

**COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**Minutes of the December 2, 2021, Meeting**  
**Zoom Meeting**

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**Present:** Regent Suzanne Gallen from Pohnpei (chair); Regent Jesse Salalu from Yap (vice chairman); Regent Pelma J. Mingii representing the National Government (secretary/treasurer); Regent Tulensru Waguk, PhD, from Kosrae; Regent Johannes Berdon from Chuuk; and Interim President Karen Simion (*ex officio member*)

**Resources:** Vice President for Administrative Services Joseph Habuchmai; Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services Joey Oducado; Acting Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance Shaun Suliol; Dean of Chuuk Campus Kind Kanto; Dean of Kosrae Campus Nena Mike; Dean of Career and Technical Education Center Grilly Jack; Dean of Yap Campus Lourdes Roboman; Acting Dean of FSM FMI Tioti Teburea; Director of Cooperative Research and Extension Steven Young-Uhk; Comptroller Roselle Togonon; and Yap Campus Director of Upward Bound Serphin Ilesiyalo

**Guests:** Dan Roland and Amanda Gima from Raymond James

**1. CALL TO ORDER – 10:08 AM**

Chair Gallen called the meeting to order and requested a moment of silence.

**2. READING OF MISSION STATEMENT**

Everyone recited the mission statement.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Roll was called with Regents Gallen, Waguk, Salalu, and Mingii present; a quorum was declared. Regent Berdon joined the meeting later.

**4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The board moved election of officers to its executive session.

**5. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Mingii/Gallen

*Moved to accept the agenda as presented.*

CARRIED

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 17, 2021**

Mingii/Waguk

*Moved to adopt of the minutes of the September 17, 2021, meeting as presented.* CARRIED

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Letter from ACCJC dated September 24, 2021, confirming dates for our comprehensive review to assist ACCJC determine reaffirmation of our accreditation.
- b. Press release from ACCJC dated November 10, 2021, regarding resignation of ACCJC President Stephanie Droker.

## 8. REGENTS' REPORTS

- a. **Regent Waguk** mentioned this may be his last meeting as the governor has been requested to recommend his replacement. He reported Kosrae is still covid-free and on repatriation efforts; schools ending the second quarter in January; and teacher shortage.
- b. **Regent Mingii** reported being busy with her job at the Port so did not have a report. She is trying to make an appointment with Secretary Aisek so hopefully will have something to report at the next meeting.
- c. **Regent Gallen** reported on the establishment of a Pohnpei Economic Planning Commission and its purpose; anti-bullying campaign sponsored by Public Safety and walk planned for tomorrow; repatriation update; and availability of booster shots.
- d. **Regent Berdon** reported CIA still serving Pohnpei/Chuuk; second repatriation flight from Guam; Chuuk carefully following protocol to keep Chuuk safe; and hoping for resolution of the Chuuk Campus issue before he leaves the board.
- e. **Regent Salalu** reported Yap still covid-free and on ongoing efforts to bring citizens home. He encouraged all to practice safety protocol to ensure our covid-free status.

## 9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. **Interim President Simion** reported on providing extra financial assistance to students through HEERF; continuing vaccination campaign on campus; status of the institutional self-evaluation report to support re-affirmation of our accreditation; hearings for the proposed tuition increase and summary of the reasons for the increase; efforts to address FSM needs (BA in business/skilled labor); highlights of the proposed FY 2023 budget; results from the employee engagement survey and plans for improvement based on the results; re-negotiation of the lease for the current Chuuk Campus; and meeting of FACSSO on the education portion of the Compact negotiation.
- b. **VPAS Habuchmai** reported on the budget process and highlights of the FY 2023 proposed budget (reason for proposed tuition increase and increased subsidy); updates on facility maintenance projects and infrastructure development plans; his department 100% vaccinated; dialogue with new Chuuk governor to resolve access to Chuuk Campus issue; and fencing of all campuses for security.
  - i. **Raymond James** representatives Dan Roland and Amanda Gima joined the meeting. Their presentation began with a quick overview of the November market, overall for the year (nice year) and prediction for the coming year (tapering). The endowment fund as of November 29 was next with a report on the performance of each investment manager and the endowment at \$10,335,488 or a period return of \$303,841 (3.03%). The reserves fund followed with a report on each investment managers' performance and overall value at \$3,741,930 or return of \$58,047 (1.58%). The IPS revised in 2019 calls for investment in private markets which the college has yet to invest in. The availability of an offer from Blackstone was presented including the terms of the offer and benefit of investing in BTAS VIII. The offer expires on December 15. A representative is willing to do a presentation on its company. The board will discuss the offer and get back to

RJ.

