

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM BOARD OF REGENTS

Minutes of the 02-03 April 2025 Meeting

Media Instructional Technology Center, COMFSM
Palikir, Pohnpei State

Present: Regent Suzanne Gallen, Pohnpei (Chair); Regent Lyndon Cornelius, Kosrae, (Member); Regent Lynn Sonden FSM National Government (Member); Regent Geraldine Mitagyow, Yap (Secretary/Treasurer); and President Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono (*ex officio member*)

Absent: Apologies from Regent Jeffrey Arnold, Chuuk (Vice Chairman): on medical leave; and from EO who was off-island for Board Professionals' training.

Resources: Vice President of Innovation & Sustainability, Mr. Steven Young-Uhk, Vice President of Instructional Affairs, Ms. Delihna Ehmes; Vice President of Enrollment, Management and Student Services Mr. Joey Oducado joined via zoom; IT Consultant Dhiraj Bhartu representing VPIEQA; DAP Kasiano Paul; A/g Dean of Chuuk Campus Ms. Genevy Samuel; A/g Dean of Kosrae Campus, George Tilfas; Dean of Career and Technical Education Center Ms. Phyllis Silbanuz; Dean of Yap Campus and FSM Fisheries & Maritime Institute (FMI,Yap) Ms. Lourdes Roboman; Director of Facilities & Maintenance, Mr. Francisco Mendiola; Comptroller Ms. Roselle Togonon; Executive Secretary to the President, Ms. Senniesha Santos (sitting in for EO Lisa Dereas), Yap SBA President Jamee Fathal; National Campus SBA President Marstin Yaliwelig, and CTEC SBA President Peneathra Amor.

Additional Resources: Amanda Gima of Raymond James, who presented the College's investment portfolio updates on **Wednesday, 2 April 2025 at 10am**. Meeting convened in the MITC rooms at the National Campus.

1. CALL TO ORDER: 0930 on Wednesday, 02 April 2025

Chairwoman Gallen called the meeting to order.

2. PRAYER: Prayer was led by Dean of Academic Programs Mr. Kasiano Paul

3. READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Recited by Dean Lourdes

4. ROLL CALL

Called by Secretary Regent Mitagyow. Chair Gallen, Regents Sonden and Cornelius are present; a quorum was declared.

5. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

Regent Cornelius moved a motion to approve the Agenda. Regent Mitagyow seconded. Motion was **CARRIED**.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (December 2-6, Board Meeting)

Regent Cornelius moved a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded and **CARRIED**.

7. Communications from the Office of the President (OTP)

- a. **16 January:** Meeting with the Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) to discuss procuring an FSM-FMI vessel through a grant.
- b. **23 January:** Meeting with State R&D Director Mr. Mark Kostka
- c. **27 January:** Committee on Education Public Hearing at the FSM Congress Chamber
- d. **6 February:** Courtesy call by UN MCO RC Tapan Mishra
- e. **11-13 February:** 26th Consultation Meeting of the Pacific Heads of Education System (PHES)
- f. **20 February:** Introductory Meeting with ADB Consultant John Brady
- g. **24 February:** Handover of the Reusable Menstrual Pads with the Pohnpei Rotary Club
- h. **11 March:** Meeting with COM-LG Executive Director Stanley Lorennij

Regent Cornelius moved to adopt the oral report on communications. Motion was seconded by Regent Mitagyow and carried.

8. REGENTS REPORTS

- a. **Regent Mitagyow** provided an update noting that the President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) recently met with the U.S. Secretary of Defense in Guam to begin planning the construction of a major infrastructure project in Yap, with the investment now expected to exceed \$1 billion, a significant increase from earlier reports of \$400 million. The Regent highlighted that the Operational Control Letter (OCL) for the Yap project has been signed, which should allow the project to move forward. Additionally, she reported a recent cyberattack on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) system in Yap, which was quickly resolved before causing widespread issues, emphasizing the importance of cybersecurity awareness. Regarding the Yap land lease, there has been no change in status since the last report, and Regent Mitagyow requested that the college's attorney review the latest lease to ensure due diligence and to help move the process forward. No further updates were provided.
- b. **Regent-Cornelius** reported that there were no major updates in a particular order but raised several important issues. He recalled the presence of a student in the last Yap meeting and expressed support for including a student representative on the Board of Regents, seeking clarification if there will be a

student representative present at the current meeting. He then questioned the current status and rotation of the campus Dean position, particularly why the acting role reverted to Mr. George Tilfas, and emphasized the need to fill this position for the campus's benefit. Regent Cornelius also highlighted the lack of communication regarding the letter that was sent to the four states, stating he was not aware of such a letter and requested the Board to issue a notice for transparency. Regarding the Kosrae campus, he again sought clarification on the Dean's position and hoped for updates. He raised concerns about employee compensation, asking if there were any recommendations to increase salaries or add a cost of living allowance in the FY26 budget, and urged the Board and administration to consider these measures. Reflecting on the recent Board of Regents' training in Honolulu, he recommended exploring ways to bring such training to the region to reduce costs. Regent Cornelius also asked for clarification on which positions are hired by the Board, specifically mentioning the comptroller, and requested confirmation of any changes to this process. He reiterated support for the Kosrae multi-building project and concluded by extending condolences to Dr. T for her recent loss on behalf of the people of Kosrae.

