

President's BOR Report June 17, 2022

This report is structured with “duties and responsibilities” for the president of the college.

The responsibility and authority of the CEO for the quality of the institution is derived from the PL7-79, chapter 7, Section 21, (1) and Section 21(2) authorizes the CEO to approve the selection and appointment of employees of the college.

- A. Fulfill all obligations of the president as outlined in 40 FSMC 721 of the establishment law of the college.

As outlined in the Self Evaluation of December 15, 2015, report specifically on Standard IV.B.1 *“The institutional chief executive officer (CEO) has primary responsibility for the quality of the institution. The CEO provides effective leadership in planning, organizing, budgeting, selecting, and developing personnel, and assessing institutional effectiveness.”*

I have been and will continue to rely on the very capable team of vice presidents to assist in running the college in the absence of a full-time president. We continue to work as a team and have had at least monthly cabinet meetings to discuss continued operation of the college in these unusual times. Initiatives include best uses of HEERF funding and implementation of projects and financial assistance to students, management of the college's COVID-19 response plan; finalizing contracts for the student center at National Campus, a teaching clinic at National Campus, and the multi-purpose building for Kosrae Campus; planning for an increase in career and technical education offerings; presentation of the 2023 budget to Education Committee members of FSM Congress, and preparation of the next 5-year integrated educational master plan.

COVID-19 Response Update Since December 2021

The annual report for HEERF funding, due by April 2022, was completed on time. All reports on HEERF funding are found on the college website at <http://www.comfsm.fm/?q=care-act-reports>. Projects to be funded by the remaining funding include continued financial support and laptops to students demonstrating a need, and additional hardware for classrooms to enhance distance learning. Projects to complete are backup generators for CTEC, Kosrae and Yap, and the fencing projects. WeCares Laptop program will continue through May 2023 as long as there is money.

The college continues to follow condition 4 COVID-19 response plans. The Emergency Management Team is preparing revisions to the response plan based on information from the National Government that the FSM borders will open in August.

B. Retain and maintain full accreditation from ACCJC/WASC.

The draft Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) was endorsed by the Executive Committee on May 26, 2022. The report is going through final editing and ready for Board of Regent approval at this meeting. The report will be posted on our website and announcements will go out for third party comment. The report will be sent to ACCJC no later than July 8 and is due to ACCJC by August 1, 2022. The peer review team will send a preliminary report to the college in October. The college then has until the visit to respond to questions and provided additional information as needed. The peer review team will conduct an in-person visit the week of March 13, 2023. Chair of the Peer Review Team is Dr. Rosevonne Pato, President American Samoa Community College and vice chair is Dr. Ardis Eschenberg, Chancellor of Windward Community College.

Annual membership in ACCJC was renewed.

ACCJC approved the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration on May 24, 2022.

C. Ensure assessment of the Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 and development of the next Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

The Strategic Plan 2018-2023 has been completed and approved by the BOR. A mid-term report was presented to the Board at the July 6, 2021, meeting. The next phase is to act on the recommendations and begin preparation of the next 5-year integrated educational master plan.

D. Continue to assess the organizational structure and reporting procedures and make changes as needed for a more efficient and effective institution.

Cabinet continues to meet to discuss a wide range of topics and issue, one of which is advertising vacant positions or re-assigning workloads. I continue to meet with each vice president individually as needed to ensure effective leadership and continuity at this time of transition. I have requested re-activation of the Faculty/Staff Senate and met with the Student Body Association President for National Campus.

E. Implement a Reengineering/Sustainability Plan to ensure long-term sustainability of COM-FSM.

Continue with current plans for long-range sustainability. RFP posted on college newsfeed for consultant to assist with development of next strategic plan including reengineering and future sustainability.

F. Continue and strengthen internal leadership capacity building efforts.

The college provides resources for faculty and staff to take courses, earn degrees, and attend conferences and trainings that support their development and service to the college. Everyone is being encouraged to attend conferences with a great number being offered virtually and often for free. Many employees avail the college benefit of tuition waiver and take 1-2 courses per semester.

G. Enhance overall standing of COM-FSM and advocate for the college in all areas.

Memberships in the Association of Community College Trustees and the American Association of Community Colleges are current. Information regarding workshop and conference opportunities with these agencies and ACCJC are shared with faculty and staff. Interim President continues to attend functions sponsored by the diplomatic corps upon invitation. PPEC presidents continue to meet monthly.

As Interim President I am focusing on prioritizing the National Infrastructure Development Plan, the need to retain and attract qualified personnel, monitor Compact renegotiation or termination and develop contingency plans, build on fund-raising, grant-writing, and endowment-building capacity and providing quality educational experiences during COVID-19 pandemic and as the college moves to distance learning. The college has re-negotiated the renewal of Chuuk Campus lease for a period of five years with the option to renew for a second five years. At the same time the college is working with the new leadership in Chuuk to resolve access road issues so construction of the new campus can begin and hopefully finished by December 2027, end of the negotiated new lease. These agenda items will remain as a focus unless directed differently by the Board of Regents.