

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES

Zoom – Chuuk Campus

July 6, 2021

Because of travel restrictions due to the pandemic, community meetings have not been held following board meetings which are now held via zoom. This is the first attempt to hold a community meeting via zoom. Chuuk State was chosen for this first virtual community meeting.

Dean Kind Kanto, being the “host” of the venue, facilitated the board of regents’ community meeting held on July 6, 2021, at Chuuk Campus. Approximately 30 people signed in with some sites having multiple participants for the 12 noon (Chuuk time) meeting. After welcoming everyone, Dean Kanto shared some rules and tips for participating in a virtual meeting.

The first order of business was a memorial to the late Alton Higashi, a long serving faculty at Chuuk Campus who passed away in April. Dr. Danilo Mamangon, another long serving faculty at Chuuk Campus, dedicated the meeting to Alton by providing his thoughts about and memories of Professor Higashi.

Dean Kanto then introduced the Interim President (IP) Karen Simion. She welcomed everyone to the first virtual community meeting, and explained the purpose for the board holding community meetings. IP Simion then introduced the regents present: Dr. Tulensru Waguk representing Kosrae; Pelma Mingii, secretary/treasurer, representing the national government, Jesse Salalu, vice chair, representing Yap, and Suzanne Gallen, chair, representing Pohnpei. Johannes Berdon, who represents Chuuk, had another commitment and could not attend. Chair Gallen on behalf of the board acknowledged and paid respects to everyone and said it is an honor and privilege to work with the college. In her remarks she expressed her pleasure with the work of the college under the IP, and shared the status of the presidential search (to be re-opened), plans to gear up fundraising for the 30th anniversary; and support for Chuuk Campus.

IP Simion responded to the questions submitted prior to the meeting. 1) Possibility of lowering grade level for dual enrollment eligibility – the proposal will be submitted to the RAR committee for consideration. 2) Extending Teacher Corps program to high schools – issue to be addressed to the teacher coordinator; and 3) closer connection between Chuuk Campus and Chuuk High School – IP will work with campus dean to foster the relationship. The floor was then opened for questions or concerns. 1) Status of the new Chuuk campus – issue of access road from the main road unresolved, PMU still working on design, college committed to moving the project forward. Representative from governor’s office expressed looking forward to collaborate and moving forward on the project, needing vocational programs to create skilled work force. Inquiry about the possibility of using CARES Act money for the project – unfortunately it has many restrictions and must be directly related to pandemic. Inquiry on timeline for the project – college did what was on the timeline, but additional challenges hamper the timeline. 2) Library renovation – critically needed to replace, will be out for bid, and hopefully work begins before fall semester. 3) Concern about low salaries making it hard to recruit qualified staff. 4) Recommendation from program review of bookkeeping program to transfer into degree program upon completion – program review is still with assessment committee; once received, bookkeeping faculty will need to make modifications to the curriculum, and then proposal need to be submitted to ACCJC for substantive change. 5) Need for instructional coordinator and

student services coordinator – both positions have been filled. 6) Traditional navigation – program at FSM FMI; first class just graduated.

With no more questions, Chair Gallen thanked all for coming and bringing forth their questions and concerns. The college will look into the issues raised. She also thanked Dean Kanto for facilitating the virtual community meeting. Dean Kanto also expressed his appreciation to those who participated.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM (Chuuk time).