



# COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA –FSM

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Office of the President

TO: The Board of Regents

FROM: Joseph M. Daisy, EdD. President and Chief Executive Officer

DATE: August 8, 2014

RE: President's Report

Since the submission of the May 2014 report, the important work of the college continues.

In my professional relationship with the administrators serving in leadership roles, I continue to articulate high expectations for performance, continue to provide guidance and direction where needed, and am assessing the current leadership structure to determine ways in which it may be strengthened.

The following report is structured with the president's position profile in mind, and seeks to report at a high level, and to confirm that the "challenges and opportunities" as well as the "duties and responsibilities" for the President of the College of Micronesia-FSM remain top of mind for me.

Most if not all of these challenges, opportunities, duties and responsibilities are now appropriately shared through our participatory governance model with the broader internal constituents that comprise the college community.

## Challenges and Opportunities:

1. Resolve the issues identified by the Accrediting Commission and maintain accreditation:

On July 3, 2014, an action letter released by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) was received. The letter stated that the "Commission finds that the institution has completely addressed Recommendation 6, resolved the deficiencies, and meets Accreditation Standard III.B.2.a." In addition, the commission also stated it "expects that the Federated States of Micronesia will guarantee the funding necessary for the college to carry out its mission." The action letter was in response to the Follow-Up Report of March 2014, and the April 2014 Supplemental Report which documents steps taken regarding the space utilization and facilities master plan since the submission of the Follow-Up Report.

Ongoing: The college established a "Policy Review Process" which VPs would identify the total number of policies in their department and categorize policies in these following categories: needing revision, needing no revision, obsolete, and policies are not truly policies, but are procedures. The "Policy Review Process" is ongoing until Spring 2016. Some college policies are available for public viewing on the college website under "Board of Regents" tab.

In May 2014, the second substantive change report requested approval to extend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Certificate in Teacher Preparation to the state campuses on an as needed basis. The request was approved and accepted.

The Commission expressed continued concern about sustained funding from the Federated States of Micronesia government and the government's commitment to offset any shortages resulting from reductions in funding from the Compact of Free Association. FSM Congress appropriated \$1,400,000 for FY 2014, however, should FSM Congress not re-instate the rest of the decrement resulting from the JEMCO resolution, the college would find it extraordinarily challenged to sustain accreditation standards and carry out its mission.

To ensure the college community understands and embraces accreditation as an ongoing process, which serves to strengthen the college, 100% of the employees voluntarily completed the Accreditation Basics On-Line Course. As part of the college's current hiring process, all new employees are required to complete the on-line course.

The college will undergo its next comprehensive review by the Commission in spring 2016. Steps are being implemented to ensure accreditation standards are upheld and evidenced to facilitate the review process.

2. Cultivate a culture of genuine communication, inclusiveness, participatory governance and respect for all;

From June 10-12, 2014, Kasio Mida, Chairman of the Board of Regents and COM-FSM President participated in a three-day workshop for Board Chairs and Presidents, sponsored by the Association of Governing Boards (AGB). The program provided valuable strategies to strengthen the work of the Board and improve the effectiveness of board and president relationship.

We were among 17 colleges and universities who sent board chairs and presidents to engage with each other and with AGP representatives. The workshop focused on many of the strategic initiatives articulated by our board and were consistent with the college's strategic plan. Further, such learning opportunities serve to broaden the knowledge and experiences of the board and president, and will prove valuable during the self-assessment in preparation for our ACCJC team visit in spring of 2016.

Ongoing: During April 23-28, 2014, Mr. David Adams, Sandy Pond Consultant, worked with staff at the national campus. He is assisting Vice President of Administrative Services, Director of Maintenance and Chief of Security to develop an "*Emergency Preparedness Procedures Manual*" for the college. Furthermore, Mr. Adams is working with Chief of Staff to create "Policy on Policy" procedure. Completion of documents will be shared once finalized and approved.

The college continues to work in this increasingly familiar, culture of assessment, accreditation, purposeful dialogue, and participatory governance in support of the college's continuous quality improvement. Consistent with the college's commitment to transparency, purposeful dialogue, and participatory governance, committees regularly receive working drafts of policies and documents for review and input. The college continues to work with Wilson Hess and his team from Sandy Pond Associates to assist in the process of embedding accreditation standards in policies and procedures, and more importantly to build internal capacity.

The college continues to hold monthly all campus meetings at each campus to facilitate continued purposeful dialogue of stakeholders.

The college continues to benefit and learn from the current participatory governance structure. Findings from the communications plan assessment report suggest that we are moving in the right direction and indicate that "broad-based participation in college governance is the new normal at the college." Purposeful dialogue is being integrated throughout the college, which is evident in the strategic plan.

