

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM  
COMMUNITY MEETING  
Pohnpei State  
August 7, 2015

The Board of Regents held a community meeting at the PICS High School cafeteria on Friday, August 7, 2015. Approximately 50 people were in attendance which included several parents and alumni, as well as students, faculty and staff from the college. President Daisy welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of community meetings. The board holds community meetings whenever it meets to gather input and listen to concerns from the community. He then introduced the chairman of the board, Regent Churchill Edward.

Chairman Edward welcomed the community in the vernacular and thanked everyone for making time to attend the meeting. The meeting was scheduled at PICS to be closer to the Department of Education to show the college's commitment to our partners by bringing the meeting to them to dialogue on how we can better serve them. He introduced the regents present: Dr. Tulensru Waguk from Kosrae who is the Director of Education and Mr. Johannes Berdon from Chuuk who is attending his second meeting. Two regents could not attend: Mr. Jesse Salalu from Yap and Mr. Kasio Mida who represents the national government. College staff and faculty, then the community attendees, introduced themselves. Professor Susan Moses recognized Pelsihner Elias, a former student, who was selected teacher of the year for Pohnpei and Regent Waguk as the father of the teacher of the year for Kosrae. Chairman Edward explained that community meetings are a way for the board to meet the people we serve and share what we do at the college. The board is mindful of the need to serve better and be accountable. The college is guided by accreditation standards in everything we do. Some of the issues being considered are the COMET, financial stability, and planning for accountability. President Daisy was asked to speak on what is happening at the college.

President Daisy said the college is committed to the success of our students and to continuous improvement. The board had a busy week reviewing Accreditation Standard IV.C. Governing Board with the writing group and consultant on Monday, two days of professional development workshop, as well as its board meeting. The faculty and staff are focused on accreditation. While accreditation was reaffirmed after being on sanction, the college is currently undergoing a self assessment for the next cycle of review by the Accrediting Commission. In March the Commission will send a team of peers to assess what was said in the self assessment report. The challenges facing the college are our declining enrollment which impacts our finances; accreditation which is connected to Pell eligibility; increasing US Department of Education and Congress concern regarding education quality and the need for data on degree transferability and employability of graduates; linking programs to economic development of the nation; and an institution geographically scattered which impacts our resources and efforts to provide comparable services. Positive things include looking outward for greater resources through grants and foundations and building our alumni to be ambassadors of the college. Recent initiatives include working with the John Gardner Institute to improve student success by providing quality student experience from the first contact to completion; commitment from Micronesian Registration Advisor, Inc. for \$365,000 for five years to establish a Center for Entrepreneurship at the college; and the Career and Technical Education Center. He asked the audience to tell us what we're doing well and also what we are not doing well to help us improve.

Chairman Edward opened the floor for comments, sharing, and questions. VP Currie said his department is the outreach arm of the college. If any school is interested in school gardening, his staff is available to assist. Dr. Daisy advised students to seek help when needed; the faculty and staff are here to help. A parent asked about the financial aid appeal process. Information on financial aid process was provided. Regent Berdon advised students to use his weatherman experience of observation to make important decisions. Regent Waguk said the college wants to help students succeed to further the country. They are here to listen and ready to help with other issues; he asked the audience to share their thoughts and issues. In closing, President Daisy said this is an opportunity for the college to engage with the community, especially the parents. We have an open door and want to be transparent with our stakeholders. Board agenda and minutes are posted on the college's website. The college welcomes the opportunity to meet the community; your participation, observations, commendations, concerns will help us improve.