

AGENDA ITEM 10.b

Revised Participatory Governance Policy

RECOMMENDED DIRECTIVE: The Board hereby approves the revisions to the participatory governance policy.

DISCUSSION: In their June 30, 2010, comprehensive evaluation action letter, the Accrediting Commission for Junior and Community Colleges placed the college on warning status and issued several recommendations to correct deficiencies. On Recommendation 1 Improving Institutional Effectiveness and Leadership and Governance, the team recommended “the college evolve its communication efforts to ensure broad-based participation and encourage purposeful dialogue in which all stakeholders participate in the exchange of different points of view and reflections that lead to genuine communication and participatory governance.” The Commission further required “that COM-FSM also regularly evaluate the effectiveness of its participatory governance system in helping the institution to achieve its educational mission and to provide quality educational services.”

An evaluation of the Governance Policy in January 2011 revealed there were over 18 standing committees with numerous ad hoc, task force, and advisory committees which contributed to slowing the process and recommended other areas to strengthen the participatory governance process. In July 2011 the President’s Cabinet reevaluated the committee structure of the college and in August 2011 approved major revision of the committee structure. Since then the college has been adjusting the process as gaps in communication were identified.

Additionally, the current policy references “shared governance” which has a different connotation within the ACCJC from “participatory governance” and implies a unionized environment.

Dialogue on the participatory governance policy is ongoing; however, it is now focused on ensuring inclusion of all internal constituents. At their April 17, 2013, meeting, the Executive Committee expressed satisfaction with the revisions to the policy itself and recommended that the policy be put forth for the board’s consideration at its May meeting. Once the policy is approved, dialogue can continue as part of the implementation of the policy.

ACTION TAKEN:

VOTE:

_____ Approved as presented

_____aye _____nay _____abstain

_____Approved w/ modifications

_____Disapproved

_____Deferred to a later meeting

DATE: _____

Current Governance Policy

It is the policy of the College of Micronesia-FSM to promote a shared governance environment which involves the commitment and participation of all campus constituencies and to be guided by the college's value statements in the development of policies and procedures.

Proposed Participatory Governance Policy

It is the policy of the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) to promote a participatory governance environment that involves the commitment and participation of all campus constituencies and is guided by the college's mission, goals, values and institutional learning outcomes in the development of policies and procedures.

Participatory governance is the process for shared development of policies, procedures and recommendations. Participatory governance provides the means through which all membership of the college community—students, faculty, and staff—can participate effectively in the systematic growth and development of COM-FSM. Participatory governance will be reflected in the functioning of the college community at large.