Finally, bi-weekly meetings with the cabinet continue to ensure an effective and efficient operation such that the college areas of need are being met in a timely manner. Furthermore, meetings also serve as forums for sharing of expectations, plans, ideas, concerns, and information. Additionally, a one on one bi-weekly meeting between the president, each vice president, and chief of staff has been instituted to provide opportunities to discuss areas of strength and improvement in respective areas.

Discussions continue among standing committees, council of chairs, cabinet, and executive committee regarding steps to further clarify and strengthen the participatory governance process.

In all ways, I continue to express my commitment to an open, inclusive, respectful and participatory governance model.

3. Determine and implement solutions to the fiscal consequences of declining compact funding and challenging economic times;

Ongoing: Future steps depend upon the action taken by the FSM Congress to restore the decrement resulting from the JEMCO resolutions. Should such action not be taken, the entire COM-FSM community will need to consider the existing and previously proposed scenarios, and the development of several new scenarios.

The college continues to explore new streams of revenue, the development of partnerships and achieving new efficiencies to address the decline in compact funding and the challenging economic times in which we find ourselves.

On June 17, 2014, the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) held its fifth annual Higher Education Summit in Washington, DC affording representatives from the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) to meet with US Department to discuss grant and other funding opportunities, to review the latest research from the National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (CARE). On April 13, 2014, COM-FSM earned designation and was an officially recognized as an AANAPISI by the US Department of Education making the college eligible for additional funding only available to the 120 designated colleges and universities. Among the many US government officials joining the summit were Mark Mitsui, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges in OVAE, US Department of Education, and the Honorable Congresswoman Judy Chu from the US 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, who is Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. In addition to COM-FSM, colleagues from American Samoa Community College, Northern Marianas College, Guam Community College and the University of Guam also participated in the summit.

With accreditation reaffirmed, time can now be dedicated toward other program initiatives and opportunities.

4. Enhance overall standing of COM-FSM and advocate for the college in all arenas;

The president continues to meet with the leadership and diplomatic corps during which the challenges and success, as well as the vision for the college's future, are shared.

The president continues to regularly share information regarding the many areas of significant progress with national and state governments and representatives from OIA.

On June 23-24, 2014, two administrative staff attended the International Organization for Migration's *Essentials of Humanitarian Assistance* Workshop. A briefing of the workshop was shared with Vice President of Administrative Services (VPAS).

On June 30-July 6, 2014, 10 students and 1 chaperone represented COM-FSM on an Aichi Prefecture Annual Student Exchange Program in Japan. To thank the Pohnpei local business sponsors, the COM-FSM students will host a ceremonial event to deliver a presentation of their trip and hand out certificates of appreciation to the sponsors on July 18, 2014 at National Campus.

The college launched its COM-FSM Alumni Association group. The COM-FSM Alumni Association will have its first meeting at the Pohnpei Campus Student Support Services Center on July 19, 2014. The group will be open to alumni, staff, faculty, transfers, current students, students who have taken at least one class at the college, and to the public.

From July 21, 2014- July 30, 2014, the college will be the venue for several events of 8<sup>th</sup> Micronesian Games. The FSM-China Friendship Sports Center will host Basketball, Table Tennis, Weightlifting, Beach Wrestling and Wrestling. In addition, the college's male and female residence halls will house the basketball officials (8 males and 1 female).

Dates have been set for important events in August. Faculty Workshop is on August 4-5. College Summit is on August 6-7, and the Academic Convocation is on August 15.

With our renewed efforts with the signing of the new MOU to launch the career and technical education program along with the partnership through an MOU with UOG to bring in the Small Business Development Program to support our Pohnpei small business trainings needs, the college submitted a proposal to Pohnpei State government seeking funding through the private sector component of the Compact Fund to allocate funds in the amount of \$100,000. The matching fund will assist the college to engage the technical expertise of the UOG Small Business Development Program to support the training at Pohnpei Campus.

COM-FSM proposed to build a COM-FSM Community Health Center (COM-FSM) to be located within the grounds of the National Campus. This proposed project will develop a bridging activity center between the COM-FSM and its community, helps the Local government of Pohnpei in delivering the needed health service within the area of Palikir, and strengthen the skills and knowledge of the COM-FSM student enrolled in the different health fields. COM-FSM will be a public entity community health center, managed under an agreement between COM-FSM, Pohnpei State Government specifically through the Division of Public Health. Requested funding is \$1,705,970.

