

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM
COMMUNITY MEETING
Kosrae State
September 15, 2017

COM-FSM Board of Regents Chairman Tulensru Waguk opened the community meeting which was held on September 15, 2017, at 10:15 AM at Kosrae State Government Building Atrium. In spite of other activities also scheduled at the same time, approximately 40 people were in attendance. Chairman explained that whenever the board meets, it takes the opportunity to hold community meetings to meet with the community to listen to their concerns and answer their questions. He then introduced the board members present: Regent Johannes Berdon from Chuuk, Regent Kasio Mida representing the national government, Regent Jesse Salalu from Yap, and Regent Tulensru Waguk from Kosrae. Regent Churchill Edward from Pohnpei was not able to attend the meeting. He also introduced Dr. Joseph Daisy, president of the college. Dr. Daisy expressed his pleasure with being in Kosrae and meeting with people from Kosrae Campus and the community, and then introduced college staff present: Vice President for Instructional Affairs Karen Simion and Assistant to the President and Board Norma Edwin. He also acknowledged Kosrae Campus Dean Nena Mike. Dr. Daisy thanked the board for their strong support and advocacy of the college.

He then ceded the floor to the other regents. Regent Mida conveyed his pleasure with coming to beautiful and peaceful Kosrae and provided brief updates on his fundraising efforts in Guam and Pohnpei and on the 25th Anniversary celebration scheduled for April 2-3. All campuses will also host activities to celebrate the 25th Anniversary. He extended an invitation to attend the celebration in Pohnpei. He elaborated on the fundraising efforts, including seeking matching funds from Congress. Regent Salalu reported the conclusion of the board meeting and the college moving forward and encouraged all to support education. Regent Berdon appreciated the reception and hospitality in Kosrae and informed of the status of the new campus for Chuuk state.

President Daisy reported accreditation is strong and affirmed and informed about the follow-up report to the accreditation commission due on October 15th and the next comprehensive report in 2023. He also informed that the board just approved a new Strategic Plan and Five-Year Financial Plan; the endowment fund continuing to grow and close to \$9 million; summer Pell reinstated effective summer 2018; the college's IDP integrated with national projects which has funded for the first year a new technical center at Pohnpei campus and a student center at national campus and is reviewing for 2018 upgrades at national campus, design for the new Chuuk campus, and upgrades at Kosrae campus; and University of Guam phasing out of the bachelor's partnership program and college conducting a feasibility study for our own teacher education bachelor's program. The board and president hosted a dinner for our veteran students; older, mature students lend a unique perspective to the campus. While there is always room for improvement, the college is moving along. It is now positioned to take bold steps and is working closer with the state departments of education. In thanking all for attending, he said nothing is more important than education.

Only one question was asked regarding the difficulty of graduates securing positions because they are not able to secure documentation for their degree. President responded with the college's effort to provide students with fiscal literacy to learn money management skills and about other means to help students meet their financial obligations with the college.

In closing, Chairman Waguk thanked all for their attendance. If there are further questions, they should be directed to Dean Mike. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.