

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM
COMMUNITY MEETING
Pohnpei State
December 14, 2015

The Board of Regents held a community meeting at the Pohnpei Campus Student Services Center on Monday, December 14, 2015. More than 100 people attended including students, faculty, and staff from the college of which some were also alumni and/or parents of students. Director of the Career and Technical Education Center Grilly Jack welcomed everyone and introduced the Chairman of the Board, Regent Churchill Edward.

Chairman Edward thanked Pohnpei Campus for organizing the meeting, and then introduced the regents present: Regent Johannes Berdon from Chuuk, Regent Tulensru Waguk from Kosrae, and Regent Jesse Salalu from Yap. Regent Kasio Mida who represents the national government was not able to attend. Community meetings are a best practice which exposes the board to the community to gain feedback and ideas to improve the college. He then introduced President Joseph Daisy.

President Daisy expressed his pleasure at seeing so many at the meeting. Echoing the chair, he said one of the best practices in which the board engages is convening community meetings whenever it holds board meeting to share with the community information, challenges, and ways the college serves students and the nation. Another is convening reflection meetings; a unique demonstration of the board's commitment to understanding the college and each other to make decisions collectively as a board for the best interest of the college. Now completing his fourth year as president, the president said during that time the regents have worked tirelessly for the college to meet a set of standards that apply to all colleges. We have a large complex organization with campuses in each state; two in Pohnpei and Yap, and serve about 2500 students. On Thursday approximately 200 students will graduate; President Christian will be the commencement speaker. President Daisy introduced the vice presidents present with an explanation of their roles: Vice President for Administrative Services Joseph Habuchmai and Vice President for Instructional Affairs Karen Simion. He then acknowledged CTE Director, Campus Deans, faculty, support staff, parents, alumni, community members, students, future students, and his office team (chief of staff, executive assistant to the president, and executive secretary to the president).

The vice presidents and campus deans presented highlights from their area of responsibility:

- VPAS spoke about the Beca facilities master plan and efforts to seek funding for the facilities; another good audit; FY 2017 budget development; and more proactive student recruitment. President Daisy provided more information on the facilities master plan and the required process through JEMCO for funding. The plan includes a permanent campus for Chuuk. The board actively supports moving the facilities master plan forward. The president also recognized administrative services for attention to expenses which resulted in 25% reduced utilities cost at the national campus.
- VPIA shared information on donations that enhance our programs; JICA donated equipment to FSM FMI and Mahi International donated over \$70,000 worth of medical equipment to support our health care programs. Dr. Daisy added that the college received a \$100,000+ grant from OIA to improve student retention working with the Gardner Institute and recognized his chief of staff for the grant. Other strategies to get resources include designation an AANAPISI minority servicing institution making the college eligible for federal funds and scholarships. Ten students have received scholarships; he encouraged students to apply.

- Dean of Yap Campus took the opportunity to thank Pohnpei Campus for their help in recruiting students for FSM FMI; 18-19 students were recruited from Pohnpei. FMI received equipment from Nippon Foundation and marine engineering and technology on fishery navigation from JICA. Yap campus has 18 candidates for graduation this Wednesday which includes two from nursing assistance and ten from pre-teaching programs.
- Dean of Chuuk Campus mentioned their decrease in enrollment and competitors on island who are also recruiting students from Pohnpei. He also talked about problems with their facilities and leasing their site; he looks forward to securing funding for a permanent campus.
- Acting Dean of Kosrae Campus shared about their summer commencement and activities on campus.
- Director of Career and Technical Education Center explained they have several certificate and associate programs in career and technical education and have initiated CT servicing; ways the programs can earn additional funding to supplement their budgets. This has opened opportunities for the programs and students. Taking existing programs with ideas from the community and linking it back to the community improves student success and learning.

President Daisy commended the uniqueness of all campuses and the spirit of entrepreneurship. He then spoke about an upcoming critical event. The college had its last accreditation visit in 2010 during which significant challenges were identified putting the college on warning, then probation. The college has since gained full accreditation. In 2013 the college conducted a gap analysis against the Accreditation Standards and has diligently worked to address the gaps. The self-study is now in the final stages and will be presented to the board tomorrow, and then shared with faculty and staff for input. The accreditation team will visit all campuses March 14-17. The visit is an important event in the life of the college. The Commission's decision will be known in July 2016. He expressed his pleasure and pride in the work done by the faculty and staff, and the regents' involvement in the Standard IV working meeting.

Since this is a community meeting and the audience heard from the college, Chairman Edward asked to hear from the community before the regents have their say. Questions from the community were on the shuttle fee, prayer at college functions, and technology fee and equitable service at all campuses. The shuttle fee will be presented to the board at the upcoming meeting. The shuttle pilot trial, purpose, and process were explained. To the concern regarding prayer being part of the culture, as a public institution, the college cannot have a particular world view; so a moment of silence is more inclusive of everyone's belief. However, that is for college functions only; prayer is allowed for community events. Although all students pay the same technology fee, bandwidths are at different levels at the campuses; this, however, is out of the college's immediate control. While there are many challenges, significant improvements have been made since 2010. The college is committed to improving services across the college.

Regent Salalu is honored to be part of the college. He is an alumnus of CCM and is proud of how things are moving forward. His son is graduating with his BA in a few days. For the board to be effective, it needs to hear from everyone. There are still challenges and competition so all must work hard to improve. He expressed his support for Chuuk Campus saying the longer we wait, we will lose students.

Regent Wagus expressed his pleasure at being back home where he started and for the updates and reports. He is interested in hearing what the issues are in the community; the board can then discuss them in its meetings. He noted the unique expertise available at the college that together can set

goals and act as one. The purpose for ensuring success of students is to prepare them for the workforce. He also thanked Pohnpei campus for hosting the meeting.

Regent Berdon also thanked Pohnpei campus and said he would like to hear more questions from the community. He then made a plea for the new site at Chuuk; the competitors do not have entrance exam and are able to recruit more students.

Chairman Edward said they have heard the challenges; the board will do its best to address them. He said being a regent has been his longest job. He is proud to have worked at and been a part of Pohnpei campus; everyone had a part and worked as a team and thanked them for doing their part. In closing he related a parable about a teacher who wanted his students to do their best but was not succeeding. So he tried an experiment to fix their attitude. All students were given a seed and told to plant it. A winner would be determined after a while. One student struggled with his seed; his mother consoled him to just do his best. On the deadline, the other student brought in their plants except for the boy. The boy was declared the winner because of his honesty; the teacher had given defective seeds to all the students. The lesson is to stay true to the course to be successful. He advised all to stay on course and thanked all the heroes at the college.

Prior to closing, President Daisy recognized Chairman Edward saying this may be his last meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:38 PM.