5. Advance academic excellence through continually assessing programs and services, attracting and retaining quality faculty and staff, promoting student centeredness, and addressing the problem of underprepared students; and

Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance (VPIEQA) with the support of the Information Technology staff will be introducing the Copley Square Program during Fall 2014. An incentive of \$500 will be given to 5 faculty members who are willing to use the Copley program



during this upcoming fall semester. "Copley Square is a Student Success Platform, Proven Methodologies and Reporting/Assessment tools (Copley Website)."

6. Refine and successfully implement the comprehensive long-range educational master plan and ensure linkages to all college plans;

The college continues to work in this new, yet increasingly familiar, culture of assessment, accreditation, purposeful dialogue, and participatory governance in support of the college's continuous quality improvement. The college completed, and the Board endorsed in May 2013 the Five-Year Integrated Educational Master Plan, which links instructional, technology, human resources, facilities, and financial plans. Strategic directions focus on: student success; emphasize academic offerings in service to national needs; be financially sound, fiscally responsible, and build resources in anticipation of future needs; invest in and build a strong capacity in human capital; become a learning organization through development of learning culture guided by learning leaders; and evoke an image of quality. This plan serves the college well as it looks forward to "confronting challenges and creating its future." The completion of the space utilization and facilities master plan will significantly strengthen the Integrated Educational Master Plan.

7. Implement and assess the recently approved organizational structure and reporting procedures and make changes for an efficient, effective, and sustainable institution;

The two-sided organizational structure is working well – the role of the participatory governance organization is making decisions and recommendations, and as for the administrative organization, it deals with action and implementation. On the administrative side, the Management Team (MT), comprised of deans and directors, continues to function in an advisory capacity and meets to share information, identify areas for improvement, recommend solutions to problems, and apply respective skills and knowledge in support of all areas of the college.

On the participatory governance side, the Executive Committee (EC), comprised of representatives from the council of chairs, faculty and staff senate, management team, student body association, and campus deans and cabinet members to improve communication among all COM-FSM internal constituents, ensure experiential decision making, enhance team building and integration, and provide authentic and effective participatory governance. The committee makes decisions and/or recommendations to the President on matters relating to all COM-FSM internal constituents. The committee is the final link in the participatory governance process.

Informal review and assessment of the participatory governance process have continued this year. Discussions regarding recommendations to strengthen the process are occurring among stakeholders.

Some additional position changes, shifts in responsibilities, and reassignment of reporting responsibilities will be considered as assessment of the structure continues.

#### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Provide leadership for the college as a whole, including planning, development, implementation of educational and fiscal programs and services of the college;

Ongoing: The president continues to work closely with, and meet with a wide range of stakeholders related to ongoing instructional, student services, financial, facilities, and overarching educational master planning. He continues to listen, learn, form impressions and share his ideas for ways in which to address the challenges faced by the college, and strategically moves the college forward in a promising direction.

2. Ensure campus actions and policies are in accordance with decisions officially adopted by the Board and information and advice to the Board are accurate, complete, and timely; AND
3. Provide administrative direction in the development and initiation of campus policies and procedures, as well as the organizational structure;

Ongoing: The current two-sided organizational structure facilitates the policy development and implementation process. A slate of draft policies and revised policies will be presented at BOR meetings for consideration and approval until Spring 2016.

4. Develop a vision and formulate and implement long range strategic plans;

Ongoing: The investiture remarks have set a clear tone and direction for the college. The Presidential "white paper" has laid out the framework for long range planning. The status report, *COM-FSM Quality, Sustainability, and Success: A Framework for Planning and Action – Status Report*, provides an assessment of our progress and remaining work.

In May 2013, the college's Strategic Plan 2013-2017 included a revised vision and mission statement which was approved on May 2014 and is being implemented. The new mission statements reads now as *"The College of Micronesia-FSM is a learner-centered institution of higher education that is committed to the success of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic, career and technical educational programs characterized by continuous improvement and best practices."*

5. Build and maintain a cohesive and highly functional senior administrative team, delegate responsibility appropriately and hold individuals accountable;

Ongoing: The president continues to meet with members of the administrative team both individually and collectively as cabinet. The cabinet meets bi-weekly to consider a wide range of agenda items regarding the entire spectrum of the college. The president has also articulated his expectations to members of the cabinet, and continues to emphasize important characteristics of leadership on a daily basis. Professional development and training activities designed to improve performance will be identified and inform goal setting and performance reviews.

6. Oversee performance management of the organization through implementation of work planning and performance evaluation linked to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs);

"Institutional Standards and Measure of Success" are other terms for Key Performance Indicators. The Director of IRPO and the college committees have met and developed targets and goals in March 2014.

