

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

COMMUNITY MEETING

Chuuk State
April 30, 2015

The Board of Regents held a community meeting at the Chuuk Campus Student Services Center on Thursday, April 30, 2015. Approximately 125 people were in attendance.

Dean Kanto opened the meeting by explaining that community meetings are held whenever the board meets as a means for the board to reach out to internal and external stakeholders. Mr. Miuty Nokar gave the opening blessings. Dean Kanto continued that community meetings also provide an opportunity for people to meet the regents and be updated on issues. He then introduced President Joseph Daisy who expressed his pleasure with being back in Chuuk and that community meetings demonstrate the board's commitment to reach out to provide information and listen to concerns. President Daisy then introduced the Chairman of the Board Churchill Edward. Chairman Edward explained that this is an open forum for information sharing. Chuuk now has a new Regent; Johannes Berdon was recently confirmed to replace Graceful Enlet. The chair then asked each regent to introduce himself. Regent Kasio Mida, former chair, said it is time for new board leadership. Regents Johannes Berdon, Tulensru Waguk, and Jesse Salau expressed their desire to help the college and nation. President Daisy then introduced his cabinet, deans and other college personnel present (VPIA Simion, VPSS Oducado, VPAS Habuchmai, VPIEQA Harris, Dean Kanto, Dean Roboman, Dean Kephas, Director Jack, Chief of Staff Yamase, Executive Assistant Edwin and Mike Rota, Secretary of the Friends of Micronesia-FSM foundation).

President Daisy continued that community meetings are for sharing observations and thoughts. Everyone has a dual role, to his/her state and collectively to the best interest of the college; each is a part of a learning community; a citizen of his/her state and also the FSM. The college brings all citizens from all states together for nation building. Our job is to ensure success. We are not the only option so we are glad that students have chosen us to pursue higher education. We want to hear when you having success and also when you are not so we can help you be successful.

Questions/comments from the audience included COMET, access vs success, student enrollment, financial aid, understaffing, facilities and technology fees, responsibility for success, student absenteeism, motivating students, and need for basic laboratory equipment. Suggestions to help motivate students in Chuuk included transportation, cafeteria, no 8:00 a.m. classes, and dormitories. Inquiry was made whether it is possible to find out how many students who were turned away from the college have become successful; it would be difficult to track them.

The college explained about the college's need for accountability, to meet U.S. requirements for Pell eligibility, and to reach out to the departments of education to work together to ensure students acquire the necessary skills to enter college. There are multiple opportunities to take the COMET; students can take it multiple times and practice exams are available to help students prepare. The college is here for the students.

Vice Chair Waguk closed the meeting saying while the meeting was short, it is good to begin discussions on the issues and assured the audience that they are listening. The board is committed to providing quality education so our students can be successful and become future leaders.