

## President's Report

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

I would like to thank the Board for having confidence in me in these difficult times to keep me as Acting President while searching for the next president of the college and managing COVID-19 issues. I will do my best to fulfill the obligations of this position as currently specified by the Board until I am informed otherwise.

### A. Fulfill all obligations of the president as outlined in 40 FSMC 721 of the establishment law 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)(IV.B.2) and Section 21(2)(IV.B.3) authorizes the CEO to approve the selection and appointment of employees 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 three cabinet meetings to manage the change to an acting president and the COVID-19 issues. Budget preparation will begin in April. The current master plans run through 2023, are reported on quarterly at this meeting, and are reviewed/assessed annually.

### **Emergency Management Team Response to potential COVID-19 outbreak**

The Emergency Management Team (EMT) was activated on February 10, 2020, according to the Emergency Management Plan. Team members are identified with Francisco Mendiola as the representative to the state task force and Joe Habuchmai the college representative to the FSM task force. Each state campus has also formed a team to coordinate with the college team and each state task force. The FSM government issued the 14-day quarantine in a corona virus free environment when returning from traveling beyond FSM, Guam, and Hawaii. This prompted the college to temporarily suspend all unnecessary college travel even in the FSM not knowing who might also be on the flight that did not go through the 14-day quarantine.

The team authorized use of the Physical Resources Contingencies fund to purchase necessary preventative supplies. Supplies have been ordered and include N95 masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer. Other items to be purchased are full HAZMAT suits and thermal scanners. Cleaning staff is to make sure there are paper towels and hand soap available for proper hand washing. Forum lectures to share

information on the virus were held at each campus. Periodic all campus meetings are being held to provide updates and reminders on how to prevent spread of the virus. The college has established a new section on the home page for COVID-19 information and updates. A message from the President's Office dated March 16, 2020, suspended all classes until further notice, keeping only essential services available, and reminding everyone to stay healthy and safe.

Scenarios with processes for prevention and identifying a case are established. Scenarios include possible closure of the school, screening everyone coming to campus to a student in one of the residence halls showing symptoms. Students in the residence halls at National Campus and Cadet Quarters at FMI are of particular concern since these students live on campus. The college paid for graduating student's airfare per policy and worked with individual families to provide a secure way home for non-graduating students. All traveling students were provided rides to the airport and masks to wear while traveling. Students remaining on campus will live in a supervised restricted area and continue to eat meals from the dining hall. The students and employees in this area will have regular temperature checks.

Employees will be placed on administrative leave with pay. Some essential services will be required at the college such as those caring for the students remaining on campus, security, some maintenance to ensure power and water, some business office personnel and administrators. Those volunteering or required to be on campus will be specially compensated. Others may choose to continue working remotely if they have a device and Internet access. Our hope is the COVID-19 will be under control soon and regular business at the college will resume in time for the summer session.

Staying healthy is our primary objective.

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

Annual ACCJC reports were submitted before the deadlines and the 2020 Mid-Term Report was submitted. The Commission will act on the mid-term report at the June meeting. The ALO is working with the accrediting agency on plans and options to manage responses to COVID-19. There are no accreditation issues at this time.

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

The Strategic Plan 2018-2023 has been completed and approved by the BOR.

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 issues. I continue to meet with each vice president individually as needed to ensure effective leadership and continuity at this time of transition.

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

Continue with current plans for long-range 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.

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

As acting president, I have contacted the Pacific Post Secondary Council to introduce my new role and maintain membership for information sharing. 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.

I am looking forward to working with the Board of Regents. The last president was focusing on prioritizing the National Infrastructure Development Plan, specifically Chuuk Campus construction, 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. These agenda items will remain as a focus unless directed differently by the Board of Regents.