Planned for the future:

7. Maintain the college's accreditation;

Ongoing: Although accreditation has been reaffirmed, the college is mindful that the work of accreditation continues. (See response to Challenges and Opportunities #1 above.) The college is preparing for the next cycle of comprehensive evaluation and visit in spring 2016.

8. Promote excellence by sustaining the cycle of continuous quality improvement:

Ongoing: Included among accreditation related activities and cabinet meetings are an ongoing review of the ways in which the college is cultivating a culture of assessment, and reviewing current strategies and determining new and additional ways in which to measure progress. The college is becoming more familiar with TracDat, an assessment software program, to support the collection, analysis and reporting of a wide range of assessment data and reporting achievement levels of learning outcomes. Training on TracDat is ongoing. [TracDat](#) has been created and posted on the COM-FSM.

9. Direct the preparation of the annual college budget to ensure reflection of the college's strategic direction and goals:

Ongoing: The Five Year Integrated Educational Master Plan will inform the development of the budget for 2015, 2016, and 2017. A new budget development manual will guide the development of the FY 2016 budget.

10. Monitor the efficient and effective uses of the college's resources, safeguard assets, maintain appropriate internal controls and guarantee quality and integrity of all financial and non-financial reporting and disclosures:

Ongoing. The president has articulated his expectations to cabinet and beyond regarding the dual roles and responsibilities held by each. First is responsibility for the respective area, and the second is responsibility to the college. Decisions are expected to be informed, analytical and one's signature is expected to have meaning. Members of the cabinet are expected to review and approve requests for travel and meetings that are only for the following: "meaningful" professional development, related to accreditation, or aligned and consistent with the college's mission.

Additionally, the president is planning to use a consultant to assist the business office in achieving greater efficiencies, maximizing resources, and assessing and improving the use of related best practices.

11. Strengthen and grow the college's endowment fund:

The Friends of the College of Micronesia-FSM, a foundation for the college, has been established. Five foundation board members have agreed to serve. U.S. IRS has determined that the Friends of the College of Micronesia-FSM foundation qualifies as being tax exempt as an organization and is classified as a public charity.

Ongoing: The college is developing a 1.5 million dollar proposal for a "Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to create a college scholarship fund for Micronesian students. The *Friends of the College of Micronesia-FSM Foundation* will administer the scholarship if awarded. The interest will serve as the source of college scholarships based on the investment earnings of the ADB corpus, and this fund will be transferred on an agreed schedule to the college, which will be administered by the college's scholarship program.

12. Develop and maintain channels of communication with and among employees regarding all aspects of college operations;

Ongoing: *(See response to Challenges and Opportunities #2 above.)* In addition, the college has compiled an Inventory of Public and Communications Products and will be developing communications protocols and a master calendar of event. Master Calendar is completed.

13. Maintain a highly visible leadership role in the communities served and develop and maintain strategic partnerships;

Ongoing: *(See response to Challenges and Opportunities #4 above.)*

14. Seek funding for the master infrastructure development plan and maintenance program;

Ongoing: The college-wide space utilization and facilities master plan study in support of college facilities master plan has been completed. This study will add value to our existing facilities master plan and further inform both our short and long term facilities planning. A Concept Framework Paper has been developed which identifies facility priorities and funding requirements for fifteen years.

The Space Utilization and Facilities Master Plan study was finalized in February 2014 after the report was presented to the BOR during their meeting in December 2013. The report was made available to the community in March. Presentations regarding the study have been made internally. A presentation was made to President Mori in April. As a result, COM-FSM presented at the SNLC on May 22-23, 2014 at the FSM-China Friendship Sport Center Practice Gym.

15. Recruit, develop, support and retain quality faculty and staff;

Ongoing: *(See response to Challenges and Opportunities #5, and Duties and Responsibilities # 2, and #3 above.)*

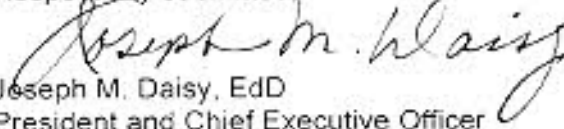
16. Promote appreciation of cultural diversity;

Ongoing. In everything we are doing and will plan to do at the college, including but not limited to college wide events such as commencement, campus beautification, cultural day, and identification of buildings, the appreciation and celebration of cultural diversity is considered. For example, at the commencement exercises, students in traditional dress served as flag bearers for the national and college flags. Additionally, at commencement flags from all of the countries, which comprise the college community, are displayed. These flags are permanently displayed in the Learning Resources Center (LRC).

17. Perform such other additional duties as the Board may require.

Planned for the future!

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joseph M. Daisy, EdD  
President and Chief Executive Officer