- c. **Regent Sonden** began by expressing respect to the Chair, fellow regents, and all present. She noted that, prior to the meeting, she had consulted with both the legislative and executive branches but had no new matters to report. She announced that a special session dedicated to budget matters would begin on April 15, 2025, and that the inauguration of the new Congress would take place on May 11, 2025. Regent Sonden concluded her report by encouraging the Board and administration of the college to bring forward any issues during the special session, as all items from the current Congressional calendar would be considered closed.
- d. **Chair Gallen reported** and before the Chair did her report, she asked Dr. Theresa to note the issues raised by Regent Cornelius for later discussion throughout the meeting. Chair Gallen provided an update from Pohnpei, noting a busy period highlighted by the Governor's recent State of the State address, which is available online. Strategic planning efforts are ongoing, and the state has faced an energy crisis since January, with partial resolution expected by September through the arrival of a new generator. She also shared that a private sector company is planning a 200-room hotel project in Sokehs, relevant to the college's hospitality and tourism management program. 'Education Week' and 'Students Take Over Day' were held, and recent cultural events in schools underscored the importance of heritage for youth. She also shared that Pohnpei state issued a funding freeze that remains in effect, restricting spending to essential services until further notice from the US administration. Chair Gallen shared insights from the Board's participation in the ACCT Governance Leadership Institute in Hawaii, in which they learned many things including best practices in governance, student engagement, and crisis response. She also reported a productive meeting with the FSM President and Vice President and thanked VP Steven for stepping in when Dr. T was unavailable due to personal family matters. She then extended her condolences to Dr. T. She then continued to say that they received positive feedback from the FSM President and Vice President regarding our budget needs, which they said that they will try their best to help the college. Chair Gallen concluded by inviting further discussion and comments from Dr. T before continuing with the meeting agenda.

9. President's Report

- a. The President started her report by thanking the Chair and she asked if she should respond to some of the issues raised by Regent Cornelius.
- Chair Gallen replied that President Theresa could respond to the ones that didn't have a plan yet, and for the others, responses could be given throughout the meeting.
- President, Dr. Koroivulaono noted that there was an update regarding the Student Regent. Chair Gallen agreed, saying they could address it along the way. President Koroivulaono responded, explaining that there was already a draft language document reviewed by the attorney concerning the amendment of the act and the necessary steps to involve the appropriate authorities. She further explained that before any other approval processes take place, the draft must be considered at the national level, as it relates to the enabling act for the college. She mentioned they had a meeting and developed a draft to present to the authorities, who would decide whether to amend the act. She also noted that the student president from Yap, who was one of the MCs at their Founding Day, was present yesterday.
- Chair Gallen asked if the student president was present today, and the President confirmed that she should be, although classes were ongoing and that needed to be taken into consideration. Regarding the acting Dean situation, the speaker reported that the recruitment process for the Dean had concluded, and it was in the final stages, with an announcement expected soon. The recruitment panel had sent a recommendation to the President's office, where it was signed off and sent back for any necessary consultations, particularly concerning contract negotiations.
- In regards to the funding request letters, the President apologized, explaining that the letters were sent out after instructions from the board during the last meeting. Much of the communication was done via email, and it was unclear whether Regent Cornelius had received the emails. The President promised to check where the communication may have fallen through. She thanked Regent Cornelius for raising the issue of salary increases, noting that it was a shared priority. Since, starting in 2023, the President worked closely with the Board Chair to address this issue. They implemented a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) at the end of 2023 and issued an appreciation payment at the beginning of 2024.
- They reported that the college was working within its budget to support staff, including recently increasing rent allowances from \$600 to \$750 as previously approved by the board and SLT. As for the inquiry regarding the board hiring the comptroller, the President clarified that operational matters, including recruitment, were delegated to the President. The Comptroller position also fell under this delegation. Concerning the multi-purpose building project, the President said it was still on the list for implementation. She also clarified that the Kosrae Dean issue has already gone through the hiring committee and a recommendation letter has already been signed by her but it was still pending clarification, with an update expected soon. The President acknowledged the broader challenges faced and emphasized ongoing efforts to address them.
- The President then presented her board report and she shared some highlights of key initiatives and challenges for the College of Micronesia-FSM. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with the University of Guam to create a 2+2 transfer pathway for Agriculture and Natural

Resources Management students, streamlining education and promoting access. A supplemental budget of \$4.1 million was requested from the FSM government to maintain staffing and services due to a shortfall in Compact funds. The college also presented its FY2026 budget and addressed a 5% reduction request from Hon. Palik FSM Vice President. Letters were sent to state governments requesting financial assistance to address enrollment shortfalls, with one positive response received from Pohnpei. The President participated in an accreditation peer review, site visit to Hawaii Tokai International College. Additionally, the President introduced a proposal for a loan from the Endowment Fund for a staff housing project. The report also included a human resources update, graduate data, and survey results indicating high employment rates among COM-FSM graduates.

