

College of Micronesia – FSM

Survey Report

Dormitory Students Survey on Impact of Potential Tuition Increase



**Office of Institutional Research and Planning &
Department of Student Services Division of Student Life
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Table of Contents

Background	1
Summary of Findings.....	1
Demographics of Dormitories and Response Rate to Survey	2
Demographics of Dormitory Students from Survey.....	2
Survey Questions	3
Question#1: How are you currently financing your higher education at College of Micronesia-FSM? ...	3
Question #2: How much would you estimate the following funding sources assist you with attending college per semester?	4
Question #3: If the college increased its tuition by \$10/credit for each of the next four years (2013 - \$115/credit, 2014 - \$125/credit, 2015 - \$135/credit, 2016 - \$145/credit) how would it affect your decision regarding higher education at COM-FSM?	4
Question #4: Comments (open ended responses):	5
Appendix A: Survey Form.....	7
Appendix B: Student Estimates (\$) from Funding Sources	8

Tables

Table 1 - Dorm Students by Gender and State of Origin	2
Table 2 - Primary Sources of Finances (Estimates/semester).....	4
Table 3 - Potential Impact of Increasing Tuition on Dorm Students.....	5
Table 4 - Opening Ended Questions Categories.....	5
Table 5 - Estimates of Financial Support by Student per Semester	8

Figures

Figure 1 - State of Origin	2
Figure 2 - Gender	2
Figure 3 - Class Level	3
Figure 4 - Majors	3
Figure 5 - Primary Sources of Financing Higher Education	3

**For additional information contact:
Office of Institutional Research and Planning
rschplanning@comfsm.fm**

Background

The College of Micronesia – FSM is considering tuition increases of \$10 per credit each year beginning in FY 2013 for 4 years (\$115/credit 2013, \$125/credit 2014, \$135/credit 2015 and \$145/credit 2016) to help offset reductions in funding support from the Compact’s Education Sector Grant (ESG).

To assist the college in gauging the impact of such increases, a survey was conducted in October 2011 of dormitory students at the national campus¹. Dormitory students were selected for in-depth review based on recommendations from the Financial Aid Office (FAO). FAO indicated that dormitory students have been facing difficulty in meeting college costs and would likely be the group most affected by a tuition increase. The survey (Appendix A) asked questions to gauge student’s primary means of financing their education, estimates of major funding sources per semester and potential impact. An open ended question was also included for students to express their views regarding the potential increase and its impact.

The survey was prepared by IPRO and the Director of Student Life and was administered by the dormitory staff after discussions and training by the Director of Student Life. Results were keyed into SurveyMonkey for analysis.

Summary of Findings

- The primary basis of financing higher education is PELL Grant with some combination of work study, state and other scholarships, family assistance and working part time.
- Primary source of funding for financing higher education is PELL grant averaging \$2,702.
- State scholarships are awarded to 83 students with an average of \$662. (The limit imposed by JEMCO of \$1,000,000 total for scholarships from Compact funding (down from \$2,600,000) may greatly impact students depending on where COM-FSM fits into state priorities for scholarship awards). If tuition increases while state scholarships go down, over 75% of students would be adversely impacted.**
- Work study provides 82 students with ~\$252 dollar per semester.
- Family assistance impact 44 students averaging \$213.
- 15 students receive other scholarships and 3 students work part time.
- 84.3% of students indicated impact of tuition increases could range from decisions to stay in the dorms at the national campus (14.0%), 21.5% indicated it could affect their decision to attend the national campus and 48.8% indicated it could affect their decision in attending the college.**
- The open ended questions confirmed students response to question 3 regarding impact. Students indicated they are stressed with meeting current college cost with the current levels of tuition and state scholarships. Any increase in tuition, coupled with decreases in state scholarships would affect their ability to meet college costs and could affect their ability to complete programs of study, attend the national campus, or stay in school.**
- Some students also raised quality issues regarding the current level of services received versus cost.

¹ The college also has dormitory students at its FSM FMI campus in Yap, but FMI is funded directly by the FSM National Government and students are not affected by tuition increases.

Demographics of Dormitories and Response Rate to Survey

For fall 2011 Table 1 shows the distribution of dormitory students by gender and state of origin.

