

COM-FSM Chuuk Campus

**REPORT: A SPECIAL ALL-CAMPUS MEETING FOR STUDENTS**

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, 12/04/13	<b>Time:</b> 12:05-12:55 pm	<b>Location:</b> Student Center
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**Students Present:** Approximately 150  
[An exact count was not made by an attendance sheet. In addition, a number of faculty/staff were present.]

**Major Topics of Discussion:**  
The purpose of this meeting was for COM-FSM President Joseph Daisy to meet with students and to discuss issues related to the two-year accreditation problem with WASC/ACCJC, a budgetary dec-  
re-ment for FYs 2013-2017, and student responsibility, as well as other matters.

Campus Dean Kind Kanto welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced President Joseph Daisy. The president discussed a number of different topics.

First, he described the period of “probation” when COM-FSM had failed to fulfill WASC/ ACCJC policies and goals. If we had continued to fail, we could have lost accreditation of our courses as well as U.S. federal financial aids. We had been directed to overcome problems that created the “probation”, and through remarkable transformation we succeeded – all stakeholders (including faculty/staff and students). He explained how we had pooled our resources together to overcome problems.

President Daisy reminded everyone, however, that efforts made to get us out of probation must not stop. We must continue to take steps to restore public confidence in COM-FSM. He added, *“Failure is not an option for us.”* To students, he advised what to do: study, work hard, be prepared, and finish the degree. He further encouraged students to dream more, to do more, and to become more.

Second, the president explained an important barrier facing us regarding the COM-FSM budget for the next few fiscal years. JEMCO had expressed disappointment in our efforts to improve student learning. So, JEMCO removed some funding for COM-FSM. This loss of funding is called a “dec-  
re-ment”, and the amount lost is \$700,000 each fiscal year. In effect, during the present fiscal year, COM-FSM has already lost \$700,000. Next fiscal year (2014-2015) another \$700,000 will be with-  
drawn – or \$1.4 million. During the third fiscal year (2015-2016) another \$700,000 will be lost – or \$2.1 million. The fourth fiscal year (2016-2017) we will see a loss of \$2.8 million in one year’s time! President Daisy explained that COM-FSM will be requesting our FSM Congress to increase its fund-  
ing of COM-FSM’s activities – to replace the loss imposed by JEMCO. We need to find a way to reverse JEMCO’s decision, especially in budgetary plans for infrastructure development of Chuuk Campus’ new and permanent site at Nantaku.

The president added that, a few days ago, the Board of Regents meeting in Chuuk had approved the FY-2015 budget – which includes a reduction of \$400,000 in spending, as compared with the present FY-2014 budget. We need to “tighten our belts” and, at the same time, locate supplemental funding in order to continue providing valuable services to our students and communities.

Third, President Daisy talked about the need for retention. In other words, COM-FSM is losing an over-all enrollment, especially at state campuses. There was a 22% decline in students who took and passed the recent COMET, and we must stop losing students who are presently enrolled. We need to upgrade our efforts to retain our present student enrollment and, of course, to increase enrollment numbers. To describe this problem, the president said, *“We still have challenges to face and address.”*

The president fielded questions from students. SBA President Shawn Mori asked, “*Can there be other degree programs offered at Chuuk Campus?*” President Daisy was hopeful in his response; however, he explained that a number of steps need to be taken. The first step is to request ACCJC for a “substantive change”, but such request depends on available financial resources for Chuuk Campus, on evidence for program prioritization, and, of course, support from external stakeholders as well as internal stakeholders.

**Next Meeting:** To be announced.

**Hand-Outs / Documents Referenced / Attachments:** None.

**Prepared by:** Alton Higashi      **Date distributed:** Monday, December 9, 2013.

**Summary Decisions / Recommendations / Action Steps / Motions with Timeline/Responsibilities**

- Students: Be successful – study, work hard, be prepared, and finish your degree programs.
- All: Maintain commitment to improve student learning on campus, and work together to achieve the mission of COM-FSM.