- Regent Cornelius inquired about the funded programs if we also provide reports for those programs.
- The President responded that, “yes” for the funded programs like DDFT, we are required to submit a report for it. The reports are included with the relevant VPs who oversee the grants.

Note Full Report:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1j7O2d2bf4a7hb6ausM6D-DwMx2ZJlIQF>

b. **Vice President for Innovation & Sustainability, Steven. Young-Uhk** presented the reports for the Maintenance & Facilities department, the Property and Procurement Management Office (PPMO), and lastly for the Cooperative Research & Extension office (CRE).

Report for the Maintenance Department

- **Their accomplishments:** The report details significant milestones in developing and maintaining COM-FSM's infrastructure. Key achievements include the *completed and occupied* CTEC Multi-Technical Building, and civil works, and the completion and upcoming opening of the National Campus Teaching Clinic. The upper campus buildings have been integrated into the generator system. There is ongoing FSM-FMI classroom and dormitory expansion.

Future Plans: The Maintenance Office aims to finalize the Teaching Clinic MOU, relocate the Health Science program, expedite the Kosrae Campus Multi-Purpose Building funding approval, assist FSM-FMI in managing ongoing classroom and dormitory projects, outsource generator maintenance, continue supporting miscellaneous campus maintenance and transportation needs, hire a Program Manager dedicated to preventative maintenance, increase funding for facility and equipment upkeep, and expand in-house technical capacity through training and hiring specialized engineers.

Note Full Report:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RhnrWA9OhiwQd7jCqS8LmQD9ow2XHMLK/edit#heading=h.um31bhtr3gqp>

Report for PPMO:

- **Accomplishments:** The PPMO is committed to efficient and cost-effective operations through best practices in procurement and property management while adhering to regulations, policies, and procedures. (Specific details on major purchases would be included in the full report.)

Future Plans/Actions: The PPMO will continue to improve its operations to ensure efficient, cost-effective operations in compliance with regulations, policies, and procedures. In addition, they will keep tracking the electricity expenditures for each campus and other expenditures of each campus and department.

Note Full Report: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/142C44bCNGsBh9-HyzbnDrQg5ZXZvcRTU/edit#heading=h.qhhyw727i6ur>

Report for CRE:

- **Accomplishments:** The Cooperative Research & Extension (CRE) has made significant strides in sustainable agriculture, food security, and youth empowerment. Key accomplishments include conducting hydroponics and business training, leading to the establishment of hydroponic systems (including the Lien Roie Women's Group in Sokehs). The "Go Local" movement has expanded statewide, with Go Local Clubs now active in all four FSM states. The CRE secured \$366,080 in UNICEF funding for the Climate-Resilient WASH for the Future Generations initiative. CRE is currently working with *three* USDA NIFA approved aquaculture projects for mangrove crab, seaweed, and oyster cultivation projects in Kosrae. They held two community consultations in Kosrae for coconut assessment and are conducting trials on citrus species rejuvenation.
- **Future Plans:** The CRE will continue implementing the Climate-Resilient WASH for Future Generations initiative, conducting 17 training events on climate-resilient gardening, water conservation, hygiene, and waste management, alongside developing 50 school WASH action plans and 10 community water safety plans. A new research proposal, 'Induced Spawning and Hatchery-Based Seed Production of Rabbitfish (*Siganus* spp.) in Kosrae, FSM,' is under review. Discussions with Kosrae State officials and the Lelu Municipal Council are progressing toward an MOU to establish a new hatchery facility at the Lelu Marine Park site. Furthermore, a competitive grant proposal submitted to the University of Guam Sea Grant Program is under review, aiming to secure additional funding for aquaculture initiatives. Finally, a new project, Impact of Artificial Light and GA3 Concentration on Off-Season Production of Dragon Fruit in the Federated States of Micronesia, is currently under review.

Note Full report: Document titled: (Item. no 9.c. VPCRE Board Report.pdf)
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/19H3mi6QhOpczX-GYKaZmVCD7y1p1IN8k>

- Motion by Regent Mitagyow, to defer Regent Cornelius' inquiry regarding VP Steven's new title, (to see if the Land Grant Board endorses his new title and responsibilities). Regent Mitagyow made a motion to defer the discussion on this matter to the Executive session. Chair asked if this still needs more time to discuss and the Regent responded "yes" as she believes it still needs to be discussed. The motion was seconded by Regent Sonden and the motion was carried unanimously. The inquiry and discussion were deferred until the Executive session.

i. Concept Proposal for On-campus Facilities Use and Rental Fees presented by VPIS Young-Uhk

- A presentation was made for the container housing concept. The proposal was delivered and it included the cost projections, the building plans, the location for the project, and how the college will benefit from it. This project was reviewed and supported by IAEA Executive Director Mori prior to the board meeting and he gave them his recommendations. Then VP Steven gave the board two options that they came up with in regards to the payment, for them to loan from the Endowment fund or to withdraw the money from the endowment fund and then the payment for the new houses would be made to the endowment fund.
- Note: Link to On-Campus Facilities Use and Rental Fees (Housing Compound for Employees Proposal) Document titled: (Staff Housing proposal)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/19H3mi6QhOpczX-GYKaZmVCD7y1p1IN8k>

ii. Investment Report: Raymond and James Endowment Investment Report by (Amanda Gima)

