

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES

Zoom – CTEC
December 3, 2021

The Board of Regents held an in-person/virtual community meeting on December 3, 2021, at CTEC following its December board meeting. Approximately 70 college staff and students as well as members from the community attended or signed in. CTEC Dean Grilly Jack opened the meeting and welcomed all to the community meeting. He then introduced Interim President Karen Simion. After welcoming and wishing everyone happy holidays, she introduced the members of the board: Suzanne L. Gallen, chair of the board and representing Pohnpei State; Pelma Mingii, secretary/treasurer of the board and representing the national government; Lt. Governor Jesse Salalu, vice chair and representing Yap State; Dr. Tulensru Waguk, representing Kosrae State; and Johannes Berdon, representing Chuuk State (who was not able to attend the meeting). She also introduced Vice President Joey Oducado, Acting Vice President Shaun Suliol, and Dean of Chuuk Campus who were also present.

Chair Gallen explained the purpose of community meetings is to provide opportunity to appraise the community of what is happening at the college and to hear concerns from the community. She then shared highlights from the college: \$10 tuition increase considered at yesterday's board meeting to meet budget constraints (decision pending on comments from two scheduled hearings on the issue); increases for retirement contribution and for salaries/benefits discussed but timing not right for consideration; support funds from U.S. through HEERF for students (laptops); employment engagement survey and plans to improve based on the survey; work on new five-year strategic plan; re-start presidential search (national campus SBA president part of search committee); FSM now a member of WICHE; updates on infrastructure projects; and plans for perimeter fencing of all campuses.

During the Q & A period, question raised whether faculty can access HEERF. The purpose for HEERF is to help students continue their education during the pandemic, so faculty are not eligible; other training opportunities were shared. VP Suliol reported that the laptops for students are on the way and should be here within the next 30 days. Summer 21 students will be given priority. Another order for student laptops is being processed. More information about WeCare programa, which provides financial assistance to students, was shared. These programs are for pandemic relief and cannot be used for operations. Therefore tuition increase is requested to meet financial constraints. Students were encouraged to raise their concerns on tuition increase at the two scheduled hearings on tuition increase. With no other concerns raised, students were reminded that they can voice their concerns/questions when they arise to the administration or regents.

After thanking all for their participation and sending season's greetings, the meeting adjourned around 1:50 PM (Pohnpei time).