

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM
Committee Minutes Reporting Form

Committee		Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention		
Date: 12/07/11	Time: 1 – 2 pm	Location: BOR Conference Room		
		National Campus		
Members				
Title/Representative	Name	Present	Absent	Remarks
1. Chair – NTL F	Yen-ti Verg-in	X		
2. Vice Chair – NTL S	Ketiner Kenneth	X		
2. Secretary – NTL F	A.D. Ulm	X		
4. NTL F	Leilani Biza	X		
5. NTL F	Deva Senarathgoda		X	
6. NTL F	Lucia Donre Sam	X		
7. NTL F	Dr. Sven Muller	X		
8. NTL F	Marlene Mangonon	X		
9. NTL F	Ruci Yauvoli	X		
10. NTL S	Karleen M. Samuel	X		
11. CHK F	Richardson Chiwi	x		
12. PNI F (TT)	Xavier Yarofmal	X		
13. PNI F (TT)	Pablo Lamsis	X		
14. PNI F (TT)	Alan Alosima	X		
15. FMI S	Santus Sarongelfeg		X	
16. YAP – S	Cecilia Dibay		X	
17. KOS S	Dokowe George	X		
18. NTL S	Tetaake Yee Ting	X		
19. NTL S	Warren Ching		X	
20. PNI S	Yoneko Kanichy	X		
21. PNI	Joyce Roby	X		
22. CHK F	Memoria Yesiki	X		
23. PNI	Francisco Simram	X		
24. PNI	Edwin Sione	X		
25. PNI	Marlou Gorospe	X		
26. FMI F	Benjamin James		X	
27. NTL S	Lore Nena	x		
29. NTL S	Joey Oducado	X		ex-officio member

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Major Agenda or Topic of Discussion

- 1) Welcome new member Lore Nena
- 2) Castro Joab presents request for student recruitment during upcoming basketball tournament
- 3) Feb. COMET results and recommendations presented by Joey Oducado
- 4) Concerns about Essay prompts and recommendations presented by Amy Delyla Ulm
- 5) Concerns over COMET potentially being compromised presented by Amy Delyla Ulm
- 6) Recommendation to add a critical thinking or logic section to the COMET presented by Yen-ti Verg-in
- 7) Special thanks from Yen-ti

Discussion of Agenda and Information Sharing

- 1) Welcome new member Lore Nena

Welcome Lore!

- 2) Castro Joab presents request for student recruitment during upcoming basketball tournament

Castro, State President of the Pohnpei Basketball Assoc. and COM Student Activities Specialist and Sports Coordinator, asked that a COM staff or faculty member be present at this year's annual high school basket ball tournament to recruit for COM. This year the tournament will begin on Dec. 18 and will be sponsored by the National Olympic Committee and the State Assoc. The tournament has always been enjoyed by high school students in the past and serves to help the stay out of trouble while participating in a positive activity over the holiday break. The gym at Pohnpei Campus has been requested for the event; Castro is still waiting on confirmation. Castro encourages all staff and faculty from PNI and National campus to attend the opening ceremonies and promote the attendance of others in order to lend support to the event. He would like to see COM recruitment during the tournament as it provides a stellar opportunity to speak with potential students.

Yen-ti nominated Vice Chair, Ketiner to represent COM and the RARC at the tournament.

He accepted the nomination and the present committee members unanimously voted in favor of it. Ketiner will be responsible for facilitating recruitment during the tournament.

3) Feb. COMET results and recommendations presented by Joey Oducado

Joey did a fantastic job of clearly explaining the result of the Nov. COMET and recommendations to the committee admittance via alternate criteria.

The results stand as follow *before* the introduction of alternate criteria.

525 students sat for the Nov. COMET. 70 tested into the degree program. All 70 will be invited to the college. 105 tested into ACE or are recommended for it based on alternate criterion. 210 tested into the certificate level or are recommended for it based on alternate criterion. 140 were categorized as non-admit.

Promotion via any of below alternate criteria is not an option for all 525 students who sat for the COMET. The specific alternate criteria can only be used to recommend a student for promotion if they tested into that specific group - ACE, Certificate Bound and Non-Admit.

There are two alternate criteria used within the group of students that tested into ACE.

- a. Students who tested a comprehension score of 10th grade and higher
- b. Students who received a 34 or better on the essay, a comprehension score of 8th grade and higher and tested into MS 96

25 students met one of the two criteria and have been recommended to the RARC for admissions promotion. 15 students met criterion A and 10 met criterion B.