Opening and Market Overview

- Amanda presented the Strategy Snapshot for March 2025, noting recent market volatility driven by persistent inflation, changes in U.S. administration policies, and fluctuating tariffs. Despite a market correction, the U.S. economy is projected to maintain 2.4% growth, with tax cuts and deregulation providing some support. Inflation remains above the 2% target, and interest rate cuts are not expected until later in the year. The bond market continues to offer strong returns, while equities have pulled back after a strong 2024, particularly in the AI and tech sectors. She emphasized that long-term prospects for AI, tech, and industrials remain positive despite short-term volatility.

Endowment Fund and Reserves Update

- Amanda provided a detailed update on the endowment fund as of March 31, 2025, highlighting performance across various asset classes. The fund is diversified, with positive returns in global infrastructure and U.S. REITs, and less volatility in private markets. Some underperformance was noted in U.S. equities, particularly in large-cap value and growth segments, but fixed income and infrastructure assets performed as expected. The reserves fund was also reviewed, with recent changes in fund managers and ongoing monitoring of performance.

Inquiry on Housing Proposal and Endowment Withdrawal

- Chair Gallen raised an inquiry regarding a housing proposal from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), specifically whether it would be safe to withdraw \$500,000 from the endowment fund to support the project. Amanda noted that the SLT had reached out for advice on the matter and sought their perspective on the timing and prudence of such a withdrawal.
- Amanda responded that if the board is certain about proceeding with the housing project and the withdrawal, it would be advisable to pull the funds now rather than wait, indicating that current market volatility is not a significant concern for this transaction.

iii. Financial Status Report will be presented by the Comptroller (Roselle Togonon)

The Business Office report, presented by Comptroller Roselle Togonon, covers the period from December 2024 to March 2025. The report details the status of the college's finances and investments. The summary appears below:

- Endowment Fund: Increased by 0.10% (or \$13,808) due to an \$80,000 investment, offsetting an unrealized market loss of \$66,191.20
- Cash Reserves: Experienced a \$13,000 (0.45%) unrealized market loss.
- Total Investments: Saw a slight unrealized market gain of 0.0049% (or \$805.75) at the start of FY2025.
- Audit Status: The FY2023 Financial Statement Audit is complete and under review. The Compliance Audit was extended to include CRE accounts. The FY2024 Financial Statement Audit will commence in April, with a permanent auditor from EY stationed in Pohnpei.
- Cash Balance (March 14, 2025): The total cash balance is \$4,080,948.09, split between BOFSM (\$3,030,098.01) and BOG (\$1,050,850.08).
- Bookstore Operation: *(No information provided in the excerpt)*
- Challenge: The report identifies the budget for 2025 as a challenge due to enrollment levels and the increasing operating costs of the college.

The overall mission of the Business Office is to ensure sufficient and well-managed fiscal resources to maintain financial stability and support the mission of the college.

Note Full Report:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CV52PmY8fTI3MIAyrkG_TkjQACFV0R4P/edit#heading=h.qa69gk rvchbf

The comptroller concluded her report by sharing the item listed under miscellaneous items:

a. COM-FSM Bank Signatories (presented by Comptroller Togonon) **

- **Motion:** To add VPIS to the signatories.
- **Outcome:** Motion by Regent Sonden, motion was seconded and carried in the absence of any objections.
- **Action Item:** Add VPIS to the COM-FSM list of Bank Signatories.

The Chair addressed time checks and asked the Board, SLT, and the other members present that they go ahead and have a lunch break and then reconvene for the Community Meeting at 1:00pm and then adjourn for the day. The meeting will reconvene the next day, same time. All agreed.

-----Board Meeting reconvened on Apr 3, 2025 at 9:30am-----

The Chair opened the meeting and again welcomed everyone to the meeting

After revisiting the agenda, the Chair asked Director Mendiola to start off the meeting with his report.

Director Mendiola started his report by paying his respects to the board members, members of the SLT, and everyone present at the meeting. He then shared an overview of their program for the Hand Over Ceremony of the New Teaching Clinic which would be held at 2:30 that day.

The program reads:

1. Traditional Leaders Seated
 2. Sakau ceremony
 3. Invocation: Deacon Mike Ioanis
 4. National Anthem: COM-FSM Choir
 5. Serving of refreshment and mwaramwar (pwuhr) for traditional Leaders/Presentation of Tributes
 6. Welcoming Remarks: COM-FSM, BOR Chairperson
 7. Feature Address: Hon. Lorin Roberts
 8. Remarks from The U. S. Ambassador: HE Jennifer Johnson
 9. COM Choir and Hand Over of Keys: Contractor to the Pohnpei State Governor Hon. Stevenson Joseph and COM-FSM President Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono
 10. Closing Remarks: Pohnpei State Governor Hon. Stevenson Joseph
 11. Benediction: Deacon Tetaake Yee Tin
 12. Ribbon Cutting: Ambassador HE Johnson and Hon. Lorin Robert
 13. Refreshments and Tour of the Teaching Clinic.
- Director also shared the list of guests that had RSVP'd prior to the day.
 - The Chair inquired about the blessing of the building, if it had been done already?
 - Director Mendiola responded that the blessing of the building has not yet been arranged, due to the Vicar's unavailability and he recommended that we do not move in the building until the blessing has been done.

