

**COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**Minutes of the September 17, 2021, Meeting**  
**Zoom Meeting**

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**Present:** Regent Suzanne Gallen from Pohnpei (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; Acting Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance Shaun Suliol; 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; Comptroller Roselle Togonon, and Jesse Sigeyog, maintenance supervisor from Yap Campus

**Guests:** Dan Roland; Jason Miyashita; and Amanda Gima from Raymond James

**1. CALL TO ORDER – 10:16 AM**

Chair Gallen called the meeting to order then asked for a moment of silent prayer. 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/Waguk

*Moved to adopt the agenda as presented.*

CARRIED

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 6, 2021**

Waguk/Salalu

*Moved to adopt the minutes of the July 6, 2021, meeting as presented.*

CARRIED

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Letter to President Panuelo notifying him of expiring terms of the regents;
- b. Follow-up letter to President Panuelo expressing concern with having four expired terms and need to meet accreditation Standards.

**6. REGENTS' REPORTS**

- a. **Regent Waguk** acknowledged the presence of the full board and reported on still being covid-free in Kosrae and repatriation efforts; opening of schools; drop in students' performance on standardized tests; shortage of teachers; vaccination coverage; visit from Secretary of Education; and pending visit from President Panuelo.

- b. **Regent Mingii** expressed appreciation to all regents present and to the IP, management and staff for the work they do for the college and reported Marcus Samo confirmed as Secretary of Health and Gardenia Aisek on board as Secretary of Education; Pohnpei overwhelmed with repatriation numbers; and quarantine extended to ten days.
- c. **Regent Salalu** also expressed appreciation for having a full board present and on-going work by the board and college and reported on following covid protocols and vaccination effort (Yap 80% completed).
- d. **Regent Berdon** reported on still safe against covid; repatriation scheduled for October; roads still bad; and pushed for the new Chuuk campus.
- e. **Regent Gallen** reported on challenges and status with quarantine and repatriation; new chair of task force; delay of next repatriation flight; new gender development officer at Pohnpei state; covid affecting construction; rise in influenza cases connected to waning concern for hand washing; near completion of new private ward at the hospital; efforts to create an Overseas Development Assistance office at Pohnpei state; FSM wide food systems dialogue and Global Summit; three FSM based fishing companies received marine stewardship certification; and special election to fill Senator Lambert's seat.

## 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. **Interim President** Simion shared FSM was commended for its nation-wide mandatory vaccination policy; college's vaccination effort (only seven not yet vaccinated by August 30); working getting students vaccinated; ISER continuing, ready by December for committee reviews, final by next spring; efforts to spend covid relief funds for generators, computers, IT needs and student assistance; IAEA planning for 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and fundraising activities; goal to raise \$500,000 by the anniversary; and annual college summit at all campuses.
- b. **VPAS Habuchmai** reported on the groundbreaking for the multi-purpose technical classroom and shop at CTEC; issues hindering progress of Chuuk campus; FSM to fund remaining funds needed for national student center; status of national teaching clinic and Kosrae multi-purpose building; CTEC HTM renovation completed-open house next month; project funded under IMF-Chuuk library roof replacement, CTEC classroom 1-4 roof replacement, and CTEC administration building floor replacement; maintenance projects-roofing for container for business office and RFP for roofing for demonstration farm's containers; replacement of air conditioners (part of energy reduction effort) completed at Chuuk campus and on-going at other campuses; and HR and Procurement highlights.
  - i. **Financial Status** – Comptroller Togonon reported the financial status of the college. As of August 31, 2021 the endowment fund increased by \$2.207 million or 23% due to additional investment of \$300K and unrealized market gain of \$3000K/ The cash reserved fund increased by 350K or 10% gain due to unrealized market gain. This is a total investment of \$14M or 22% growth; our highest to date. She also reported the college being very liquid and will be fine to the end of the fiscal year. Budget and expenditures have been lower with help from additional funding from covid19 relief funds. FY 2020 reported lower revenue collection but summer and fall enrollment has bounced back. She also reported on the status of U.S. DOE Covid-19 funds received by the college.
  - ii. **Raymond James** – Dan Roland introduced Raymond James will be reporting on the economic backdrop, update on investments, recommendations to improve the managers line-up, and their new effort to appraise the board on

ESG performance. Jason Miyashita began with a market strategy snapshot for September 2021, then reported on six key 2021 year-end targets (economy, bond market, equities, dollar direction, oil, and volatility), as well as geophysical events. Amanda Gima reported on the investment performance of the investment managers for the endowment and reserve funds. As of September 15, 2021, the endowment fund had a market value of \$10,357,836 or 22.06% return and \$A3,749,486 for the reserves fund or 10.05% return. Dan provided rationale for their recommendations for some changes to managers lineup and appraised the board on their new reporting platform for ESG related matters. The board was asked to consider a more proactive approach to ESG matters.

