

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM BOARD OF REGENTS
Minutes of the March 11, 2022, Meeting
Zoom Meeting

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 Jeffrey Arnold 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; Vice President for Instructional Affairs Karen Simion; 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; Dean of FSM FMI Tioti Teburea; Director of Cooperative Research and Extension Steven Young-Uhk; Comptroller Roselle Togonon; Director of Human Resources Rencelly Nelson; and Yap Campus Director of Upward Bound Serphin Ilesiuvalo

Guests: Dan Roland from Raymond James

1. CALL TO ORDER – 10:02 AM

Vice Chair Salalu 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, Salalu, Mingii, and Arnold present; a quorum was declared. Regent Gallen and Waguk joined the meeting later.

Jeffrey Arnold, the new regent from Chuuk, was introduced and welcomed. Regent Arnold expressed his pleasure with returning to the college saying it has been a big part of his life. He hopes to contribute to the development and betterment of the college.

4. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Arnold/Salalu

Moved to accept the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 2, 2021

The adoption date was corrected,

Mingii/Arnold

Moved to adopt of the minutes of the December 2, 2021, meeting as corrected. CARRIED

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Letter from ACCJC dated January 24, 2022, regarding the appointment of the chair and vice chair of the Peer Review Team.

7. REGENTS' REPORTS

- a. **Regent Salalu** reported Yap state still Covid-free, and on President Panuelo's visit to Yap State, and Yap campus and FMI fencing projects.
- b. **Regent Arnold** said there are new players/government in Chuuk. He is considering courtesy visit to the new governor and will be pushing for the unfinished business of the new Chuuk campus.
- c. **Regent Mingii** reported FSM President visited Yap State, the Secretary of Education is off-island for medical reasons and on Acting Secretary Arthur Nena's updates on current programs. President Panuelo has declared no more repatriation flights until after May.
- d. **Regent Waguk** reported schools doing fine, repatriation flights on hold, the Governor in Pohnpei, and his replacement recommendation is in progress.
- e. **Regent Gallen** apologized for being late and thanked VC Salalu for taking the helm. She reported that the borders closed again.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. **Interim President** Simion reported on the progress of ISER with plans to present it to the board at the next meeting and submitting it to ACCJC in August. She also highlighted that Center for Entrepreneurship awarded grant to expand hydroponics to the states; Teacher Corps program to states extended; infrastructure projects ready to start; FM89, the college radio, upgraded; efforts to gear up student life activities; employee of the month; and Higher Education Emergency Relief Grant extended to June 30, 2023.
- b. **VPAS** Habuchmai reported FY 2023 budget submitted on time; budget hearing scheduled for March 15; signage project underway; and provided updates on pending infrastructure projects.
 - i. **Financial Status Report:** Comptroller Togonon reported the endowment fund decreased by \$238K or 2% due to unrealized market loss and the cash reserved fund decreased by \$119K or 3% also due to unrealized market loss as of February 28, 2022. She also reported the budget balance almost back to normal and the college is financially fluid. She also reported on USDOE Covid-19 funds as of February 28 and the audit report.
 - ii. **Raymond James** representatives Dan Roland provided a quick overview of the market and prediction for the coming year. The endowment fund and the reserves fund are down due to interest rates up and the war. He recommends not do anything now; historically negative year occurs every five years.
- c. **Acting VPIEQA** Suliol highlighted their efforts to increase cybersecurity and provided an update on CARES Act program on laptops for students.
- d. **VPIA** Simion said highlights from instructional affairs are in her written report, and then asked the deans to report.
 - i. **Director of CRE** YoungUhk highlighted the final results of FY 21 accomplishments for the seven USDA approved extension programs; most programs met their targets.
 - ii. **Kosrae Campus Dean** Mike reported their biggest challenge has been personnel;

not being able to fill their many vacancies. He also reported on the slowness of their fencing and generator house projects. IP Simion reported that all campuses are facing HR challenges.