- Chair inquired again, which church member will do the invocation and benediction, protestant or catholic?
- Director responded that both are Catholic and that they are both from the College.
- Regent Mitagyow inquired about, who provided funding for the building construction?
- Director Mendiola clarified that the funding for the building was from the U.S. Covid19 Cares Act fund, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)
- He also shared that he asked the Deacon to include in his benediction prayers to mention the late Governor John Ehsa, the late Director Kapilly Capelle, the late Professor Robert Spegal, and the late Professor Dr. Paul Dacanay as they were the initiators of this project.
- This concluded his report.

The Chair thanked Director Mendiola for his report and asked VPEMSS to start his report and then the rest as follows.

c. Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services Joey Oducado's Report:

- **Spring 2025 Enrollment & Graduation:**
The college enrolled 1,491 students with 17,925 credit hours, marking a 3% increase in both headcount and credit hours compared to Spring 2024. The National Campus saw a 4% decline, while CTEC increased by 2%. Kosrae Campus experienced significant growth (49% in headcount, 62% in credit hours), and Yap Campus also grew (20% in headcount, 30% in credit hours). The Registrar advanced 222 students to Spring 2025 graduation candidacy, representing 15% of enrolled students.
- **Commencement & Degree Audit:**
The National Campus and CTEC will hold a joint 81st commencement on May 22, 2025. The final degree audit is scheduled for May 20, 2025, and instructors are urged to submit grades on time.
- **DDFT & Health Programs:**
The college received \$400,000 from HRSA for Year 4 of the Doctors and Dentists for the 'Doctors & Dentists for Tomorrow' (DDFT) program, which has a 93% graduation rate and strong post-graduate outcomes, with 100% of graduates accepted into medical or allied health programs. The DDFT Dental Assistants program has expanded, graduating 42 students so far, and aims to enroll 70 more in Summer 2025. Recruitment for Fall 2025 is ongoing across the region.
- **Additional Grants & Health Services:**
The Hawaii Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center awarded \$100,000 for primary health care education and training. The National Campus dispensary recorded 190 visits (56% students, 44% staff) between December 2024 and March 2025, with the most common issues being body aches, viral infections, and family planning.
- **Student Support & Success:**
Counseling services held workshops on test-taking skills, with 98% positive feedback. Tutoring services saw 80% of users pass their courses. The college awarded \$2.76 million in Pell Grants to 814 students for Spring 2025 and \$3.37 million to 1,018 students in Fall 2024. Federal Work-Study supported 161 students with \$58,188, and 96 students received nearly \$90,000 in national and state scholarships.
- **Academic Performance:**
Overall, 39% of students had mid-term deficiencies, a slight improvement from the previous year. CTEC showed notable improvement in deficiency rates, while Yap Campus maintained the lowest rate.

- The Chair inquired about the deficiencies, if VP Joey can compare that data to other similar colleges like ours? Whether those are comparable.
- VP Joey replied that they have not tried that yet, but they will look into it and they will try it.

Student Body Association (Students' report, presented by Yap SBA President Jamee Fathal, accompanied by National Campus and CTEC SBA Presidents.)

- **Overview & Mission:**
Student Body Associations (SBAs) at the College of Micronesia-FSM represent students at each campus, facilitate communication with administration, organize events, and promote student engagement and involvement. Each campus has its own tailored SBA.
- **Roles & Responsibilities:**
SBAs provide support services, organize events, collaborate with staff and faculty, manage budgets for activities, and advocate for student needs, fostering unity in diversity.
- **Impact on Student Life:**
Student activities have significant academic, career, personal, emotional, and psychological benefits. Academically, involvement helps with time management, reinforces classroom learning, and develops critical thinking. Personally, activities build confidence, foster a sense of belonging, nurture leadership and responsibility, and promote cultural awareness and diversity.
- If you need more detailed breakdowns or additional sections from either report, please specify.