Table 1 - Dorm Students by Gender and State of Origin

Fall 2011: Dorm Students by Gender and State of Origin

Sex:	Chuukese	Kosraean	Yapese	Total	%
Female	18	14	28	60	44.1%
Male	20	14	42	76	55.9%
Total	38	28	70	136	100.0%
Percent	27.9%	20.6%	51.5%	100.0%	

The fill rate for the dormitories for fall 2011 is 136/200 or 68.0%.

The response rate for the survey was 122/136 or 89.7%.

Demographics of Dormitory Students from Survey

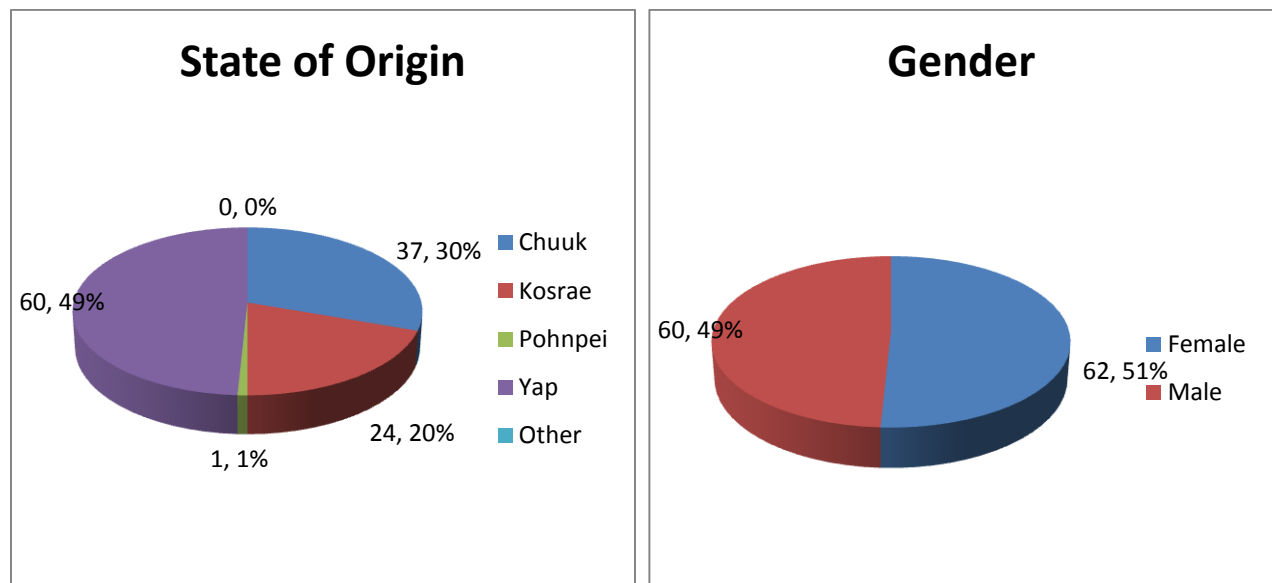


Figure 1 - State of Origin

Figure 2 - Gender

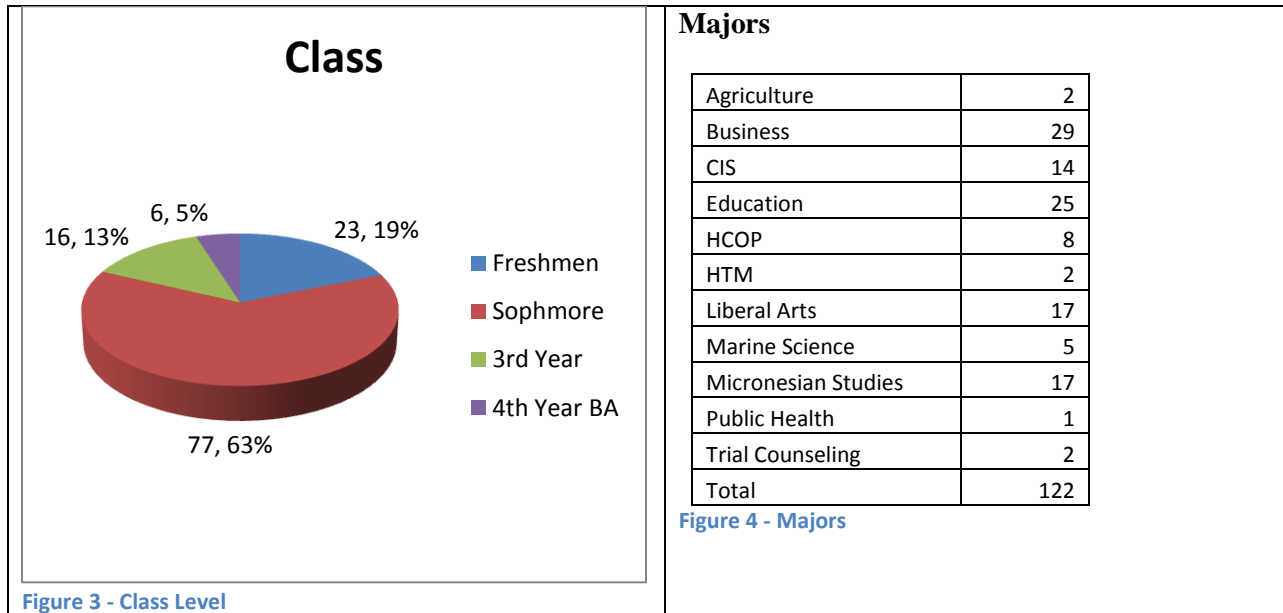


Figure 3 - Class Level

Survey Questions

Question#1: How are you currently financing your higher education at College of Micronesia-FSM?

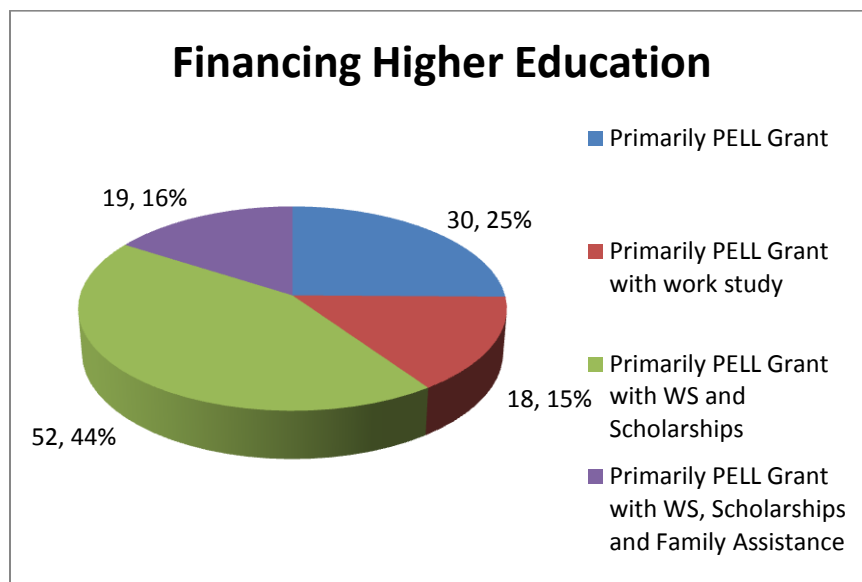


Figure 5 - Primary Sources of Financing Higher Education

Findings:

- The primary basis of financing higher education is PELL Grant with some combination of work study, state and other scholarships, family assistance and working part time.

Question #2: How much would you estimate the following funding sources assist you with attending college per semester?

Please see table 4 in the appendix for a detailed listing of student estimates of financial support from various funding sources by semester.

Table 2 - Primary Sources of Finances (Estimates/semester)

Category	PELL Grant	Work Study	State Scholarship Support	Other scholarships (Rotary, etc.)	Family Assistance	Working part time	Total
Count (response)	121	82	83	15	44	3	106
Average amount	\$2,702	\$252	\$662	\$505	\$213	\$1,367	\$3,825

Findings:

- Primary source of funding for financing higher education is PELL grant averaging \$2,702.
- State scholarships are awarded to 83 students with an average of \$662. (The limit imposed by JEMCO of \$1,000,000 total for scholarships from Compact funding (down from \$2,600,000) may greatly impact students depending on where COM-FSM fits into state priorities for scholarship awards). If tuition increases while state scholarships go down, over 75% of students would be adversely impacted.
- Work study provides 82 students with ~\$252 dollar per semester.
- Family assistance impact 44 students averaging \$213.
- Only 15 students receive other scholarships and only 3 students work part time.

