

## COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

### COMMUNITY MEETING

Yap State

March 7, 2012

Yap Campus Director opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and then introducing the members of the Board of Regents. Approximately 50 people were in attendance at the Yap Community Center, among which were: Sen. Urusemal, Sen. John Masiwemai, Sen. Jesse Raglmar-Subolmar, Director of R&D Frank Harigeicheg, Director of Administrative Services Maria Laaw, Director of Youth & Civic Affairs Ruotpong, Sophiano Limol, Chamber of Commerce, Tony Ganngiyan, Manager of Yap Coop Assn., George Torwan, President & CEO of Waab Transportation Company, Brian Southwick, Yap State Scholarship Coordinator, and Bernard Gorong, Chief of Workforce Enrichment Division, Fr. John Hagileiram, SJ, Principals of Yap SDA High School and Yap Catholic High School. Regent Mary Figir, the Yap representative, explained the Board's presence in Yap and then introduced President Daisy and other personnel from the college who were also attending the meeting.

President Daisy thanked everyone for their attendance. He explained the purpose of the community meeting was to share ideas, thoughts and ways the college can be more effective. "We are all in this together in serving the only institution of higher education. While the college faces big challenges, colleges everywhere are also facing challenges. The college needs everyone, people in the community, businesses, traditional and government leaders to pull together to help the college move forward. The Board is committed and a strong advocate to meet the needs of the community. The meeting is an opportunity for the community to give us their suggestions and ideas." To get the exchange going, he asked, "How are we doing?"

Senator Raglmar-Subolmar, Yap State Legislature, expressed appreciation that Dr. Daisy is meeting early with the community; it will take the whole country to address the accreditation challenge. He was encouraged by the college's effort to instill accreditation standards in daily operations. Regarding the funding challenge, he hoped the leadership will do something and that solutions be presented at the National Leadership Conference in May

Response: Dr. Daisy felt the support during his earlier meeting with Yap State Legislature. The college has the internal capacity and can fix the accreditation issue. But we will need help with the funding issue. He pledged that the college will manage its limited resources and be responsible on how we handle our funds.

Dr. Duncan from California asked what Dr. Daisy's vision of the college in five years.

Response: Dr. Daisy said to ensure our students have options to achieve their dreams and aspirations; to have financial strength to meet our mission; to be visionary about emerging fields and meeting the training needs. First priority is to accomplish our goals and to help the Nation in economic development. He, in turn, asked where you want to see the college in five years.

Senator Jesse Raglmar-Subolmar replied that in 5-10 years, a College of Yap.

Fr. Michael Corcoran SJ, principal of the Yap Catholic High School, spoke about the issue of the availability of trained teachers for elementary and secondary and inquired if the vision included helping schools with more proficient teachers.

Response: Dr. Daisy replied that it is a shared vision. Education is important to economic development and educated citizenry. Education is one of the challenges in the Nation. A strategy is to have the best teachers in schools. While the college is looked at to address the enormous K-14 problem; he sees the college as a partner to the state and nation and tied to a comprehensive plan which would include teacher qualification and policy to support young people to go into education. At a suggested national education summit he hoped short and long term problems would be addressed.

Peter Tairuwepiy, , inquired about the college's effort toward revenue generation, adult programs for the community, and articulation agreement between the high schools and the college.

Response: The college needs to do a better job in the community; getting students to return to school and better scheduling to attract working adults. Mariana Ben-Dereas, Vice President for Instructional Affairs, thought articulation agreements with the high schools is a good idea.

Chairman Urusemal, FSM Congress, inquired how much input is there from Yap community into the programs and services offered at Yap Campus.

Response: Dr. Daisy replied not enough. Director Roboman said they are trying to work more with the community and to be more visible and listed the following efforts: teacher training with DOE; health assistant training with DOH; trial counselor program with the Court; pre-requisite courses for students pursuing a bachelor's degree with Yap DOE and PCC; and assistance to staff nurses taking online course at PCC with DOH. Program coordinators will be asked to reach out to the community and revive advisory committees.

Senator John Maswemai, Yap State Legislature, inquired about a 2 + 2 program, open door policy and remedial students and efforts to work with the high school.

Response: Director Roboman explained about the UB summer bridge program and the early admissions program eligibility criteria and ineligibility for Pell Grant. Dr. Daisy said an open door policy has been discussed in meetings and further consideration will be given. Regent Enlet spoke about this meeting being an indication of the college's effort to involve the community. The college cannot do all; therefore, community views and opinion are very important.

Father John Hagileiram spoke of resources and challenges; looking back, financial resources were not a problem, but it is now. What is the college doing about it?

Response: Money is not the solution to everything; we must manage our resources wisely. The recent JEMCO decrement has left a significant financial gap. Internally the college is looking at reducing costs and having greater efficiency as part of a plan to address accreditation issues, to look at programs and opportunities for students; and to consider other revenues. This would depend on our ability to respond to the community with right programs that help, responsibly manage our resources, re-establish advisory committees and reach out to communities.

Peter Tairuwepiy, part-time faculty, inquired about plans for sports facilities on campus to help recruit students and improve the spirit of the college.

Response: Dr. Daisy mentioned seeing the beautiful sports complex when he visited FMI. One way to advance the college is through partnerships and not replicate what is already here. We now need to be creative in addressing problems and work together. Due to financial constraints the solution may not be ideal, but solutions can be found.