Note Full Report:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1GAjd0Uqk58c7DC4KhctxVr890XexstH/edit#slide=id.p1>

- d. **Vice President for Instructional Affairs VP Delihna** asked the members of the Board if she could have the Deans present her Board report on her behalf. The Board allowed the request.
 - I. **Dean of Academic Programs Reporting (Kasiano Paul) reporting for National Campus**
 - Moodle Training: Moodle transition was finalized in November 2024. Zoom training sessions were conducted, led by Tomasi Cabebula and assisted by Fiji Phillip. The training covered basic navigation and key features, with flexible schedules accommodating over 50 instructors. In Spring 2025, faculty faced initial challenges, prompting refresher sessions and one-on-one support. Student orientation was initially also a challenge.
 - CSLO Consolidated Reports: 737 CSLOs were assessed across 34 academic and technical programs, yielding an overall student success rate of 83% (83-84% for face-to-face, 80-81% for distance learning). Top-performing degree programs included AAS Building Technology, AS Marine Science, and AS Micronesian Studies. Certificate programs included Trial Counselors, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning. Recommendations include enhancing student engagement, strengthening math/English skills, improving LMS training, and encouraging faculty collaboration.
 - IQBE Reports: A blended learning workshop in Yap integrated technology with elementary education. Led by IQBE Coordinator Benskin Bergen with IT support

from Fiji Phillip, the 5-day training focused on Google Workspace (Sheets, Slides, Forms, Classroom). Educators developed technology-integrated lesson plans. Plans are in place to acquire SMART boards.

- Stakeholders Collaboration: A meeting on March 12, 2025, with UNICEF, COM-FSM, and the National Department of Education finalized the budget for the Early Childhood Education Inclusive, In-service, Teacher Training project. Professor Pearl Habuchmai Olter-Pelep leads the project, which aims to conduct needs assessments, develop training modules, and evaluate modules across all four FSM states.
- LRC Corner: The National Campus Learning Resource Center renewed Journal print subscriptions for the year 2025. The MITC building maintenance was finished, and the listing of the Government and Document booklets continues with 1959 booklets and 402 volumes listed in February 2025. LRC staff continue to assist and guide students on how to use Moodle.

II. Dean of Yap and FMI (Lourdes Roboman)

FMI & Yap Campus

- We changed employee of the Month to employee of the quarter (January – March) to foster team cohesion. Monthly birthdays are celebrated.
- POW WOW sessions: we have it three times each semester – academic advisement continues, with challenges to increase attendance and improve tutoring to target those on ‘At-Risk & Early Warning’ Lists.
- We had VP Joey and Loatis to help us administer the COMET to 156 high school students.
- New activities: Founding Day, College & Career Fair, April 11.
- Anticipate 17 students to graduate in May.
- FSM FMI – Classroom & dormitory buildings continue on schedule.
- Shipboard training for cadets.
- Recruitment visits to all states – Chuuk (300+ students) & community groups (Pollap, Weito, FSM PC, etc.).
- CTEC Expo with FMI graduates to assist.
- Kosrae high school & agencies.
- Meetings for collaboration & partnerships.
- Collaborated with Waab Transportation and acquired a vessel, which will be transported from Abay to the dock in Colonia, where the cadets will be able to receive first-hand training and experience in operating small vessels.
- Possible employment opportunities – NORMA, NFC, FSM Surveillance Division, FSM TC&I
- Need for a seafarers’ database.
- Certificate of competency.
- Designate FMI faculty as oral examiners.
- JICA Expert (Engineer) Katsuki san departs FMI.
- Nippon Foundation approved funding for the bridge simulator software upgrade (sometime this spring or summer).
- FMI Expo, April 29th – high school students invited.
- NORMA – Observer training 8 weeks (June – August).

Regent Mitagyow inquired about what the oral exam is or what they do? Dean Lourdes replied that it is an examination that they do, like verbally instead of written.

III. Dean of Chuuk (Genevy Samuel)

Chuuk Campus Report

- Basic Smart Training was provided to 10 out of 15 Instructors. Micronesian Red Cross U-Report Training was held to allow both students & employees to collect data. CRE EFENP, Aquaculture and Agriculture Trainer outreach in 3 Islands (Piis Paneu, Udot and Eot).
- February 15th, SBA held the 1st Spring 2025 Walkathon. On March 7, SBA held 'Got Talent' with all Regional Students, and 22 COM-FSM Chuuk Campus Female employees celebrated International Women's Day. SBA Trashathon on Campus and Outside the Campus.
- *Dean Genevy's Request:* Given the current conflict Chuuk state is experiencing due to the election, Dean Genevy requests that the board consider their safety and provide advice on what actions they can take, as both campus employees and students are currently not safe.
- *Board Advice:* The board advised Dean Genevy that if the situation escalates to a point where safety is severely compromised, she should temporarily shut down the campus. The President thanked the Chair for the support and she responded that she will work with VPJA when the time comes and she advised the Dean that this is another good time for them to take advantage of our online learning platforms and transition to online teaching platforms until it is safe to return to campus grounds.

IV. Dean of CTEC (Phyllis Silbanuz)

CTEC Campus Report

- PCD_AUO_5 - Stakeholder Partnership: CTEC and National Campus Exhibit: 329 students on 3/20 and 137 on 3/21 for a total of 466 & with National and State DOE staff (5) = 471.
- Curriculum Alignment for Vocational studies with NDOE.
- UNOPS ELV Grant \$119K, CTEC received a grant to map 'end of life' vehicles.
- UXO and collaboration for the UN evaluation team and relocation of the bunker. Two professionals will be arriving next week to assess the UXO situation at CTEC and this has been through the UN and the U.S Embassy.