PELL Grant forms the foundation for students financing of higher education, but for other sources the number of students and the amounts realized vary. 82 students receive work study that averages ~ \$252 and only 73 indicated that they received state scholarships even if the amount received was higher ~ \$738.

Question #3: If the college increased its tuition by \$10/credit for each of the next four years (2013 - \$115/credit, 2014 - \$125/credit, 2015 - \$135/credit, 2016 - \$145/credit) how would it affect your decision regarding higher education at COM-FSM?

Table 3 - Potential Impact of Increasing Tuition on Dorm Students

Issue	Response	Percent
No impact – would continue attending the college at the national campus and stay in the dorm	7	5.8%
Some impact – might need to seek additional sources of funding to attend college	12	9.9%
Some impact – might affect my decision in staying in the dormitory at the national campus	17	14.0%
Major impact – might affect my decision in attending the national campus	26	21.5%
Major impact – might affect my decision in attending the college	59	48.8%

Findings:

- **84.3% of students indicated impact of tuition increases could range from decisions to stay in the dorms at the national campus (14.0%), 21.5% indicated it could affect their decision to attend the national campus and 48.8% indicated it could affect their decision in attending the college.**

Question #4: Comments (open ended responses):

An opened ended comment section was added to allow survey participants to express any concerns related to tuition increases. 83 individuals provided comments out of the 122 total. The responses were reviewed and categories developed. The major of response fell into three main categories: Concern over increasing tuition and ability for students to complete program study or attend the college or the national campus, difficulty meeting current cost (tuition/room& board) (increasing tuition has the biggest impact on dorm students) and quality of room and board services against amount they pay. Note that a response may be counted in more than one category.

Table 4 - Opening Ended Questions Categories

Response Categories	Number of Responses per Category
Student concern over increasing tuition and ability for students to complete program study or attend the college or the national campus	61
Dorm students having a difficult time meeting current cost (tuition/room& board), increasing tuition has the biggest impact on dorm students	56
Student concern over quality of room and board services against amount they pay	8
a) Lack of majors offered at the state campuses, b) Concern about Faculty/Staff salary c) Limited Jobs (work-study/part-time)	1 response each

Findings:

- The open ended questions confirmed students response to question 3 regarding impact. Students indicated they are stressed with meeting current college cost with the current levels of tuition and state scholarships. Any increase in tuition, coupled with decreases in state scholarships would affect their ability to meet college costs and could affect their ability to complete programs of study, attend the national campus, or stay in school.**
- Some students also raised quality issues regarding the current level of services received versus cost.

Appendix A: Survey Form

College of Micronesia – FSM
Survey of Dormitory Students on Potential Increase in Tuition
Fall Semester 2011
Student Services and Institutional Research and Planning

With decrease in funding from the Education Sector Grant from the Compact funding, the college is looking at potential sources of revenue. The following survey addresses what would be a likely impact of increasing the tuition on dormitory students.

State of Origin:

- Chuuk
- Kosrae
- Pohnpei
- Yap
- Other (please specify):

Gender:

- Female
- Male

Class:

- Freshmen
- Sophomore
- Third Year
- 4th Year BA

Major (please specify): _____

1. How are you currently financing your higher education at College of Micronesia-FSM?
 - Primarily PELL Grant
 - Primarily PELL Grant with Work Study
 - Primarily PELL Grant with Work Study and State & Other Scholarship Support
 - Primarily PELL Grant with Work Study and State & Other Scholarship Support and Family Assistance

2. How much would you estimate the following funding sources assist you with attending college per semester?

Funding source	Amount (\$)
PELL Grant	
Work Study	
State Scholarship Support	
Other scholarships (Rotary, etc.)	
Family Assistance	
Working part time	
Total	

3. If the college increased its tuition by \$10/credit for each of the next four years (2013 - \$115/credit, 2014 - \$125/credit, 2015 - \$135/credit, 2016 - \$145/credit) how would it affect your decision regarding higher education at COM-FSM?
 - No impact – would continue attending the college at the national campus and stay in the dorm
 - Some impact – might need to seek additional sources of funding to attend college
 - Some impact – might affect my decision in staying in the dormitory at the national campus
 - Major impact – might affect my decision in attending the national campus
 - Major impact – might affect my decision in attending the college

Comments:

Appendix B: Student Estimates (\$) from Funding Sources

Detail Question 2: How much would you estimate the following funding sources assist you with attending college per semester?