- c. **Acting VPIEQA Suliol** highlighted efforts to provide community WiFi to allow access to students in remote areas; and challenge/status of laptops for students.
- d. **VPIA Simion** highlighted an item from our effort to diversify our offerings: a collaboration with University of Hawaii that provides for an internship program for students in the marine science program; and challenge of hiring and bringing in new faculty to replace faculty who have left and resulting numerous overloads for current faculty.
  - i. **Chuuk Campus Dean Kanto** reported renovation of the classrooms almost completed; fencing project beginning; and library project to be done during the Christmas break.
  - ii. **Yap Campus Dean Roboman** reported on efforts to get all student vaccinated (80% completed); full-time nurse now on board; a student services specialist soon to be on board; and all staff attended Watson training programs.
  - iii. **FSM-FMI Dean Teburea** reported the 33 new cadets completed their basic safety course and sea-time shipboard training; visit from Assistant Secretary Kostka (discussed maritime training); hosted training on electronic monitoring of ships; and progress of the wall fencing.
  - iv. **Kosrae Campus Dean Mike** provided updates on infrastructure projects and reported on IQEB offering to train master teachers; teachers taking exam this week; and student services assistance to students.
  - v. **CTEC Dean Jack** provided updates on construction projects at CTEC (drop of area at lower campus, installation of FM station antenna tower, excavation of multi-purpose building, parking lot at upper campus); Professor Estaban and he receiving certificate of completion for Project Management Practice course; and challenge of finding common ground with stakeholders for providing needed services.
  - vi. **Director of CRE Young-uhk** provided a summary of the impact of CRE accomplishments of FY 21 projects and activities and the challenge of finding qualified extension agents to fill vacancies.
- e. **VPEMSS Oducado** reported on student financial support to defray cost of attendance (\$3.5M to 1,214 pell-eligible students); 627 students early registered for spring 2022 which is 61% higher than last spring; 187 candidates for graduations; majority of candidates preferring in-person graduation ceremony, as such, in-person graduation will be held December 17 with strict pandemic protocol; continuing lecture forums and organization of co-curricular activities on-campus; vaccination campaign; and challenge to re-focus on broader capacity building

## 9. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Presidential Search.** Regent Gallen, who chairs the search committee, announced a new search committee is being formed. A new job announcement will be discussed at the first meeting. The three finalists from the last search and the next three candidates are still interested.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **FY 2023 Operations Budget.** The proposed FY 2023 operations budget of \$12,384,226 was presented, which is 4% lower than FY 2022 budget. The process for budget development and breakdown of the budget were explained, including revenue projections, tuition and fees assumption, expenditures by campus. FSM contribution from general fund raised to \$4 million and tuition increase proposed. Two more hearings on tuition increase are scheduled. *The board tabled consideration of the FY 2023 operational budget until after the hearings are held.*
- b. **FY 2023 FSM FMI Budget.** FSM FMI is solely subsidized by the National Government. A FY 2023 budget of \$965,735 was presented which is 5% higher than the approved budget for FY 2022 due to replacement of equipment for instruction and operation of the campus and step increases.  
Berdon/Mingii  
*Moved to approve the FY 2023 FSM FMI budget for \$965,735 for submission to the National Government.* CARRIED
- c. **FY 2023 Auxiliary Enterprise Budgets.** Bookstore and dining hall are the auxiliary enterprises at the college. The FY 2023 budget for the bookstore is at \$124,059 which is lower by 16% from the previous year due to cancellation of international travel and decrease in salaries due to employee changes. The FY 2023 budget for the dining hall is at \$249,500 which is increased by 6% due to purchase of new equipment and increase in costs for operating supplies.  
Mingii/Salalu  
*Moved to approve the FY 2023 auxiliary enterprise budgets as follows: Bookstore at \$124,059 and dining hall at \$249,500.* CARRIED
- d. **FY 2023 Board of Regents Budget.** The proposed FY 2023 budget for the board is at \$120,000 which is at the same level as the previous year.  
Mingii/Salalu  
*Moved to approve the FY 2023 board budget at \$120,000 for submission to the National Government.* CARRIED
- e. **FY 2023 SEG Budget.** The proposed FY 2023 SEG budget of \$689,948 for teacher corps, work study program, and student assistance is at the same level as the previous year.  
Mingii/Waguk  
*Moved to approve the FY 2023 SEG budget at \$689,948 for submission to the National Government.* CARRIED
- f. **Review of Human Resources Policies**
- i. **BP 6007 Employment.** The proposed revisions are to comply with previously updated requirements and clarify the language.  
Mingii/Waguk  
*Moved to approve the revisions to BP 6007 Employment.* CARRIED
- ii. **BP 6013 Holidays.** The policy was originally up for revision to include a new holiday. However, the executive committee recommended revising the policy to include only the first and last paragraph and moving the list of holidays to a corresponding administrative procedure.  
Salalu/Mingii  
*Moved to approve the revisions to BP 6013 Holidays.* CARRIED

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for the second week of March 2022.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT – December 2, 2021,**

After words of appreciation for the successful meeting, the meeting adjourned after its executive session.

Minutes of the COM-FSM Board of Regents meeting of December 2, 2021, approved this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022.

During the December 2, 2021, executive session of the board, the board agreed to retain the current officers.

Chair	Suzanne L. Gallen
Vice Chair	Jesse Salalu
Secretary/Treasurer	Pelma J. Mingii

After the two scheduled hearings on tuition increase and through electronic polling, the board approved the proposed tuition increases and the FY 23 operations budget of \$12,384,226 for submission to the National Government.