V. Dean of Kosrae (George Tilfas)

Kosrae Campus Report

- Objective 1 (Instructional Programs & Learning Support): Moodle training sessions were conducted virtually. 39 classes were offered (20 F2F, 19 DL). ESL089 and ESL 099 were offered to 10 dual enrollees from Kosrae High School. The faculty is still requesting face-to-face training. Online courses were offered for students at all campuses, with collaboration between ICs and instructors across campuses. The enrollment for Spring 2025 has slightly increased from 2024.1 by 40% (2024.1-81, 2025.1-121)
- Objective 2 (Student Services): Student Orientation was held during the Spring 2025 Semester, collaborating between IA Learning Design team and SS office to provide Moodle training for students. All the 10 dual enrollment students participated in the Moodle orientation, including

other students in the other classes. The lists of students with deficiencies were disseminated to all the ICs and academic advisors (KC) to provide some assistance to the students.

- Objective 3 (Administrative Services & Operations): The temporary Bookstore clerk was reassigned to be acting Fiscal officer, and door repairs on Building 2 were completed. AC Units in IC's office were replaced, and the IT training for the IT staff is still pending.
- Objective 4 (Program & Service Evaluation): Classroom observations of 4 faculty members (3 FT and 1 PT) were conducted. The Public Health instructor submitted a program modification for AS in Public Health. The Tropical Ecology (SC 117) field trip to the National Aquaculture Center in Kosrae was implemented.
- Objective 5 (Stakeholder Partnerships): An SBA meeting was held with COM-FSM alumni on the Founding Day celebration. Schools are being reached out to announce the registration timeline.

Note Full report for VPIA and the State Campuses:

(<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1JyXsDONvOggGUPnFK944bVZ83KHDcW5k/edit#slide=id.p5>)

- e. Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance (presented by IT Consultant Dhiraj on behalf of VP [Jennifer Helieisar](#))
- The Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness & Quality Assurance (VPIEQA) report for April 2025 highlights key developments in IT, Publications, Strategic Workforce Development, and Institutional Research.
- Accreditation: The College has submitted its Annual Fiscal Report, and is preparing to submit its Annual Report to ACCJC. IPEDS Winter and Spring collections were completed, providing data on financial aid, graduation rates, enrollment, finances, human resources, and academic libraries.

Information Technology:

- Accomplishments: Successful Starlink deployment at Yap and Kosrae, modernization of network infrastructure with gigabit-capable equipment, migration of critical services to a newer server operating system, startup of secondary cloud backup of DNS, decommissioning of the old email system, and integration of IT risk mitigation into the strategic plan.
- Ongoing: Exploring Gemini for Google Workspace and Gemini Cloud Assist, drafting an AI framework for responsible AI adoption, and developing a new website with embedded AI.

Publications & Graphics Department:

- Accomplishments: Strengthening COM-FSM's online and print presence with high-quality materials, ensuring alignment with institutional branding, and reviving the college newsletter "Kamorale." The college continues to highlight its activities through Kaselehlle Press.
- Launched: The Alumni Platform has been launched.

Strategic Workforce Development:

- Progress: Developed an assessment plan and proposal for the Workforce Development Office, including mission and vision statements, key functions, an online presence, and action steps. Research is underway to analyze workforce needs, and an online training program is being developed. The first training session is scheduled for April 2025.

- Future Directions & Strategic Priorities: The college aims to strengthen partnerships for the Digital FSM Project, align AI applications with institutional goals, build a resilient IT infrastructure, implement targeted workforce programs, and align research, technology, and workforce strategies for sustainable growth.
- Conclusion: The VPIEQA is committed to enhancing institutional resilience, technological innovation, and workforce excellence. The College of Micronesia-FSM is strategically investing in IT, publications, workforce development, and research to navigate the evolving educational landscape and reinforce its commitment to student success and institutional sustainability.

Note Full Report: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1sjkPh26rNq_tQKNWz-ftWRS_s1sfqqui

- Regent Cornelius inquired about when the next report was due, in terms of accreditation.
- President responded that the report will be due in 2027. The mid-term report is due in 2027.
- Regent Cornelius asked the President if she could share with the board some challenges or difficulties they had, when they were putting together the report or maybe some indication of what is coming or what to expect on the next report or for their next visit.
- In response to the question, our most challenging area is our Human resource, having enough people on the ground here, who can respond readily. For example, our accreditation liaison officer, who is at the moment is VP Jennifer, so we need to have people who can step up and report writing for ensuring that all of us, for accreditation standards are covered from the board to the maintenance and everything in between. She also highlighted that accreditation primarily focuses on integrated planning and what documents and plans the college has and how they plan them and follow them. Governance is also a big part of it, they also look at the board responsibilities and policy review calendars.
- Regent Cornelius then shared with the board that with the good standing of our College, the board should appreciate the performance of our College leadership. For their hard work to keep our college from getting cited.
- Chair thanked Regent Cornelius for the reminder.