Table 5 - Estimates of Financial Support by Student per Semester

Number	PELL Grant	Work Study	State Scholarship Support	Other scholarships (Rotary, etc.)	Family Assistance	Working part time	Total
1	2775						2775
2	2775	250	750				
3	2775	250	500	1000	200		4725
4	2775						2775
5	2775						2775
6	2775		652				3427
7	2775		500				3275
8	2775						2775
9	2775	250	652		300		3997
10	2775	250	652				3677
11	2775	250	900				3925
12	2775	250	500		\$100 yearly		3425
13	2775	250					3025
14	2775	250					3025
15	2775	250					3025
16	2775	250	800				3827
17	2775	250					2477
18	2775	250					3025
19	2775	250	500				3525
20	2775	250	500				3525
21	2775	250	500	1250		75	4600
22	2775	250	675		50		3050
23	2775		500				3275
24	2775		1000	250			4025
25	2775	250	500	250	200		3975
26	2775	250	652		500		4177
27	2775	250	500	250	200		3975
28	2775	250	652				3677
29	2775		652				3427
30	2775		652				3427
31	2775	250	652		50		3727
32	2500	250	652		50		3727
33	2775	150	654		200		3779
34	2775	250	652		150		3829

Number	PELL Grant	Work Study	State Scholarship Support	Other scholarships (Rotary, etc.)	Family Assistance	Working part time	Total
35	2775	250	652				3677
36	2775	250	652		100		3777
37	2775				500		3275
38	2775		652		500		3927
39	545		652		800		1997
40	2775			652			
41	2775		300	200			3725
42	2775	250	750				3775
43	2775	250	\$500-600	475	200		4300
44	2775		650		600		3750
45	2775	250	652	500	200		4377
46	2775				500		3275
47	2775				300		3075
48	2775	250	600			3625	
49	2775						2775
50	2775						2775
51	2775	250	600				3625
52	2775	250	1000				4025
53	2775	200			100		3075
54	2775	250					3025
55	2775						2775
56	2775	250	750				3775
57	2775	250	1000				4025
58	553		642		600		1795
59	2775	250	1522				4547
60	2775	250	600	250	250		4125
61	2777	250					3025
62	2775	250					3025
63	2775	250	652.5				3677.5
64	5000	75					5075
65	2775	250	652		100		3777
66	5000	250					5250
67	2700		652		100		3452
68	2700	100	60		100		2960
69	2774	250	1500				
70	2775						3000
71	2770	250					
72	2770						
73	2775		625				3427
74	2775	250	652		60		3737
75	2775	250	500				3525

Number	PELL Grant	Work Study	State Scholarship Support	Other scholarships (Rotary, etc.)	Family Assistance	Working part time	Total
76	2775	250	650				3675
77	2775	250	500				
78	2750	250					3000
79	2750		700				3450
80	2082	200	652		50		2984
81	2775	250					3025
82	2775	500	500				3775
83	1000				70		1070
84	2775						
85	2277						
86	2999	500	700		50	400	4345
87	2775	250	642	none	150		3817
88	2779	none	900	none	500	none	4175
89	2775	250	625		500		
90	2775	250	600				3625
91	2775	250	652		60		3737
92	2770	250	750				3115
93	2775	0	500		200		3457
94	2775	400	600		50		3875
95	1000	75			100		
96	2775	400	500	600			4275
97		250			35		285
98	2775	250	750				3775
99	2775	250	652		100		3577
100	2775		650				3275
101	2775						
102	2775	250	647		100		3772
103	2775	250	1500				4525
104	2775				150		\$2825.00`
105	2775						2775
106	2775	250	500				3525
107	2500		645	500	100		
108	2770	250					3020
109	2775	0	652		100		3527
110	0		400				40000
111	2775						
112	2775	250					2975
113	2000	600	600				3200
114	2775	250	500	1000	100		4625
115	2775	250					3305
116	2775	NA	625				3427

Number	PELL Grant	Work Study	State Scholarship Support	Other scholarships (Rotary, etc.)	Family Assistance	Working part time	Total
117	2775	250	650	100			3775
118	2775	250	750				3775
119	2775	250	500				3525
120	2775	250	625				3677
121	2775	250	900	300			
122	2775	250	650				