

Mission Development Strategic Planning

Overview

A working group (composed of representatives of vice presidents, faculty, staff, and students) was established by the President to review the existing mission of the college and make recommendations for revision or additional input as needed.

Description of process

The process played on the strength of Micronesians for cooperation and collaboration through detailed review and discussion related key environmental concerns and direction of the college. It took into account changes in demographics, economic status, and development needs for the states and nation.

Issues

Key issues that were taken into account included:

- Ensuring that the college provides quality higher education in a Micronesian context (Micronesian context incorporates the concepts of a small island developing nation with island states, multiple languages and cultures (with common traits).
- Who do we serve was a critical topic. In the view of the group, the college can provide a niche by again proving quality higher education in a Micronesian context but can be expanded to serving others who would like to attend a foreign US Accredited college that emphasis Micronesian languages, cultures and values while providing global skills for employability.
- The issue of employability skills is of high concern, but items such as team working, cooperation and collaboration have a high fit with Micronesian culture traits.
- The role of the college in economic development was addressed in a number of ways. One was the college is the National Institute of Higher Education (even if it is no longer the only IHE in the FSM) that was discussed both form the rights and responsibly sides. The college is seen as a place where Micronesian values, language and culture should be an active part of everyday life. The college should actively seek funding from the FSM on this basis, but should be fully aware that it has to provide value to the nation and its states.
- The impact of demographics was extensively discussed with the reorganization that outmigration is affecting the number of potential college students, but also trends where more students are attending PCC (students from all four FSM states), CMI for its nursing program, and GCC due to its open admission. The college is no longer the only opportunity for higher education in the region. This was also discussed in the context of distance learning. Both the Institute in Chuuk (AS in liberal Arts) and SDSU's programs

are being offered via distance learning and a clause was included in the draft mission for “regardless of geographic location” to allow expansion distance learning once the college is off warning.

Recommendations

Attached is a draft mission statement with notes. Minutes of meeting are available from the VPAS.

Prepared by: VPAS, VPIA, DIRPO December 2012

Appendix:

College of Micronesia – FSM Mission Statement Draft

Mission

The mission of the College of Micronesia – FSM is to provide affordable, quality higher education regardless of geographic location by combining traditional Micronesian methods with the latest teaching and technological innovations.

- Within a Micronesian context, help meet career, technical, academic, cultural and economic needs of students and our island communities through developing an entrepreneurial spirit and acquisition of global employability skills for employment and preparation for transfer for qualified students.
- As the national college of the Federated States of Micronesia, the college serves as a research and intellectual resource to the nation.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

Communicate effectively

Communicate effectively through reading, writing, speaking, and listening in multiple languages.

Employ critical thinking and problem solving skills

Demonstrate the ability for independent thought and expression, decision -making skills, analysis and synthesis of information, and use of a variety of learning strategies and taking into account that we live in a community of families where collaboration and cooperation, respect and support for each other frame our thinking, decision making and actions.

Lifelong learning

Exhibit curiosity for learning, ability to transfer skills to new situations, take imitative to learn new information, and reflect on learning.

Interact responsibly with people, cultures, and their environment

Interacts responsibly with one’s own society, culture and our fragile environment as well as demonstrates sensitivity to other societies, and cultures.

Information Literacy

Determine nature and extent of information needed, able to access information, critically evaluate information, and effectively and responsibly use that information.

Statement Expanded	Analysis/Impact/Implications
<p>Mission</p> <p>The mission of the College of Micronesia – FSM is to provide affordable, quality higher education regardless of geographic location by combining traditional Micronesian methods with the latest teaching and technological innovations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within a Micronesian context, help meet career, technical, academic, cultural and 	<p>Issues:</p> <p>The “niche” of the college would be quality higher education within a Micronesian context – but would not be restricted to Micronesians.</p> <p>Greater emphasis on developing and delivering courses for Micronesian languages</p>

<p>economic needs of students and our island communities through developing an entrepreneurial spirit and acquisition of global employability skills for employment and preparation for transfer for qualified students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the national college of the Federated States of Micronesia, the college serves as a research and intellectual resource to the nation. 	<p>(major (1st language) & 1 other Micronesian language).</p> <p>Greater emphasis on Micronesian learning styles (see Barber) such as cooperation and collaboration, etc. in classrooms.</p> <p>New facilities might take into consideration traditional Micronesian housing styles.</p> <p>Greater emphasis on helping develop a “national identity”.</p> <p>Grounding students in Micronesian values and culture while developing global employability skills (see Employability Skills 2000+).</p> <p>Micronesian context incorporates the concepts of a small island developing nation with island states, multiple languages and cultures (with common traits).</p> <p>Qualified students means meeting entrance requirements (COMET and other established criteria)</p>
<p>Institutional Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Communicate effectively <i>Communicate effectively through reading, writing, speaking, and listening in multiple languages.</i></p> <p>Employ critical thinking and problem solving skills <i>Demonstrate the ability for independent thought and expression, decision -making skills, analysis and synthesis of information, and use of a variety of learning strategies and taking into account that we live in a community of families where collaboration and cooperation, respect and support for each other frame our thinking, decision making and actions.</i></p> <p>Lifelong learning</p>	<p>Should there be separate ILOs and values – or can they be combined?</p> <p>We may be able combine ILOs and values through the expansion of what the college means for each ILO. In this context, the mission statement and ILOs should always be viewed together.</p> <p>The basis for this approach is to have institutional learning outcomes reflect our values and our values be reflected in the ILOs.</p>

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