- iii. **CTEC Dean** Jack completed his master's degree and expressed his gratitude for the college's support, and for support of CTEC plans.
- iv. **Chuuk Campus Dean** Kanto shared his campus' effort to improve faculty student interaction with implementation of faculty "talk story" with students to discuss career opportunities. IP Simion interjected that Chuuk campus is leading the way in this endeavor.
- v. **Yap Campus Dean** Roboman reported although faced with on-line instruction challenges projected enrollment and projected credits were met; student services revamped their tutoring services now calling it Academic Services Center (ASC) – the challenge is getting students to take advantage of the center; another challenge is now that more students have their own laptops they are not on campus as often. She also reported new SBA officers becoming comfortable in their roles and on-going fencing project.
- vi. **FSM FMI Dean** Teburea reported on FMI and JICA meetings with stakeholders on Class 4 project; local instructors upgrade to teach higher classes; and the fencing projects done by maintenance and cadets. IP Simion also reported that a second traditional navigation class graduated in April. Regent Salalu also reported that FSM President visited FMI while in Yap.
- e. **VPEMSS** Oducado reported Spring 2022 student enrollment highest in four years; compared to Spring 2021 head count enrollment up by 23% and credits up by 26%; in-person graduation for summer and fall 2021 held December 21, 2021 (first since pandemic); degrees and certificates conferred to 132 graduates for fall 2021 and 41 graduates for summer 2021; and \$4.2 million awarded to 1,510 students last fall 2021.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Presidential Search.** Regent Gallen, who chairs the search committee, announced the search committee formed with representative from each campus and the students. The committee met three times, finalized the job announcements, and waiting for the closing on May 31 to continue the process.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Review of Board Policies – BP 1001 Enabling Law, BP 1010 Organizing Principles, and BP 1200 Membership and Terms of Office.** These policies were last reviewed March 2006. Recommendations are 1) no changes to the contents as the policies come from the enabling law and changes have not been made to the law; 2) cite the enabling law as reference; and 3) BP 1001 and BP1010 be more appropriately placed in Chapter 2 General Institution instead of Chapter 1 Board of Regents and rename BP 1001 to BP 2004 and BP 1010 to BP 2005.

Waguk/Mingii

Moved to accept the recommendations to cite the enabling law as reference for the three policies and rename BP1001 to BP 2004 and BP 1010 to BP 2005.

CARRIED

- b. **Review of Instructional Affairs Policy – BP 3104 Credit by Examination.** BP 3104 provides guidance to only one type of assessment of prior learning. In June 2020 ACCJC revised its policy on prior learning to encompass educational accomplishment attained in extra institutional settings. A working group looked at how other community colleges address prior learning assessment and recommends renaming the policy “Prior Learning Assessment” and including additional ways to assess learning.
Mingii/Gallen
Moved to accept the recommendations for BP 3104 with implementation upon the board’s approval. CARRIED
- c. **Review of Human Resources Policies – BP 6001 Purpose and Scope, BP 6004 Administration, BP 6011 Optional Benefits, and BP 6012 Social Security.** These policies are the master calendar for review. Improvements to the first three policies made to clarify, respond to change in other policies and/or general improvement to minor sections. Revisions to BP 6001 and BP 6004 put focus on human resources, BP 6011 adds the retirement program, and no changes recommended to BP 6012. The board raised concern about removing the phrase “equal opportunity” in BP 6001 and questioned the “30 days” in BP 6011.
Gallen/Arnold
Moved to accept the review and recommendations for BP 6004, BP 6012 and deferred action BP 6001 and BP 6011. CARRIED
- d. **Review of Information Technology Policies – BP 8300 Administrative Data and BP 8400 Internet.** These policies are up for review per the master planning calendar. Recommendation made to BP 8300 includes modern ways of sharing information. No changes recommended for BP 8400.
Gallen/Arnold
Moved to approve the review and revisions to BP 8300 and BP 8400. CARRIED
- e. **Proposed New Policy – BP 6035 Rehire Eligibility Policy.** The policy fills gaps in current hiring policies and procedures due to employee mobility. This policy will improve consistency of application across the college to ensure hiring back eligible former employees.
Mingii/Gallen
Moved to approve new policy BP 6035 Rehire Eligibility Policy. CARRIED
- f. **Proposed New Program – BS in Business Administration.** IP Simion provided background information on the need for and effort put into preparing the proposal, and next steps for implementation. Need for more lead time when presenting something major raised.
Gallen/Mingii
Moved to approve the Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. CARRIED
- g. **Resolution – Johannes Berdon.**
Arnold/Gallen
Moved to approve the resolution to recognize and commend Mr. Johannes Berdon for his years of service, commitment, and dedication to the college. CARRIED
- h. **Board Professional Development.** Dr. David Newnham contracted to provide board professional development. He is familiar with the islands and receptive our life style.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. **Task Force.** During the executive session, the board formed a task force on

Chuuk campus. The group includes Regent Arnold, VPAS Habuchmai, and Dean Kanto; others can be added as needed.

- b. Concerns.** During their reflection, the board discussed several concerns: 1) no appeal for non-renewal – recommend extend notification to 90 days prior to the expiration date; 2) how supervisors do evaluations – directed IP to look into a job audit in conjunction with the next strategic planning with effort to increase salaries with less people; 3) Norma’s replacement – suggest temporary replacement to shadow her; 4) maintenance – request IP to look into areas of concern; and 5) CARES/HEERF funding – consider beneficial ways to use the funds.
- c. Boardable.** VP Suliol explained transition to Boardable, a board software that centralizes and manages board activities. Training is part of the transition.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of June 13th. Suggestion made to hold the meeting in Chuuk.

13. ADJOURNMENT – March 11, 2022,

After words of appreciation for the successful meeting, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Minutes of the COM-FSM Board of Regents meeting of March 11, 2022, approved this 17th day of June 2022.