10. Old Business

a. Review of **Chapter 5 (Fiscal Affairs) Policies****

i. **Board Policy No. 5801 – Naming Opportunity of Facilities and Programs Policy**

b. Review of **Chapter 6 (Human Resources) Policies****

i. **Board Policy No. 6017 – Performance Evaluation Policy** (to be presented again by the President & CEO).

c. Review of **Chapter 7 (Facilities and Maintenance) Policies****

. **Board Policy No. 7000 – Emergency Response Plan**

- i. **Board Policy No. 7002** - College of Micronesia-FSM Vehicle Use Policy
- ii. **Board Policy No. 7003** - COM-FSM Facilities Use Policy
- iii. **Board Policy No. 7004** – Inter-Campus Shuttle Service Fee
- iv. **Board Policy No. 7005** - Physical Resources Contingencies Fund
- No issues were raised in regards to the policies presented under Old Business

Chair asked to get a motion to approve the policies presented from Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Chapter 7.

Motion to Approve: by Regent Lynn Sonden

Seconded by: Regent Geraldine Mitagyow

All of the board policies presented; Board Policy No. 5801, Board Policy No. 6017, Board Policy No. 7000, Board Policy No. 7002, Board Policy No. 7003, Board Policy No. 7004, and Board Policy No. 7005 have been approved and the motion has passed.

11. New Business

a. Review of **Chapter 1 (Board of Regents) Policies****

- i. **Board Policy No. 1221** – Board Committees Policy (to be presented by VPEMSS)

Chair suggested that BP Policy No. 1221 be deferred to the Executive session for more discussion.

- ii. **Board Policy No. 1540** – FSM Fisheries & Maritime Institute Policy (to be presented by VPIA)

b. Review of **Chapter 2 (General Institution) Policies****

- i. **Board Policy No. 2000** – College Catalog Policy (to be presented by the IEQA Rep.)
- ii. **Board Policy No. 2100** – Communications Policy (to be presented by the IEQA Rep.)
- iii. **Board Policy No. 2001**-Policy on Policies (to be presented by VPIS)

c. Review of **Chapter 3 (Instructional Affairs) Policies****

- i. **Board Policy No. 3109** – Academic Suspension
- ii. **Board Policy No. 3106** – Academic Standing Policy
- iii. **Board Policy No. 3108** – Academic Probation Policy

d. Review of **Chapter 4 (Student Services) Policies****

- i. **Board Policy No. 4000** – Open Admissions Policy
- ii. **Board Policy No. 4001** – Dual Enrolment for High School Students Policy
- iii. **Board Policy No. 4002** – Early Admissions Policy
- iv. **Board Policy No. 4202** – Admissions to Associate Programs
- v. **Board Policy No. 4100** – COM-FSM Entrance Test Policy
- vi. **Board Policy No. 4200** – Admissions Requirements for Degree, Development, and Certificate Programs Policy
- vii. **Board Policy No. 4206** – Admissions to Certificate Programs
- **Motion:** By Regent Cornelius to approve the following policies Chapter 1 BP Policy No. 1540, Chapter 2 Board Policy No. 2000, Board Policy No. 2100, and Board Policy No. 2001, under chapter 3 Board Policy No. 3109, Board Policy No. 3106, and Board Policy No. 3108, and lastly under Chapter 4 Board Policy No. 4000, Board Policy No. 4001, Board Policy No. 4002, Board Policy No. 4202, Board Policy No. 4100, Board Policy No. 4200, and Board Policy No. 4206
- **Outcome:** Seconded by Regent Mitagow, Board policies except BP. 1221 and the ones under consideration were approved.
- The policies that were not approved, can be brought up again at the next Board meeting.
- e. Review of **Chapter 6 (Human Resources) Policies****
 - i. **Board Policy No. 6007** – Employment Policy
 - ii. **Board Policy No. 6015** – Professional Development Plan Policy
 - iii. **Board Policy No. 6025** – Classification Policy
 - iv. **Board Policy No. 6026** - Faculty Workload Policy
 - v. **Board Policy No. 6027** – Academic Probation Policy
 - vi. **Board Policy No. 6029** – Code of Ethics
 - vii. **Board Policy No. 6031** – Human Resources Record Access & Confidentiality Policy
 - viii. **Board Policy No. 6032** – Controlled Substance and Alcohol-Free Workplace and College Premises Policy

*Review of Chapter 1 (Board of Regents) Policies***

- i. **Board Policy No. 1221** – Board Committees Policy (to be presented by VPEMSS)

Chair suggested that BP Policy No. 1221 be reserved for more discussion at the Executive session.

Note: Policies that were not approved by the Board of Regents and were returned for further review and amendments will be shared in the next Board meeting.

12. Miscellaneous

a. COM-FSM Bank Signatories (presented by Comptroller Togonon) **

- **Motion:** To add VPIS to the signatories.
- **Outcome:** Motion by Regent Sonden, motion was seconded and carried in the absence of any objections.
- **Action Item:** Add VPIS to COM-FSM Bank Signatories.

13. Next Meeting: Tentatively set for the 3rd week of July in Kosrae State.

- Open for discussion
- Motion: Regent Sonden seconded by Regent Mitagyow. Outcome: Motion was carried.
- Action Item: Further discussion needed regarding scheduling the next meeting.

14. Executive Session