

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM  
BOARD OF REGENTS

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7-9, 2012, MEETING  
YAP STATE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Regent Kasio Mida called the special meeting of the College of Micronesia-FSM Board of Regents to order at 2:50 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, in the Yap State Business Development Center. The chairman asked for a moment of silent prayer.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Regent Figir read the mission statement.

**ROLL CALL**

With Regents Lyndon Cornelius from Kosrae State, Graceful Enlet from Chuuk State, Mary Figir from Yap State, and Kasio Mida representing the National Government present, the chairman declared a quorum. Regent Churchill Edward from Pohnpei State joined the meeting later.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were Joseph Daisy, President and CEO, and *ex officio* member of the Board; Ringlen Ringlen, Vice President for Student Services; Mariana Ben-Dereas, Vice President for Instructional Affairs; Mariano Marcus, Acting Director of Chuuk Campus; Kalwin Kephass, Director of Kosrae Campus; Matthias Ewarmai, Director of FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute; Lourdes Roboman, Director of Yap Campus; Frankie Harriss, Accreditation Liaison Officer; Danny Dumantay, Comptroller; Brian Southwik, Yap State Scholarship Coordinator; Peter Tairuwepiy, part-time instructor at Yap Campus; and Norma Edwin, Executive Assistant to the President and meeting recorder.

The new president was welcomed to his first Board meeting. Speaking of the many challenges facing the college, the Chair encouraged sacrifices, individually and as a group, to meet the grave responsibility to be successful; future generations depend on what we do.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

**Regent Cornelius moved and Regent Enlet seconded that accreditation under New Business be taken up first. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Accreditation Follow-Up Report.** President Daisy's written report provides an assessment of the accomplishments to date to address the accreditation concerns. He explained what must be done after the report is submitted. He said the report is the work of many people under the drive and persistence of the ALO. Ms. Harris provided highlights of the report and what still needs to be done and the timeline to complete them. The ALO felt we are on the right track.

The Board provided some editorial comments on the report and asked for clarification of and or further discussed the following: culture of assessment, long range multi-year planning, timeline and implementation of the plans, purpose of community meetings, future direction of the college, compensation for the work involved, outside assistance, Chuuk permanent site, responsiveness to community needs, and funding prospective.

**Regent Cornelius moved and Regent Edward seconded that the Board endorses the College of Micronesia-FSM Follow-Up Report for submission to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**The Board adopted the minutes of the January 7 & 9, 2012, regular meeting as amended.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Communication included in the notebook included letter of commitment from Governor Ehsa to support the Upward Bound Program grant application and letter to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission requesting support for the Annual Fun Walk/Run in May.

## **REGENTS' REPORTS**

**Regent Mida** said the Board must do better with its reporting; Regents should share information from their respective areas and stakeholders and what they do on behalf of the college. He received a copy of the resolution confirming him for another term on the COM-FSM Board of Regents. Per his new employer, he will no longer serve on the COM Board and encouraged continued link with this Board.

**Regent Enlet** reported on our competition and the need to understand our competition. The community is expressing dissatisfaction with our admissions criteria and the need to be more responsive and inclusive. The Departments of Resources and Development and Agriculture are involved in many activities to protect and preserve resources in

ways that promote sustainable development. The college should take a greater role in developing skills at the grassroots level where majority of the people operate and maintain their livelihood. These are skills that may not require a degree but would help increase productivity for local consumption. The potential for commercialization is also there.

**Regent Cornelius** reported on the recent FACSSO meeting in Kosrae. The college was encouraged to take the lead in talks with DOE to capture their unused funds in light of the decrement and for programs to bridge the gap. The college was also encouraged to educate the community about Pell Grant, especially with regards to refunds. The mid-year JEMCO meeting will be held March 23 in Pohnpei; the agenda will mostly be on education issues. The next FACSSO meeting will be held in Yap. The Regent inquired if the VPIA also plans to visit Kosrae to which the President replied a visit is scheduled for next month.

**Regent Edward** reported on the leadership resolution on the college's decrement and on the need to prove our case to JEMCO during the mid-year meeting. He said state campuses should focus on vocational programs and on working with the states on developing UB/TSP type programs to serve more students to help our success rate.

