



FACILITIES AND CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

College of Micronesia-FSM

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Pohnpei FM 96941

Action Memorandum

Sunday, February 9, 2014

To: Curriculum and Assessment Committee
Through:
CC: Chair Council of Chairs
From: Dana Lee Ling, Chair, Facilities and Campus Environment committee
Re: Yap Campus LRC weekend hours request

The Facilities and Campus Environment committee was asked about the possibility of having Saturday hours for the Yap campus LRC. The suggestion was to permit a trial run of Saturday or weekend hours to gauge the potential demand. The committee noted that this was learning issue, not a facilities issue per se. The matter might also be a human resources issue. The committee approved passing this issue to CAC for their consideration. The following is the matter as presented to the Facilities and Campus Environment committee:

The Yap LRC is all locked up from 4:00pm Friday to 8:00am Monday. The president visited Yap campus last semester and held an open microphone meeting with the students asking for questions. Our students asked if they could have the LRC open on weekends. The reply was "no" due to lack of resources.

As the employee noted, "I imagine this hasn't changed, but I will forever bring it up when asked about matters and concerns pertaining to facilities and campus environment. At least Saturday afternoons? These students don't even have a study area available to them from 4:30pm to 8:00am Monday-Friday and, as mentioned above, from 4:00pm Friday to 8:00am Monday."

The employee continues, "Over twenty years ago I was an undergrad at UOG. Even back then and even on Guam we had a 24 hour study area. Well light and airconditioned. Now I know this is Yap and we are not as advanced as Guam or Pohnpei, but 20 years has passed and I feel that the gap is widening even more."

The employee noted home environmental factors as negatively impinging on learning. In the employee's own words, "I have visited several homes on this island and seen dozens more during my last 5 months here. None, I mean none, have internet or air conditioning.

All have poor lighting, are mosquito ridden (I'm sure you are aware of the chikungunya epidemic here) and most are (very) crowded. Nearly all of our outer-islander students (which, by the way, outnumber "locals" by ~6 to 4) live in large government housing units with no tables or chairs, and no doors on the rooms. In the buildings live anywhere from 13 to 42 (forty-two) people. Are you beginning to imagine how conducive this is to studying?"

The employee did note that actual Saturday demand is not known. The employee noted that buses do not run on Saturday, and that this might impact utilization. The employee suggested that at least a trial period of Saturday opening should be permitted with tracking and assessment of utilization.

The employee noted that classes do not end when they exit the classroom. The students may have three or more hours of classes each day, and then need to go home for lunch (no cafeteria on campus), only to get back here and see everything locked up by 4:30 P.M.