

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM  
COMMUNITY MEETING

Pohnpei State  
March 9, 2017

The Board of Regents held a community meeting on March 9, 2017, at the National Government Central Facilities conference room. Present were Chairman Tulensru Waguk, PhD; Regents Kasio Mida and Jesse Salalu; President Joseph Daisy, Ed.D; Deans Lourdes Roboman and Nena Mike; Director Grilly Jack; Paulo Santos; Norma Edwin; Belan Yoma; and Atarino Helieisar. With only two people from the community, alumni of the college, an informal meeting took place. Chairman Waguk opened by explaining the board held community meetings whenever it met to dialogue with the community' sharing information about the college and listening to concerns from the community; and thanked the alumni for coming. President Daisy relayed the board's commitment to a strong alumni association (AA) becoming a great resource for the college. He asked of their interest in an organized AA and their vision for the AA. Regent Mida added the board is committed to an AA and plans include hiring a person responsible for alumni affairs. Chairman said the board has for years hoped for an organized AA and looks forward to closer board/alumni relationship.

Mr. Helieisar expressed his interest saying currently there is no active alumni association; such an organization could help the college in many ways, most especially with endowment fundraising. Participating would show they care about the college and bring the community to help the college. Hiring someone to focus on alumni would be a big help. He looks forward to the AA. Mr. Yoma also would welcome an AA. Someday their children will attend COM-FSM, so they should be concerned with the college's well-being. He mentioned in the past, there was a "where am I" section on the college website for alumni. There are lots of alumni out there; hiring someone to take the lead in organizing the alumni would be great and bring them together. Others will then jump in. Dr. Daisy asked them to spread the word. Regent Mida inquired about the possibility of bringing back the alumni section on the webpage. Paulo explained the current appeal of social media and what's available on the college website.

Dr. Daisy informed for the first time, the college endowment fund has reached \$5 million. This is still below the original goal of raising \$20 million. A lot of work is needed to reach that goal; it is essential for the alumni to rally support to grow the endowment.

Regent Mida spoke of the college's plans for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year which will be a two-day event. There should be a role for the alumni. He also informed of recent fundraising effort in Guam which raised \$60,000 for the anniversary. The goal is to raise \$350,000 and to ask Congress to match that for the anniversary.

Dean Roboman reported that the FSM FMI recruitment team will be in Pohnpei next week and asked for assistance in recruiting more female students. Mr. Helieisar suggested using students to help recruit students; students want to hear from students. He also expressed appreciation to the leadership for the \$3 million from Chuuk State for the new campus and pride for his state's action. He looks forward to the new campus and hopes Congress will also help. Dr. Daisy reported the recent IDP includes funds for the management design and construction of Chuuk Campus.

In closing Dr. Daisy expressed the importance of hearing from alumni and asked the deans to relay to the alumni in their states of the many ways they can help move the college forward.