**Regent Figir** sought support for better salaries for teachers, nurses, and our professors to ensure retention of quality teachers, nurses, and professors.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**President's Office.** President Daisy explained he will be reporting against the challenges and opportunities, and duties and responsibilities of the president as stated in the job announcement; this format will help him focus on the expectations of the president and also help the Board chart his progress in those areas. He also welcomed 360° review of his progress. The primary focus during his first four weeks was on getting to know all internal constituents and ensuring progress toward addressing accreditation issues. He is working with his Cabinet to develop strong leadership by emphasizing the need to wear several hats (one as head of their area of responsibility and two as a representative of the college) and the importance and implication of the signature. To help understand the data generated by IRPO, he is asking that they provide a dashboard with their data report which would include high-level executive summary of the data presented. He feels the Development and Community Relations office is underutilized and is encouraging activities to create new friends for the college, to share more information about the college, and to improve the quality of information shared. Within the next six months, he hopes to have a formalized institutional advancement plan. For the March JEMCO meeting, he directed ODCR to produce a video of the faces of college; students talking about the positive effects of the college on them. He hopes the telling of the successes of the college will counteract the negative information circulating about the college. The Board previewed the video.

The Board further discussed the different levels of accreditation sanctions and improving public relations.

**Chuuk Campus.** Acting Director Marcus reported on progress of renovation projects, fencing issue regarding construction of a green house, new parking lot, termination of the lease for the vocational building, turnover of two computer labs and library computers, new computers for instructors, preparations for Cultural Day and Founding Day, update on vacancies, and continuing challenges with processing of documents.

The Board sought clarification on and or further discussed the problem with processing of documents, reason and responsibility for the fencing, termination of the lease, and maintenance of renovated facilities.

**Fisheries and Maritime Institute.** Director Ewarmai reported on revision of course outlines, shipboard training, NORMA recruiting fisheries observers, status of renovation projects and the parking lot, and students participating in the island basketball league. Dr. Daisy mentioned early discussions on offering programs to engage the community and assisting with training for fisheries observers.

The Board further discussed the training requirements to become a fisheries observer, whether we compete for students, exit points of the FMI program, and graduates who are now observers. Per request from the last Board meeting, Director Ewarmai distributed a status report of their graduates. The college needs to do a better job tracking our graduates and to showcase their successes.

**Kosrae Campus.** Director Kephas reported on the status of the renovation of the temporary library and classroom building, visit from the project manager, schedule for the week of April 1<sup>st</sup>, staff and faculty meetings during which the need for tutoring program was expressed by the faculty and reports from standing committee reps and from the various areas on campus were shared, and preparation for Founding Day.

**Pohnpei Campus.** Dr. Daisy reported on discussions to be creative in program development to reach out to the community, to utilize some programs to make improvements within the college, such as using the HTM program to enhance student life in the residence halls to be more hotel-like and the technical programs to redesign the cafeteria to be more café-like, and to merge some programs to develop generalists to enhance their employability.

Regarding AD Dison's absence, President Daisy said he plans to use the agenda to determine who should attend Board meetings. They determined that her presence at Pohnpei Campus was needed; other directors are present because he has not had a chance to meet with them and has scheduled a meeting to discuss campus issues; he has already met with Ms. Dison on the issues. The Board said the decision as to who attends Board meetings is the President's.

**Yap Campus.** Director Roboman reported on the status of the two facilities under construction, working with PMU for furniture for the facilities, vacancies, submission of Upward Bound grant in January, campus re-organization to align with the new organization chart but still function as one campus, holding regular meetings with faculty

and staff, struggles with the assessment cycle, and update on Yap DOE working with SDSU through PCC to offer bachelor's program for principals and high school teachers. Two Deans from PCC were on island to collaborate on how to meet the needs of students from Yap. Students will take COM-FSM courses that meet program requirements at Yap Campus. The articulation agreement between COM-FSM and PCC needs to be reviewed.

The Board inquired about the bachelor's requirement for principals and high school teachers and the impact on enrollment.

