



## COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA –FSM

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Office of the President & CEO

September 16, 2021

His Excellency David Panuelo  
President  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941

Dear President Panuelo:

Warm greeting from your college! Per Section 9 of PL 7-79, the college's enabling law, the college must notify the President of the Nation of upcoming expiration of terms for board members 90 days before the actual expiration date. We sent a letter dated August 27, 2021, to inform you of the expiration of board member terms. These expiration dates are: the term for Regent Jesse Salalu (Yap State representative) will expire on September 28, 2021 and the term for Regent Tulensru Waguk (Kosrae State representative) will expire on November 16, 2021. In addition, the college has earlier wrote on August 20, 2020, of Regent Pelma Mingii's (national government representative) expiring term on September 27, 2020, and again on June 21, 2021, of Regent Johannes Berdon's (Chuuk State representative) expiring term on August 18, 2021.

Having four open seats at the same time creates a concern as Accreditation Standard 9 requires "staggered terms of office" to ensure continuity on the board. Regent Mingii has served one term and is eligible to serve another. The college would welcome her remaining on the board and requests re-confirming her soonest as a regent of the college. The other three have served or are serving their second term so are not eligible to continue. As the process to identify their replacement may take a while, we request consideration for the need to stagger their terms and not wait until all three replacements are identified before taking action.

Also, in making your appointments, we draw attention to Section 6(2) of the enabling law which states, "Members...shall represent diverse elements of the population of the States and the Nation, including, but not limited to, business and industry, education, and community service organizations." Diversity of interests on the board is also an accreditation mandate. Hence, we also request that you consider people from groups not yet represented to have a diverse board.

The college humbly requests your timely appointments as well as consideration of the concerns mentioned above. Your attention to this matter and your continuous support of the college is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Karen Simion

Interim President and CEO

cc: Board of Regents  
Acting Chief of Staff  
Secretary of Education