

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

COMMUNITY MEETING

Pohnpei State

May 24, 2012

Pohnpei Campus Acting Director, Maria Dison, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and then introducing the President and members of the Board of Regents. Approximately 30 people were in attendance at the Pohnpei Campus gymnasium, among which were: Loren Peterson, Penny Weilbacher, Allison, Gary Bloom, 2 parents, and 2 students. Regent Churchill Edward, the Pohnpei representative, welcomed everyone and acknowledged the presence of community members. He explained the purpose and format for the community meeting, and encouraged questions – any question about the college. The floor was then turned over to President Daisy

President Daisy welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed the importance of community support. He said the ALO will share about the accreditation challenges facing the college. The college wishes to be transparent with issues, so at each community meeting, we will be sharing perceptions, issues, and experiences.

He related how back in June he was contemplating his next move professionally and was scrolling through higheredjobs.com and found our advertisement for the presidency. His first thought was where is Micronesia? Reading on, the challenges and the mission of the college resonated with him, and he wanted to learn more. He feels lucky and grateful for being selected President of COM-FSM. He then shared some “welcome to Pohnpei” experiences and said he continues to learn. He said the college is working hard together to face the challenges and to make the college the best it can be.

The Accreditation Liaison Officer, Frankie Harriss, provided an update on accreditation beginning with background information on the accrediting commission and the value and meaning of accreditation and then provided a brief history of the college being sanctioned by the commission; reasons for and steps taken and to be taken to address the concerns. She also explained the options that the commission may take during their June meeting and about the two-year rule. Dr. Daisy will keep the community apprised of our progress. It will take commitment and hard work by all to stay the course and continue the momentum.

President Daisy then reported on other things at the college: program review and the need to hear from the community on what skills and knowledge they need; facilities master plan and total cost of ownership to help with planning; emergency and disaster preparedness plan for all campuses; projected five-year financial plan; and the recent commencement with an added feature to recognize our cultures and honor diversity at the college. He said while we have challenges and problems, we will also share the good and great things at the college. He asked the community to tell us how we are doing.

Penny Weilbacher: Inquired about losing two votes from the commissioners who visited the college? While it is true they will not be voting when the college is discussed, as commissioners their report and testimony should have a positive influence.

Gary Bloom: Suggested that the ALO’s presentation be condensed and put out into the community. President Daisy said, rather than put information out piecemeal, the college will share information with

the community after the commission communicates the decision it makes in June. The decision will be received the end of June or early July.

The Director of Development and Community Relations concluded the meeting by talking about the college website as a source of information about what's happening at the college and about the video of students telling about their experience at the college. Plans to engage the community include coffee meetings and brown bag lunch meetings to update and share information with the public.