**Administrative Services.** VPAS Habuchmai remained at the National Campus preparing for the parking lot solar project which begins on Monday and has been busy addressing the facilities issues relative to accreditation and completing of the emergency/disaster plan. Human Resources Office will be doing a comprehensive review of all policies.

**Financial Report.** The Comptroller presented the financial statement of revenues and expenditures for unrestricted and restricted funds as of December 31, 2011, which shows good indication of a positive fund balance at the end of the fiscal year; cash and equivalents sufficient to support operations; the gross receivable from students showing an increase due to fall semester; comparison of budgeted vs actual revenues and of current year vs. previous year revenues; actual vs projected number of students and number of credits; the market value of the endowment fund as of December 31 which is \$3.167 million; asset allocation within range; total fundraising receipts for the first quarter of \$1,734, far below target; and the article shared by Dan Roland.

The Board inquired about the provision for bad debts and data on students.

**Instructional Affairs.** VPIA Ben-Dereas provided on update on items from her area on the to-do-list from the last meeting and then went over the program prioritization report recommendations from the Planning and Resources Committee. She clarified that not all programs were assessed and the recommendations are on the process and not on programs. This is still a work in progress. Program reviews must also be conducted for non-academic programs and services. In addition to requests for clarification on the report, a request was made to explore an open door policy.

**Student Services.** VP Ringlen reported on Spring 2012 enrollment of 2,543 college-wide, 148 applications for Spring graduation, COMET administered to 1,538 potential students for Fall 2012, financial aid workshops for students, plans to have similar workshops for parents, Pell authorization and payments, establishment of a student life advisory council to enhance student life college-wide and by May to develop a program to improve dormitory life; relocating the office of the Director of Student Life to the male dormitory, Founding Day activities, and student led monthly campus clean up.

The Board inquired about the need to apply for graduation, staffing in the dormitories, and coordination of student life college-wide.

**Cooperative Research and Extension.** A summary report from the VPCRE is in the notebook. While the President has not yet had the time to be fully informed about CRE, he believes CRE can do much more to support our initiatives; the VP is in agreement and pledged his support.

The Faculty Staff Senate concern about faculty not knowing of the salary freeze was discussed; whether the reason being not informed or not participating. Need for a timeline for lifting the freeze was raised as it would affect recruitment of new instructors. The President asked for time to develop a response for the Board's consideration.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Revisions to Investment Policy Statement and asset allocation of the endowment fund.** Taking Mr. Roland's recommendation to hold off reallocation due to revised global outlook for growth and inflation over intermediate term, action is not requested at this time.

A request for clarification was brought to the Board regarding the investment committee. Based on the wording of the investment policy it was determined that the investment committee is a committee of the Board. With the By-laws stipulating that the majority of Board committee members be Regents, **Regent Edward moved and Regent Figir seconded that the investment committee being a Board committee be composed of two Regents and the President. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Endowment foundation.** The President needs more time to study the matter and be fully informed.

## **NEW BUSINESS - continued**

**Establishment of new positions.** The President needs more time to craft the job description to elevate the ALO to VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Assurance. Combining the VPIA and VPSS positions is also on hold; a major shift before the accreditation visit is not a good idea. Also the student services area needs attention and it would be unnecessary burden for the new VPIA.

The Board inquired whether this would be considered substantive change and about the need to review top and mid-management positions that have system-wide responsibilities, and re-visiting the recent streamlining.

**COM-FSM 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2013).** Since 2013 is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of COM-FSM, Dr. Daisy felt it would be a real opportunity to engage the public with year long activities. The Board liked the idea and encouraged the administration to begin planning.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is the regular May meeting which is scheduled for the third Monday which is May 21. It will be held in Pohnpei due to the Congressional budget hearings.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

In closing, the Chairman extended appreciation to Director Roboman and her staff for the hospitality, welcome and support and the participants for the productive meeting. He felt we have made a good beginning and asked that we keep the momentum. He also thanked Director Roboman for coordinating the successful community meeting. **Regent Cornelius moved and Regent Edward seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned on March 9, 2012.**

Minutes of the COM-FSM Board of Regents meeting of March 7-9, 2012, approved this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2012.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kasio E. Mida, Chairman of the Board