

List and describe two things about the functioning of the FCE that "worked."

Meetings start and end on time and are filled with relevant discussion.

An administrative representative is consistently available and knowledgeable.

The committee has convened regularly and has made suggestions that have helped the college, for example suggestions to Director Mendiola I regards facilities fees.

The involvement of Security Officer Warren Ching and Director Mendiola has given them a voice and has helped communicate information about what is going on physically around the campuses. Their participation is vital in this committee.

I have no comments to make regarding FCE other than it seems to me the committee is doing what it is supposed to do. I have no suggestions for improvement.

I think this is the best run committee that I have ever been part of. The active participation of the director of maintenance and his staff is a plus. Additionally, the chair and the secretary are very organized and exhibit good team work. I like the way the chair does the agenda items by listings old items that need updating. Great way to follow up on items that have been assigned to other members or the secretariat.

List and describe two things about the functioning of the FCE that need to be improved. Provide suggestions for improvement.

Participation of faculty/staff has been limping at best. The number of the folks who attend regularly remains relatively constant and low. There should be a way (besides deleting folks from the committee) that participation should be mandatory for all faculty and staff.

I do not have anything for this committee that will help in order to improve its effectiveness. It does not need to be fixed.

The FCE committee encourages the participation of all campuses, but Palikir seems to be the campus that gets the most attention because more members from Palikir attend the meetings. Often what goes on at Pohnpei campus (and perhaps other state campuses) seems to slip through the cracks so that the members of Pohnpei are not notified about physical changes happening there, for example the demolition of the nahs at Pohnpei campus. Although this was a major change to the infrastructure on a campus, the FCE committee was never informed of the decision. The committee learned about the demolition only post-hoc, after the nahs was already torn down.

As a state campus representative, I have questions. Before bringing agenda items to FCE, whom at my state campus am I obliged to inform of /discuss with said items?

What is my role/obligation outside of meetings?

In regard to being on the FCE. I cannot quite figure out why I serve or what I am supposed to do.

While I have no complaints about participatory governance and I enjoy being on FCE (... the best run committee of the three on which I have served) I don't get what I am doing on the committee.

Here is where my thinking is going:

At the last meeting I got some clarification when I found out that requests such as the request for a short covered walkway at my state campus (requests that do not require funds beyond the funds that are allocated to the campus) do not need to be brought to the committee. The campus director can make decisions on projects that can be completed with money in the campus budget. Therefore the state campus covered walkway and cement for an area on campus are not matters for FCE.

That much is clear but the implications confuse me. I cannot reconcile this information with the discussion that we had a few months ago regarding the removal of the nahs. I recall during that discussion that the consensus seemed to be that the director should not have taken down the nahs without first having discussion and input from other, including possibly the FCE committee? But I don't think that the removal of the nahs required application for additional funds.

Furthermore, if state campus matters that do not require additional funds are not matters for FCE, what do I as a state campus rep have to do on the committee? For instance, at the last meeting, we discussed the clocks at the national campus. We were told that there are no clocks for the state campus. Fair enough, but why does the committee need the state campus representatives thoughts/vote regarding clocks at national? At previous meetings we have considered signage for the national campus and paint for the national campus parking lot.

I don't understand why my input is required regarding paint for the national campus but not required regarding cement for the state campus. Am I missing something?

Perhaps each physical site should have its own facilities and campus environment committee? The facilities and campus environment are unique to each site, local matters, and not system-wide matters.

If it was up to me I will not bother to be a member of FCE committee. When I raised my concern about clean water supply at Chuuk campus and recommended to increase number of catchment tanks in order to have enough storage tanks to install the rainwater First-flush divergent unit that would remove contaminants before the rest of the water is delivered into a storage tank. A few months earlier I have installed such a system on one storage tank, which is already disconnected from current 'rainwater + shallow well' system being used at the campus. For those who have don't know about the current system at Chuuk campus, storage tanks are connected to roof cutters to collect rainwater; a connection is made to a shallow well less than 30 feet from the main road at a lower elevation. When there is not enough rainwater collected and stored (not enough storage tanks), water is pumped into a storage elevated storage tank which by gravity run water to all storage tanks (contaminating whatever water in those tanks). Now the water supply at the campus is used for the toilets and nothing else for that matter. According to the dean, it would be a real accomplishment is students and staff could wash hand and brush tooth using the water - wishful thinking?

To make the long story short, what I got from the committee was Chuuk campus should take care of their own clean water issue. I wonder if the water issue is not a concern of FCE?

Another thing I brought up to the committee was a simple cover to drainage right in front of CRE office at Pohnpei campus. We had a meeting there yesterday and the plywood covering the ditch is about to break. This is not in compliance with USDA policies and regulation regarding disability.

One of the staff at that office has permanent walking impairment...I have voiced this concern many meetings ago.

I think attendance in COM committees should be mandatory. I am not sure how attendance could be monitored, but only a few do the work for all, and all receive the benefits, therefore, all should contribute and participate in ongoing college affairs. I think the only way that folks will feel compelled to attend committees is if they are penalized via their salaries. Again, I don't know how this could work, but a ding to the pocketbook is probably the best way to get everyone's attention.

The FC&E committee caters to National campus overwhelmingly. The other campuses, although represented by various faculty and staff members receive very little focus. This is probably because of the structure of the authority of the administration of the college. I know that all maintenance is under the direction of the Director of Maintenance who has a very difficult job, but he can't possibly know the goings on of all the campuses. Perhaps the solution to this problem is structural (one of hierarchy of authority for decisions). In any event, representation for questions/problems of all campuses except National, receive little of no focus at all.

Each site should have its own facilities and campus environment committee. Facilities and campus environment is an all local issue.

Function of the committees needs to be defined clearly otherwise they can become a bottle neck in the system. Is it to review and comment on policies and procedures or review of operations and activities of the offices?

I get confused at times as I'm not certain which maintenance and security issues require FCE endorsement and recommendation.

For instance, should I seek endorsement of FCE to replace our old vehicles? If so, should the necessary documents be presented to the committee for endorsement before routing to VPIA and VPAS?

How about requests for additional security or maintenance staff, should they be presented to the committee first?

Is it possible to clearly identify facilities and securities issues that will require FCE recommendations or endorsement before routing to the VP's for additional endorsement?