

Interim President's Update

Board Meeting 8-06-2020

Summer enrollment was more than expected after COVID-19 closed the college in March 2020. We anticipated only 400 but enrolled 843 or 74% of the usual summer enrollment. Enrollment for summer 2019 was 1,135. Surveys of students and faculty indicate mostly positive responses to online learning. The surveys also provide specific areas for improvement. Survey information was shared with vice presidents and faculty. Faculty members were given training on Monday this week to address some of the areas.

Fall early registration has begun and so far 1,265 (66% of fall 2019 headcount) students have registered. Regular registration is August 12, 13, and 14. Fall 2019 enrollment was 1,905. We estimated a fall semester enrollment of about 1,250. So we have already met that projection.

We asked Congress for an additional 1.5 m as that was the estimated decline in revenue for summer and fall. We have no response on our request. However, our enrollment has been slightly more than estimated. Congress has not yet approved the budget for next year. We are anticipating a hearing sometime this month or early Sept.

FSM congress did reduce FMI budget for this year by \$300,000 without notice. This did not leave FMI enough finances for essential services until end of Sept. Fortunately, there is money left from last year's budget that FSM has indicated is still be available.

The college received \$1.8m from CARES Act Funding for the institution. So far we have used this money to purchase satellite connections for Kosrae, make necessary improvements to the SIS, purchase software such as Help Desk, Turnitin, and Lockout apps, and purchase laptops for faculty and student services counselors and student stations. All of this helps to improve services for online learning.

Fall semester is a combination of online classes and in-person courses. Everyone coming to campus must wear IDs and a mask. Hand sanitizers are available in public areas. Security officers continue to have everyone sign in and take temperatures. Student Services has prepared orientation for new and returning students. Several videos are available to assist students with registration and navigating Schoology.