By adding these 25 students to the 70 who passed into the degree program, now 95 students are recommended for admissions at the degree –level.

There are three alternate criteria used within the group of students that tested into the certificate level.

- a. Students who tested a comprehension score of 10th grade or higher
- b. Students who received a 28 or better on the essay, a comprehension score of 8th grade and higher and tested into MS 96
- c. Students who received a 36 or better on the essay, a comprehension score of 6th grade and higher and tested into MS 95

25 students met one of the three criteria and have been recommended to the RARC for admissions promotion.

By adding these 25 students 105 students are now recommended for admissions as ACE-bound. (Students can only be promoted 1 step.) 14 met alternate criterion A and 11 met alternate criterion B.

There are two alternate criteria used within the group of students that tested as non-admit.

- a. Students who tested a comprehension score of 10th grade or higher
- b. Students who received a 20-28 on the essay, have a comprehension score of 4th grade or higher and tested into MS 96

Eight students met one of the two criteria and have been recommended to the RARC for admissions promotion. 2 met criterion A and 6 met criterion B.

The present RARC members voted unanimously to approve the recommendations for admissions set forth by the OARR. As a result, 75% of students who took the Feb. COMET will be invited to the college.

4) Concerns about Essay prompts and recommendations presented by Amy Delyla Ulm

AD presented concerns over lack of consistency regarding COMET essay prompts. In the past, some of the prompts have required a knowledge base in a specific area in order to be adequately answered. Others have been based on personal experience and opinion. AD argued that all prompts should either be on specific fields or study or opinion based. She believes that the disparity between the two types of questions changes the degree of difficulty of the exam for individual students depending on which essay prompt is randomly handed out to them on test day.

AD argued that, instead, all questions should be based on personal experience or opinion, as the essay portion of the COMET is intended to tests students' abilities to answer a question in a logical and organized manner while demonstrating some command of written English. It is not intended to test knowledge in specific fields of study – especially since students are not able to prepare for the question they are given in advance.

A motion was made that all future COMET essay prompts be based personal experience or opinion in an effort to keep the test more fair and consistent.

The present RARC members voted unanimously in support of the motion.

AD presented a second concern regarding students only being given only one prompt to respond to on test day. She argued that since the point of the essay is not to test students' ability of understanding 1 random prompt, each students should be given a choice of two prompts to write on. This way, if a student happens to not understand a word or phrase in a question that does not automatically prevent them from feasibly writing an essay that answers the question. Having a second choice lessens the potential of this happening considerably.

A motion was made that all future COMET essay test contain two prompts for students to choose from.

The present RARC members voted unanimously in support of the motion.

Lastly, AD presented a list of COMET essay prompt sets for voting on. RARC members are to vote on the essay prompts by Friday at 2:00pm. The prompts need to be submitted to Joey before faculty leave for break.

5) Concerns over COMET potentially being compromised presented by Amy Delyla Ulm

Amy Delyla Ulm taught English at PICS for two years. While there she saw both faculty and students in possession of materials that were supposedly portions of the COMET exam. She has seen everything from photo copies of the math and reading sections to essay prompts rumored to be on the exam passed around by students at PICS and teachers at all three public high schools.

The Gates MacGinitie sub-test that is used for the reading comprehension and vocabulary portions of the exam has been in use for years. Because of this, there is particular concern over increased potential of the exam being compromised. While giving the COMET in Yap,

AD noticed that some of the words on the exam were the same as words she has seen circulating on lists and “practice tests” circulating around the high schools.

AD brought in an email containing rumored COMET vocab that is shared amongst high school teachers. She also brought in a “practice test” that is rumored to be copied from the Gates MacGinitie test booklet.

After checking it was found that the “practice test” only contained a few words that are actually on the exam. The list of vocabulary words circulated among teachers contained 5 correct words.

Some members of the RARC did not agree that this was enough physical evidence to consider the exam “compromised.” Others felt that if some teachers have the opportunity to teach their students 5 words that are on the exam and others do not, that does constitute a “compromised” exam and it certainly gives the students in those classes an unfair advantage. How many actual test items need to be present on such evidence before the exam can be considered “compromised?” The question was discussed.

