

# Student Body Association Report to the Board of Regents

On January 26th, the Student Body Association (SBA) started the Spring semester by holding a celebration to welcome back continuing students, as well as, to welcome new students to the College. The event served as encouragement for the returning and continuing students, while also providing the new transfer students the opportunity to feel welcomed and at home.

Following this, on February 7th, we held our second Club Fair of the 2017-2018 academic year, where a variety of student organizations showcased their activities and recruited new members. Cultural groups such as, the Pohnpei Student Organization, Chuukese Student Organization, Kosrae Student Organization, and the Yapese Student Organization participated. Other clubs included: the Media Arts Club, the Center for Entrepreneurs, MicroJapan, and even new clubs, such as, the Marine Science Fishing Club.

The COMET Test, which took place on February 7th and 8th, was administered to students from the three public high schools in Pohnpei -- Pohnpei Island Central School, Nanpei Memorial High School and Madolenihmw High School. After the test, members of SBA, as well as, students from the Peer Coach Organization led the high school students around the campus on a tour. The tour showed prospective students the different resources, facilities, and majors that would be available to them in the event that they decide to attend the College. The SBA officers and Peer Coaches alike explained the different opportunities available for various majors, both in the terms of education, as well as, practical experiences. By touring the classrooms, the high school students were able to see a glimpse of life at the College.

In the second weekend of February, from February 10th - 11th, the SBA officers lead a Student Body Organization (SBO) Leadership Retreat, which took place on the nearby outer island, Lenger. The objective of the Leadership Retreat was to better understand various officers' roles, as well as, to come together as student leaders of the College of Micronesia-FSM.. The takeaway of this Retreat was to open the lines of communication amongst the SBO officers, in order for SBA to become more efficient as one unit. Activities at the workshop included: leadership building exercises and running scenarios of possible activities that would help build the College community. The leadership building exercises paved the way for all of the club officers to develop practical skills and strategies that they would need to both communicate with and represent the students well. The scenarios that were discussed amongst the participating officers included: developing community building events that bring the student body together, as well as, spread awareness on the various relevant issues such as bystander intervention and Title IX. The SBO Leadership Retreat is the most recent example of an ongoing effort to unite our various campuses, as it was open to students from both National Campus and CTEC. This Retreat allowed students from both campuses the opportunity to plan out the spring semester in a

way that would encourage continued collaboration, at the same time, while fostering professionalism among the student body as one.

To celebrate Valentine's Day, SBA set up a booth from February 8th - 9th, where students could purchase a variety of candy grams options with a pre-selected message or a self made note to the receiver. On February 14th, the SBA officers delivered the pre-ordered candy grams to the college's students, faculty, staff, friends and loved ones across National Campus. The SBA officers, portrayed as Cupid's Assistant, delivered all the candy grams by 12PM in time to begin the Valentine's Day Extravaganza. The Valentine's Day Extravaganza was a showcase of love and appreciation to the students that included games, giveaways, snacks, and raffle prizes. This event was made possible by the collective efforts of the COM-FSM Bookstore, Student Life, LRC, and the SBA officers. Valentine's Day ended with a movie night, which featured *Loving*, a movie based on a true story about overcoming racial differences and standing up to social injustices. This event was planned out and executed by the SBA officers.

On February 23rd, the first College-Wide SBA conference call was held amongst all SBA Officers at all six campuses. Students had the opportunity to introduce new SBA members for the Spring semester. These conference calls serve to strengthen the bond between the six campuses; they act as a means for the SBA officers to plan out the semester for their respective campuses, as well as, share ideas and overall goals and plans. This allows SBA to plan out events, such as the upcoming COM-FSM 25th Anniversary Celebration in a way that would bring the different campuses closer together and project an image of unity.

The next event, which SBA will lead, is the Day of Service. This is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 10th. The Day of Service is a day where COM-FSM students will show their appreciation to the community of Pohnpei for accepting and hosting our College and students. This will be a day where the student of COM-FSM, led by SBA, will give back to the various communities of Pohnpei through a general clean up.

To bring March to a close, SBA will hold a Spirit Week in anticipation for Founding Day and the 25th Anniversary. Spirit week is a week where each day has a centralized theme and a #hashtag that corresponds to that said theme. The themes will be centered around building a stronger sense of community and cooperation among the students, staff, and faculty of the College. At the end of the week, there will be the first ever Founding Day Olympic games that will be open to everyone and will serve to build-up excitement for the COM-FSM 25th Anniversary Celebrations.