

President's BOR Report April 6, 2021

This report is structured with “duties and responsibilities” for the president of the college.

The responsibility and authority of the CEO for the quality of the institution is derived from the PL7-79, chapter 7, Section 21, (1)(IV.B.2) and Section 21(2)(IV.B.3) authorizes the CEO to approve the selection and appointment of employees of the college.

- A. Fulfill all obligations of the president as outlined in 40 FSMC 721 of the establishment law of the college.

As outlined in the Self Evaluation of December 15, 2015, report specifically on Standard IV.B.1- *“The institutional chief executive officer (CEO) has primary responsibility for the quality of the institution. The CEO provides effective leadership in planning, organizing, budgeting, selecting, and developing personnel, and assessing institutional effectiveness.”*

I have been and will continue to rely on the very capable team of vice presidents to assist in running the college in the absence of a full-time president. We continue to work as a team and have had at least monthly cabinet meetings to discuss continued operation of the college in these unusual times. Initiatives include best uses of HEERF CARES Act funding, management of the college's COVID-19 response plan; securing funding for the student center at National Campus, the Multi-purpose Technical Building at CTEC, a teaching clinic at National Campus, and the multi-purpose building for Kosrae Campus; planning for an increase in career and technical education offerings; and review of the college mission, values, and strategic directions in preparation of the next 5-year integrated educational master plan.

COVID-19 Response Update Since April

The college will be requesting approval for a mandatory vaccine policy at the July 6, 2021 meeting. The policy is general and makes reference to all epidemics where vaccines might be available. Making COVID-19 mandatory for all students, faculty and staff will allow the college to relax restrictions for condition 4 of the COVID-19 Response plan as outlined below.

The college continues to follow condition 4 COVID-19 response plans. If policy on mandatory vaccines is approved, the college will not require masks for those people fully vaccinated and we will go back to mostly face-to-face classes. Those who cannot take the vaccine for medical reasons will have to continue to observe the current restrictions of condition 4. Details will be published in the Emergency Management Plan Appendix G.

The college plans to sponsored vaccination opportunities for students and families on campuses in Pohnpei June 14 and 15. The college faculty and staff in Pohnpei and Yap are about 77% vaccinated with Kosrae and Chuuk slightly less.

HEERF Funding plans

WeCares Student Aid Program is a financial aid program for students who have incurred a past due balance since spring 2020 or the beginning of the emergency health declaration and pandemic. The program targets students who moved to online learning and encountered problems due to the method of delivery and keeping engaged in online learning. The program is designed to pay off the past due balance remaining after the regular financial aid programs are applied. Eligible students must complete the application, be enrolled for 12 credits fall 2021, have declared a major, and sign an agreement to seek counseling and tutoring as needed.

Free Laptop Student Aid is a second HEERF funded program where laptops will be given to students starting this summer based on availability of the laptops. Students complete an application which determines which eligible group the student will be placed in. The students will be divided into three groups – full-time students who have completed their FAFSA, enrolled in an undergraduate program with 12 credits, maintained a 2.0 cumulative GPA. New students will use high school GPA. Group 2 are students less than full-time with a 2.0 cumulative GPA and Group 3 are all other students.

These two programs are designed to provide additional student support for those who experienced hardships related to the pandemic.

B. Retain and maintain full accreditation from ACCJC/WASC.

Preparation of the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) is ongoing. Writing teams have submitted first drafts by May 21, 2021. The drafts are being reviewed by the technical writer consultant and then to committees for accuracy and completeness. A more final draft will be prepared and made available for third party comment, then final review by the college and the Board of Regents. The report is due to the external peer review team by August 1, 2022.

C. Ensure development of the next Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 and Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

The Strategic Plan 2018-2023 has been completed and approved by the BOR. VPIEQA has prepared a short presentation for the Board on recommendations related to strategic directions during the July 2021 meeting. The next phase is to act on the recommendations and begin preparation of the next 5-year integrated educational master plan.

- D. Continue to assess the organizational structure and reporting procedures and make changes as needed for a more efficient and effective institution.

Cabinet continues to meet to discuss a wide range of topics and issues. I continue to meet with each vice president individually as needed to ensure effective leadership and continuity at this time of transition.

- E. Implement a Reengineering/Sustainability Plan to ensure long-term sustainability of COM-FSM.

Continue with current plans for long-range sustainability.

- F. Continue and strengthen internal leadership capacity building efforts.

The college provides resources for faculty and staff to take courses, earn degrees, and attend conferences and trainings that support their development and service to the college. Everyone is being encouraged to attend conferences with a great number being offered virtually and often for free.

- G. Enhance overall standing of COM-FSM and advocate for the college in all areas.

Memberships in the Association of Community College Trustees and the American Association of Community Colleges are current. Information regarding workshop and conference opportunities with these agencies and ACCJC are shared with faculty and staff. Interim President continues to attend functions sponsored by the diplomatic corps upon invitation. PPEC presidents continue to meet monthly.

As Interim President I am focusing on prioritizing the National Infrastructure Development Plan, the need to retain and attract qualified personnel, monitor Compact renegotiation or termination and develop contingency plans, build on fund-raising, grant-writing, and endowment-building capacity and providing quality educational experiences during COVID-19 pandemic. These agenda items will remain as a focus unless directed differently by the Board of Regents.