The debate over whether or not the exam can be considered compromised (based only on the physical evidence in the room and not on what AD or others have seen) became quite heated. The committee was not able to agree on whether or not the exam is still valid. Some members felt that the evidence presented a large concern. Others felt the concern based on the available evidence was exaggerated.

The committee was able to agree on the following points:

- 1) Whether successful or not, attempts to copy material from COMET exams are made by students. (Students have been caught doing this.) Because of this, proctors need to be very vigilant when giving the exam.
- 2) Students can remember words from the exam and share them with others or record them afterwards. This is especially true of students who have had multiple attempts at the exam.
- 3) The physical evidence in the room is likely indicative of a larger problem.
- 4) Taking the above two items into account in combination with how long the Gate MacGinitie has been in use warrants the need for a new exam whether or not adequate physical evidence can be presented to “prove” the exam is compromised.

A motion was made that the RARC officially request that the office of the VPIA recommend a new sub-test test to the RARC by Tuesday, January 31st. (There are no subsequent versions of the Gates MacGinitie available now so a new test options need to be researched.)

The RARC would like to make the replacement of the current Gates MacGinitie subtest before the Nov. 2012 exams a priority. Unfortunately and realistically, there is not enough time to have the exam updated before the Jan, 2012 COMET.

We hope that the VPIA office has a new test recommendation for the RARC to discuss and vote on in our first meeting of Feb., 2012. This needs to be planned well in advance because the new sub-test will need to be approved by various COM committees. That along with receiving the physical materials can take a lot of time.

Francisco Simram suggested that we educate the general public and the schools that are in possession of any “practice tests” that they do NOT contain items from the actual COMET.

- 6) Recommendation to add a critical thinking or logic section to the COMET presented

by Yen-ti Verg-in

Yen-ti recommended that the COMET also be changed to include a critical thinking or logic section. She requests that all members consider this for discussion at a future meeting.

7. Special thanks from Yen-ti

Yen-ti would like to send out a special thank you to the following people who volunteered to grade the multiple choice sections of the COMET by hand:

Mary Manuel
Bastora Loyola
Arbel Ben
Amy Delyla Ulm

She would like to send out another special thank you to Dana Lee Ling for conducting the statistical analysis of the COMET scores for helping everyone to interpret the results.

Finally, she would like to thank all the members of the RARC for their participation, dedication and hard work this semester.

Comments/Upcoming Meeting, Date, Time, and Others

Next meeting:

Handouts/Documents Referenced

College Web Site Link

Prepared by:
A.D. Ulm

Date Distributed: 12-8-11

Approval of the Minutes and Responses

Title/Representative	Name	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Remarks
1. Chair – NTL F	Yen-ti Verg-in	×			
2. Vice Chair – NTL S	Ketiner Kenneth	×			
3. Secretary – NTL F	A.D. Ulm	×			
4. NTL F	Leilani Biza				Did not participate
5. NTL F	Deva	×			

	Senarathgoda				
6. NTL F	Lucia Donre Sam				Did not participate
7.NTL F	Dr. Sven Muller	X			
8. NTL F	Marlene Mangonon	X			
9. NTL F	Ruci Yauvoli				Did not participate
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13. PNI F (TT)	Pablo Lamsis	X			
14. PNI F (TT)	Alan Alosima	X			
15. FMI S	Santus Sarongelfeg	X			
16. YAP – S	Cecilia Dibay				Did not participate
17. KOS S	Dokowe George				Did not participate
18. NTL S	Tetaake Yee Ting	X			
19. NTL S	Warren Ching				Did not participate
20. PNI S	Yoneko Kanichy	x			
21. PNI	Joyce Roby				Did not participate
22. CHK F	Memoria Yesiki	X			
23. PNI	Francisco Simram				Did not participate
24. PNI	Edwin Sione				Did not participate
25. PNI	Marlou Gorospe	X			
26. FMI F	Benjamin James				Did not participate
27. NTL S	Lore Nena				Did not participate

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Submitted by	Amy Delyla Ulm	Date	12-13-11
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Summary Decisions/Recommendations/Action Steps/Motions with Timelines and Responsibilities

Responsibilities:

- Yen-ti will contact the VPIA with request for new reading and vocab test.
- All members will vote on COMET prompts by Friday at 2:00pm.
- Joey Oducado will forward the RARC recommendations regarding admittance of students based on COMET scores to the President for final approval.

Actions by the President

Item	Approved	Disapproved	Disapproved with Conditions	Remarks
1				
2				
3				