In discussions following VPAS's report, the board encouraged finding solution to increasing employer's share for the retirement fund, quality over quantity of college purchases, standardizing vehicles, and placing generators.

- c. **VPEMSS** Oducado highlighted fall 2021 enrollment of 1,917 headcount and 21,863 registered credits (1,822 FTE), a 3% increase for both compared to previous year; Yap campus with best showing of 35% and 32% increases; 100% of eligible students awarded Pell for summer 2021; 41 students graduated summer 2021; and Center for Entrepreneurship completed installation of its farm's solar energy system funded by Australian Embassy's Direct Aid Program.
- d. **Acting VPIEQA** Suliol reported 561 students approved for the We Care Laptops program, 200 distributed while the remaining are on order; program open for fall 2021.
- e. **VPIA** Simion highlighted the college this fall has shifted from fully on-line to 61% face-to-face at all campuses; and reported data being collected on on-line versus face-to-face classes and completion rate and meeting student learning outcomes; and faculty data.
  - i. **CRE** Director Young-Uhk highlighted programs at each site: Yap/Chuuk – reducing childhood obesity through health lifestyle, Pohnpei – workshop on urban agriculture conducted by Dr. Muru, Kosrae – engaging youth and farmers in food security initiatives; and Chuuk – outreach programs in the Mortlock Atolls.
  - ii. **FSM-FMI** Dean Tebuera reported 29 second year students and 19 first year and expecting 15 more; instructors completing diving course; and Zoom and basic sea safety training for NORMA.
  - iii. **Yap Campus** Dean Roboman reported the return of Joy and Susan Guarim, math instructor and librarian, who were stranded outside of the FSM due to the pandemic; 240 students enrolled; and promoting vaccination and healthy practices.
  - iv. **Chuuk Campus** Dean Kanto highlighted installation of a satellite dish in the northern islands enabling students to take online courses.
  - v. **CTEC** Dean Jack reported VPAS already reported on the groundbreaking for the new the new technical building and completion of the renovation of the HTM building; and college rising to the challenges of the pandemic to ensure quality services to meet our mission.
  - vi. **Kosrae Campus** Dean Nena reported providing assistance to CDC team with data on enrollment and vaccination of employees and students to determine existing population and potential outmigration; CDC team visit to campus to speak on the virus, clear misinformation, administer the Pfizer vaccine.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Mandatory Vaccination Policies** – At the last board meeting, two mandatory vaccination policies were introduced; one for employees and one for students. Discussion stalled over the government’s stance of mandatory vaccinations. Since the national government has issues a resolution stating all citizens be vaccinated and decreed all receiving money from the national government must show proof of vaccination. The policies were resubmitted; the only change is the policy for employees stating placed on leave without pay instead of subject to layoff to align with the government’s policy.

Mingii/Salalu

*Moved to approve BP 2300 Mandatory Vaccination Policy – Employees and BP 2301 Mandatory Vaccination Policy – Students*

CARRIED

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Request for Matching Funds for Fundraising** – One of the activities planned for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary is raising \$500,000 through dollar for dollar matching. Due to the pandemic, the college forecasts remaining funds (especially from travel) at the end of the fiscal year. A request made to set aside the remaining funds from the board and IAEA office plus \$500,000 from the money returned from the Friends Foundation in a special account to be used in the matching scheme. The purpose is use the special fund as a leveraging tool to raise the funds needed to meet the goal.

Mingii/Waguk

*Moved to approve the use of remaining funds in board budget, IAEA budget and \$500,000 from the returned funds from the Friends of COM-FSM for endowment fundraisng through a matching scheme.*

CARRIED

- b. **Recommended Changes to Portfolio** – During the last board meeting Raymond James suggested possible recommendation to manager on watch.

Salalu/Mingii

*Moved to approve replacing Clarkston Capital Partners, LLC (“CCP”) as the actively managed U.S. Small/Mid Equity Manager with the passively managed iShares Russell 2500 ETF in the COM-FSM endowment Fund portfolio and replace Boston Partners Global Investor, Inc. (“BP”) as the U.S. Large Value Equity Manager with Aristotle Capital Management (“ACM”) in the COM-FSM Reserves Fund portfolio.*

CARRIED

## 10. NEXT MEETING

The board proposed the next board meeting be in person in Pohnpei the first or second week in December.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 PM.

Minutes of the COM-FSM Board of Regents, 2021, meeting was approved this th day of December 2021.