

**COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**Minutes of the April 6, 2021, Meeting**  
**Zoom Meeting**

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**Present:** Regent Suzanne Gallen (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 & CEO Karen Simion (*ex officio member*)

**Resources:** Vice President for Administrative Services Joseph Habuchmai; Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services Joey Oducado; Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance Caroline Kocel; Vice President for Instructional Affairs Karen Simion; Dean of Chuuk Campus Kind Kanto; Dean of Kosrae Campus Nena Mike; Dean of Yap Campus Lourdes Roboman; Dean of Career & Technical Education Center Grilly Jack; Dean of FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute Tioti Teburea; Director, Cooperative Research and Extension Steven Young-Uhk; Director, Yap Upward Bound Serphin Ilesiyalo; and Comptroller Roselle Togonon

**Guests:** Frankie Eliptico, Interim President, CNMI; Demaree Michelau, President, WICHE; Patrick Lane, VP for Policy Analysis and Research, WICHE; and **Mildred**, Certifying Officer, CNMI

**1. CALL TO ORDER – 10:16 AM**

Chair Gallen called the meeting to order and for a moment of silence. Everyone recited the mission statement.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll was called and quorum declared. All members were present for the meeting.

**3. REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Mingii/Berdon

*Moved to adopt the agenda as presented.*

CARRIED

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 3, 2020**

a. Berdon/Salalu

*Moved to adopt the minutes of the December 3, 2020, meeting.*

CARRIED

**5. COMMUNICATIONS - none**

**6. REGENTS' REPORTS**

a. **Regent Waguk** reported schools in Kosrae have resumed regular schedule and school activities, including plans for graduation if circumstances allow; and while continuing to be vigilant, efforts being made to repatriate citizens stranded abroad beginning with those in Palau and the Marshall Islands.

- b. **Regent Mingii** reported FSM lost two secretaries with the passing of the secretaries for health and social affairs, and resources & development; also, earlier the secretary of education retired; appointments are pending; and on President Panuelo's declaration that first repatriation of citizens is scheduled for May 13 from the Marshalls; and the opening of the 80-room quarantine facility in Pohnpei.
- c. **Regent Berdon** continued to stress his main concern for the new Chuuk campus which he feels is taking too long; he hopes progress will be made through the new Chuuk state administration; he also stressed the need to listen to employee concerns as they do all the work.
- d. **Regent Salalu** began by paying respect to everyone, apologizing for not being able to attend the last meeting, and thanking the IP and everyone at the college, including the regents, for keeping our campus alive and exciting for learning; and informed that Yap is still COVID free and practicing social distancing (everyone on campuses using masks); is preparing hard to be ready to open the borders soon.
- e. **Regent Gallen** shared Pohnpei Governor's state of the state address on his first anniversary as governor; education week which is now an annual affair; student takeover week; first Pacific islander/women to visit Mariana Trench, hoping it invigorates passion in that field; only 17% have taken the second dose of the vaccine, which is the lowest percentage in country; the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is just one dosage, has been received.

## 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. **Acting President** Simion reported that the COVID-19 vaccine will be administered at national and CTEC campuses; receipt of two higher education emergency funding and how they were and will be spent; planning cycle review; accreditation self-evaluation process; and stressed our main concern is getting students back and re-engaged.
- b. **VPAS Habuchmai** provided updates from the offices under him and reported FY 2022 budget submitted prior to the deadline; distribution of PPE kits for employees and students; his assignment to the writing team for Standard IV.C; need for board to link with the community to replace community meetings; and updates on construction projects and stated PMU on top of Chuuk campus project and trying to move it forward. He suggested meeting with the new Chuuk State administration to gain support.
  - i. **Financial Status** – Comptroller Togonon reported as of March 31 our investment for the endowment fund is at \$9.6 million, a 17% increase, and our cash reserves at \$3.6 million, 5% increase. Our total investments is at \$13.2 million; doubled in six years. The endowment fund is now over 30 years and no longer restricted. Current \$5 million cash in bank is enough to cover current fiscal year commitments. Spending of the current budget is 18% lower compared to last year, however need to revisit the budget with projected revenue.

Inquiry made on status and number of employees stranded out of country. Those working on-line and able to meet required output are on payroll. For others who have run out of leave will be on LWOP; however the college will continue to pay benefits. Another inquiry made regarding Kosrae multi-purpose building; plans include meeting with state and congressional leadership for needed funding.

- c. **VPIEQA Kocel** reported on the results of the vaccination survey-Yap had the highest percentage; program assessment status-need to catch up in 2021; second part of mini summit; Chuuk campus connectivity; decline in computer lab usage; help desk status; strategic plan measures of success-8/22 achieved; full report at next meeting.

- d. **VPIA** Simion highlighted the international conference co-sponsored by one of our business faculty who also presented; one of our students received praise for his presentation; thanked Executive Director of Entrepreneurship Center, VPIEQA, and Director of CRE who were instrumental in getting the Green Climate Fund grant for MCT of which the college will receive \$6 million of the \$9 million grant.
- i. **CRE** Director Young-Uhk reported on the six important issues identified in the new Plan of Work: 1) lack of local food production and insecurity; 2) sustainable aquaculture development; 3) youth and family issues in the communities; 4) climate change challenges in Micronesia; 5) high incidence of food and waterborne illnesses; and 6) childhood obesity; and highlighted the following projects: copra leaves for planters in Yap, potential seedlings from pineapple leaflets in Chuuk, black pepper production in Pohnpei; and youth and family entrepreneurship programs in Kosrae.
  - ii. **FSM-FMI**. IP Simion announced that Captain Teburea is now officially Dean of FMI. He reported on a new 28-seater bus; completion of shipboard training; potential graduation for 28 second-year cadets on May 13; two-day workshop on standards of training, certification, and watch-keeping for MV Hapilmohol crew; JICA-FMI project preparation; new bridge simulator; new facilities for female cadets and classrooms; survival training site; and Okeanos traditional navigation program to merge with FMI.
  - iii. **Yap Campus** Dean Roboman reported positive feedback on on-line instruction; enrollment up; efforts to be proactive for students; schoology group to improve communications among employees and students; continuing with powwow; and COMET administered to all high schools in Yap.
  - iv. **Chuuk Campus** Dean Kanto highlighted the first graduates (six students) of the baccalaureate program in Chuuk at the end of Fall 2020.
  - v. **CTEC** Dean Jack reported two new agriculture and food technology instructors; two CTEC electrical instructors certified on installation and troubleshooting of Ingrid Solar System making the college eligible to use the curriculum from Global Sustainable Energy Solutions Pty. Ltd; and status of the hospitality management and the new vocational buildings. The new facilities will showcase the college offerings and upgrade the image of the college to connect with the community.
  - vi. **Kosrae Campus** Dean Nena reported on the on-line summit held in February and resulting recommendations; and retired seismologist, Dr. Nick Zoa, holding series of special science seminars on cosmology, our universe, dark matter, dark energy, geology of Kosrae, and history of mankind.
- b. **VPEMSS** Oducado reported awarding Higher Education Emergency Fund to eligible students; launching of virtual offices to provide quality and relevant student support services; 94% of eligible students awarded Pell as of March 31, goal is to award 100% by the end of the term; spring 2021 enrollment 1,410 headcount with 16,269 credits – lower than previous year; 185 potential program completers at the end of spring 2021; and COMET administered to 1,035 seniors and 185 juniors – a decline from previous year.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### a. **WICHE Presentation**

IP Simion introduced Dr. Frankie Eliptico, Interim President of College of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), who shared information and resources available from Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and the impact at CNMI. He then

introduced Dr. Demaree Michelau, President, and Dr. Patrick Lane, Vice President for Policy Analysis and Research, from WICHE and the recent hired certifying official at CNMI. Dr. Michelau gave an overview of WICHE and explained the potential partnership and benefit to students in the Pacific region by being a member of WICHE. Dr. Lane spoke of the different services available through WICHE. The process for becoming a member was discussed; membership is through the government, and Dr. Michelau explained FSM has expressed interest and possible funding of the membership fee by DOI.

**b. Instructional Affairs Policy**

With approval of the substantive change proposal on distance education, a new policy on distance education was needed. This new policy contains all the policies related to distance education as required by U.S. Department of Education and ACCJC.

Berdon/Mingii

*Moved to approve the proposed BP 3400 Distance Education policy.* CARRIED

**c. Review of Enrollment Management and Student Services Policies**

Enrollment Management and Student Service reviewed eight policies according to the cycle for review of policies; three received no recommendation for change and five with changes to update or elaborate on information.

Waguk/Berdon

*Moved to approve the review/revisions to BP 4000 General Admission, BP 4002 Early Admission, BP 4003 Unclassified Students, BP 4004 Open Admission for Non-Credit Courses, BP 4005 Identification of Students; BP 4200 Admission Requirements; BP 4201 Special Consideration; and BP 4204 Admission to Third-Year Certificate of Achievement in Teacher Preparation-Elementary.* CARRIED

**d. Mission and Values Review**

The college mission and vision are reviewed at least every five years in accordance with COM-FSM Planning Cycle. Data is lacking in some sections so the full report will be presented at the next meeting. However, review of some sections are complete so recommendations were presented to the board.

Mingii/Waguk

*The board approved the following recommendations from the review of the mission statement and values:*

- *No change to the current mission statement;*
- *In the current planning cycle, ensure complete alignment among mission fulfillment indicators, institution-set standards, and the Strategic Plan's measures of success;*
- *Conduct a broad-based participatory evidence-based review of existing measures for their suitability and currency in the distance learning environment and realities of COVID-19;*
- *OIE and OIAEA to collaborate to create a comprehensive tracking system for understanding transfer rates to 4-year colleges/universities; and Prioritize teamwork and professionalism to better embody COM-FSM core values.* CARRIED

**11. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Update on President Search**

Following the executive session where the presidential search was discussed, the board took the following actions:

- i. Berdon/Waguk

*Moved to postpone a decision on the presidential search considering current conditions.* CARRIED

ii. Berdon/Waguk

*Moved to extend the contract for Interim President Karen Simion to a year or earlier should a new president be named. IP Simion is to appoint a new Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO).* CARRIED

## **12. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for the first week in July. The exact date to be determined.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT – April 6, 2021**

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 PM.

Minutes of the COM-FSM Board of Regents April 6, 2021, meeting was approved this \_\_\_ day of July 2021.