past year for which the Board feels some special satisfaction?*

- COM-FSM reaffirmation of its accreditation.
- Reaffirmation of accreditation status
- Accreditation: Endowment investment and Fundraising activities
- Accreditation affirmation has been celebrated through out the community and the board is happy with the performance of the college. The board will continue to support the

administration in every way it can to keep the college accredited and meeting students needs.

*What particular shortcomings do you see in the Board's organization or performance that needs attention?*

- The BOR needs to be more proactive in addressing issues relating to the college and constantly follow through.
- Clear understanding of issues affecting the college
- I think the Board needs time to go back and review the enabling law and bylaws of the college. We also need some time to review all board Policies and Directives. we need to set some time to review the College's master plan and monitor progress regularly. We need to have committee assignments to look into pressing issues and recommend solutions to issues as identified by the Board.
- The board is performing successfully at this time and I hope that it will continue to be that way for many years to come.

*Other comments or suggestions to help plan the workshop's agenda?*

- The BOR must change the Board reflection event to a more organized meeting where important issues must be shared and noted, and transmitted to the President to review and comments before inclusion on the meeting agenda.
- The board should meet to plan out the workshop's agenda.

*Do you have a reasonably clear sense of your obligations and responsibilities as a regent?*

*Do you have a clear grasp of your Board responsibilities?*

*What has been the primary source of your information?*

- To uphold the constitution of the FSM; to uphold the mission of the college; to be abide by the BOR by-laws as dictated by the constitution of the FSM.
- Board Professional development and planning
- Attendance of board meetings other than the college
- The professional development sessions, attending AGB Meetings, and input from fellow regions and colleagues.

*What would you change to make your time on the Board more stimulating and rewarding?*

- None
- I would continue to encourage the open dialogue between board members themselves and the president. It is great to keep communications healthy and transparent.
- I would like to see changes to the IDP to ensure the COM-Chuuk Campus takes priority and builds soon. Please note that since the Chuuk Campus is a major project for the college it must receive more attention first before the college addresses other college infrastructure.
- I would like to see the BOR to be more united and aggressive in addressing issues relating to the college; and to work closely with the COM President to ensure the college is moving in the right direction and continues to uphold its mission in servicing the needs of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia.