

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

COMMUNITY MEETING

Pohnpei State

May 29, 2014

The Board of Regents held a community meeting at the Pohnpei Campus Student Services Center on Thursday, May 29, 2014. Over 50 people were in attendance.

Director of the Career and Technical Center Grilly Jack welcomed everyone and then introduced Regent Churchill Edward from Pohnpei to lead the meeting. In addition to welcoming everyone to the meeting, Regent Edward explained that community meetings are held to reach out to the community to learn and share information. He then introduced President Daisy who further shared the context of community meetings. Whenever the board meets, a community meeting is held in that state which gives the board an opportunity to keep our stakeholders informed and engaged.

He then introduced the Regents present: Chairman Kasio Mida representing the national government, Churchill Edward from Pohnpei, and Graceful Enlet from Chuuk. He also recognized the Deans: Kind Kanto from Chuuk; Kalwin Kephass from Kosrae; and Lourdes Roboman from Yap; Vice Presidents: Karen Simion for Instructional Affairs, Frankie Harriss for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance, and Joe Habuchmai for Administrative Services; and from his office: Chief of Staff Universe Yamase and Executive Assistant Norma Edwin. He thanked Director Jack and his faculty and staff for hosting the meetings. He also thanked the students, who are the reason for the college's existence, for attending the meeting.

We have witnessed a transformation of the college; it is not the same college as it was two years ago. He credited the board and his vice presidents for their dedication, commitment and leadership; the trickle-down effect has resulted in an understanding of what we all need to do regardless of our positions. He then highlighted completion of the facilities master plan which was commissioned due to funds being frozen by external funding agencies until a comprehensive study of the college system was done. This led to collaboration with Beca Limited under the leadership of Director of Maintenance Francisco Mendiola and Vice President Habuchmai. Finances remain a challenge, as with community colleges everywhere; however, we are in a solid financial position. Decisions need to be made to maintain that status and for long-term sustainability through alternative financial support. The college is pursuing grants that support the mission of the college led by the chief of staff. The foundation is also at work to find resources primarily for scholarships for students. We need to be creative and yet true to our mission.

He then asked the vice presidents to present highlights from their areas. Vice President Harris reported that the college is committed to accreditation standards and focuses on successes. Since accreditation was reaffirmed last July the college has improved its image in the region; Sue Moses is serving on a hearing panel for ACCJC, VP Harris was asked to serve on a task force to review student achievement and successes and to serve on a visiting team, and President Daisy will also be serving on a visiting team. Completion of the Beca study was reported in the Follow-Up Report; in July we will learn if more follow up is needed. The college is up for a full accreditation review system wide in 2016. In preparation, college wide training and gap analysis of the standards were conducted and improvement plans developed. By 2016 we are aiming to meet all standards and to have no recommendations related to the standards; we are going for reaffirmation off the bat.

Vice President Simion reported on the substantive change proposals that were submitted to ACCJC in April to extend the third-year teacher education program to the states; earlier only 50% could be extended. The commission has approved the request and Yap campus will implement it this summer. President commended VP Simion for the quality work; the proposal did not trigger requests for further information nor a visit which suggests the commission's confidence in the college.

Vice President Habuchmai reported on the Beca study which was a comprehensive study of our system - energy use, condition of facilities, preventive maintenance, etc. We are currently disseminating the results of the study; a presentation was made at the SNLC with a communiqué resulting in support of the study. With the communiqué we can now approach JEMCO in August to seek funding for the plan.

In closing, President Daisy remarked on the uncertainty as to where funds would come from when JEMCO declared the decrement of \$700,000 cumulative for four years. But now the college has gained the support of the state and national leaders in word and in deed. Without their support, sanction could be triggered. Everyone has a role to play, as well as the community, regardless of our position. We will continue to look for support from our leaders.

There being no questions, the meeting closed at 4:05 pm.