

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES

Zoom – Yap Campus

March 11, 2022

The Board of Regents held an in-person/virtual community meeting on March 11, 2022, at Yap Campus following its March board meeting. In attendance or signing in were nearly 100 college staff and students as well as members from the community, including principals/staff from the private schools, YCA, Public Works, Yap Chamber of Commerce, Yap Congress delegation, and personnel from state DOE.

Board of Regents Chair Suzanne Gallen welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose for holding community meetings is to hold free and open dialogue with the college and wider communities. She then introduced the members of the board: Chair, Suzanne Gallen representing Pohnpei; Vice Chair, Honorable Governor Jesse Salalu representing Yap; Secretary-Treasurer, Pelma Mingii representing the National Government; Dr. Tulensru Waguk representing Kosrae; and the new regent, Jeffrey Arnold, representing Chuuk. She also recognized Interim President Karen Simion; VPAS Joe Habuchmai, VPEMSS Joey Oducado, Acting VPIEQA Shaun Suliol, Yap Campus Dean Lourdes Roboman; FMI Dean Tioti Teburea; CTEC Dean Grilly Jack; Kosrae Campus Dean Nena Mike; and Chuuk Campus Dean Kind Kanto. Dean Roboman also welcomed all and thanked them for joining the community meeting.

Chair Gallen then provided highlights from their board meeting held earlier in the day: new regent representing Chuuk State; approval of the proposed Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with emphasis in accounting (if substantive change request approved by the accrediting commission to be implemented fall 2022); approval of new policy and review of several policies; and resolution to recognize the former regent from Chuuk. She also reported the peer review from the accrediting commission is scheduled for next year and chair of the team will be the President of American Samoa Community College and the vice chair the President of Windward Community College. The new presidential search committee has been appointed with representatives from across the campuses plus a stakeholder; Steven Young-Uhk is the new Yap representative; the committee is finalizing the job announcement which will be out the end of the month and close end of May. She commended IP Karen for her services overseeing the work of the college. Vice Chair/Governor Salalu chaired most of the meeting since she had a previous engagement she had to attend. He said a few words of welcome to all and to the new regent.

IP Karen expressed her pleasure with seeing everyone and welcomed questions and concerns. Dean Tioti from FMI shared information to encourage applicants about the programs at FMI; rating system when completing the program; new JICA project; new facilities; and thanked Yap Government for allowing cadets sea time training on their vessel. The principal of Yap Catholic High School inquired about the college's policy regarding COVID if there would be updates that are more practical; IP answered the college reviewed its policy but with local threat it was put on hold but will review again to align with more recent CDC policy. Acting VPIEQA Shaun gave an overview/status of the program on laptops for students and efforts to provide access in remote areas. For the future, VPEMSS Joey said the college will support both on-line and in-person classes. VPAS Joe reported on the status of infrastructure projects at Yap Campus. To tighten distribution of refunds, students are to provide an email address and active bank account. CTEC Dean Grilly explained CTEC caters to students needing technical education with programs aligned to workforce needs. D. Fanasog inquired whether BS in Business will be extended to the

state campuses. The sub-change proposal will request to deliver the program through distance learning. M. Layan asked about an early childhood education program. The college had a program but due to lack of interest closed. While the current program caters to K-8, the college can be approached with issues from early childhood education. She also expressed the dilemma of applicants needing their transcript to apply for a position but not able to get it because of outstanding balance. She inquired if there was a way for the college to verify they earned their degree, so the applicant can get the job and be able to pay off their balance. The college explained current practice to help students with balance to get degree verification and shared some options they could follow.

With no other concerns raised, the chair thanked all for attending and pledged to continue to work hard for the college and encouraged students to also work hard and enjoy their learning experience; and encouraged all to be vaccinated. She also thanked CRE for hosting the FSM President during their visit. She welcomed raising issues anytime to the administration or the regents.

In closing Vice Chair/Governor Salalu thanked all for participating; such meetings foster greater understanding of how the college is doing and how to improve. The meeting adjourned around 3:19 PM (Pohnpei time).