

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

COMMUNITY MEETING

Pohnpei State
January 16, 2013

Regent Churchill Edward, the Pohnpei representative on the Board, opened the meeting which was held at the conference room in the Pohnpei State building. There were 49 people in attendance including four Regents and the President. Among the attendees were eight parents of COM-FSM students and ten alumni. In Pohnpeian Regent Edward welcomed the guests and explained the purpose for the college holding community meetings and urged them to share their questions and comments.

Vice Chair Lyndon Cornelius who represents Kosrae spoke on behalf of Chair Kasio Mida, who was unable to attend. Regent Cornelius expressed appreciation for their attendance. Community meetings are an important part of the college's outreach program. He introduced the other Regents present – Graceful Enlet representing Chuuk, Churchill Edward representing Pohnpei, Mary Figir representing Yap – and President Joseph Daisy, Ed.D. By show of hands, nine other college personnel were in attendance. He explained that during the past week the Board attended a workshop to better understand their function as Board members. This week the Board had their meeting to consider issues, accreditation being the most important. He hoped this meeting will be beneficial to them and encouraged their questions and concerns. The college wants to learn from them.

President Daisy explained that it has been a year since he became president of the college. During the past year both internal and external constituents have pulled together to work toward bringing the college out of accreditation sanction. Completion of several initiatives has secured another year to complete the task; the college had exceeded the two-year limit. Another major report is due in March to be followed by a visit from the commission. While the news is good in that we are moving in the right direction, there is still a lot of work to be done. It will be another intense year of work and require extraordinary courage from the leaders to provide the funds to support accomplishment of our mission and continued improvement. In spite of the economic challenges, the college remains optimistic of their support considering the appropriation of \$700,000 from Congress to restore the first decrement.

Other highlights from the college include successful visioning summits at each campus with broad based participation. Discussions on current challenges have provided information to help guide the next strategic plan. The college is continuing to address communication challenges to fulfill our mission and gain the support of the leadership. Favorable feedback was received on the President's presentation at State National Leadership Conference. A space utilization study will be done to be better informed on our facilities and how to maximize use in the future. Advisory committees are being formed to reach out into the community to help

make our programs stronger. In order to reach donors beyond the FSM, the Board is moving ahead to develop a foundation that will provide U.S. tax-exempt status. While this is still a year away, it shows the Board's visionary thinking. A student engagement survey of student will help faculty and staff understand why students are here and their level of satisfaction with the college.

President Daisy then introduced the vice presidents present – Frankie Harriss, VPIEQA; Mariana Ben Dereas, VPIA; Jim Currie, VPCRE – and other college personnel present. The floor was opened for questions or comments.

Senator M. Walter expressed appreciation for the opportunity given to the public to get clarification. Mr. Kester James, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator, inquired whether older people could go back to college and on the college's stance on World Park. Anyone is welcomed to return to school. VP Currie said the college is collaborating with World Park by providing technical information. The college has a memorandum of understanding with Michigan State University. Senator I. Lebehn asked whether the college could provide non-credit courses needed by the community and increase development of vocational programs. VP Dereas explained about the recent program prioritization effort and development of the Educational Master Plan with the focus on success and employability of students while in school and after. Pohnpei Campus offers several applied associate degree and certificate programs in career and technical areas. Non-credit courses are developed and offered upon request. An example is the recent public health courses this past summer. Pohnpei Campus Acting Dean Jack further explained about the stigma attached to the word vocational in the high schools which discourages students from enrolling in vocational programs. The current terminology is career and technical education. They offer nine certificate and applied associate degree programs. The programs are accredited and tied to the apprenticeship program. The purpose for the advisory councils is so the community can take ownership of the programs by informing the college of their training needs. The Senators expressed their support of the college. President Daisy mentioned that the leaders were also vocal in their support of the college following the SNLC and so was Governor Ehsa during their courtesy call to him earlier. President Daisy extended on an invitation to all to visit the college.

Regent Enlet closed the meeting by expressing sincere thanks for their attendance which shows interest in the future of the college. People are what moves things forward.