

President's BOR Report September 2020

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)(IV.B.2) and Section 21(2)(IV.B.3) 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.

COVID-19 Response Update Since August

The college received permission from ACCJC to again offer most courses through distance learning July 08, 2020. The U.S. Department of Education has not yet agreed to extend the waiver for distance learning past December 2020. Therefore, the college is preparing to submit a substantive change proposal requesting permission to continue with distance learning for most programs at the college. The submission for substantive change proposal timeline is spring 2021 with implementation summer 2021.

FSM Congress voted not to grant the college's request for \$1.5m due to COVID-19 expenses at its August 2020 special session. Congress had only \$1.7m to disperse and it felt the college would be fine with the amount it received from CARES Act (\$1.8m for the institution). This funding has been used to purchase hardware for faculty teaching online, apps such as Turnitin, satellites for Kosrae campus, and reconfiguration of the student information system.

The college continues to follow condition 4 COVID-19 response plans. Pohnpei and Chuuk Task Forces approved the fall opening plan of the college. All staff, faculty and students are required to wear masks and IDs on campus and practice social distancing. Visitors must also wear masks on campus. Security officers are stationed at campus entry points to take temperatures and record names.

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

ACCJC approved online delivery mode for the fall 2020 term.

The Commission acted on the mid-term report at the June 10th meeting accepted the 2020 Mid-term Report.

- 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. The cycle of planning at the college indicates it is time to begin collecting data and information to review the mission, vision and strategic directions to inform the next strategic 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 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. Everyone is being encouraged to attend conferences with a great number being offered virtually and sometimes for free.

- 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.

As Interim President I am 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 and providing quality

educational experiences during COVID-19 pandemic. These agenda items will remain as a focus unless directed differently by the Board of Regents.