

College of Micronesia-FSM
Committee (Working Group) Minutes Reporting Form

Committee or Working Group:	Information Communication and Technology

Date: 09/01/2017	Time: N/A(UTC+11)	Location: Email Meeting

STANDING COMMITTEE				
Information Communication and Technology Committee				
	Titles/Reps.	Names	Present	Absent
1.	Committee Chair	Shaun Suliol	X	
2.	Committee Vice-Chair	Nelchor Permitez	X	
3.	Committee Secretary	Yuuki Omura	X	
4.	Chuuk Campus Faculty Rep	Edson Asito	X	
5.	Chuuk Campus Staff Rep	John Dungawin	X	
6.	Kosrae Campus Staff Rep.	Renton Isaac	X	
7.	Kosrae Campus Faculty Rep.	Lyte Chapap	X	
8.	Kosrae Campus Staff Rep.	Hiroki Noda	X	
9.	National Campus Staff Rep.	Juvelina Rempis	X	
10.	National Campus Staff Rep.	Twyla Poll	X	
11.	National Campus Staff Rep.	Vasantha Senerathgoda	X	
12.	National Campus Faculty Rep.	Edper Castro	X	
13.	National Campus Faculty Rep	Monica Rivera	X	
14.	National Campus Faculty Rep.	Mihai Dema	X	
15.	National Campus Staff Rep.	Nixon Soswa	X	
16.	Pohnpei Campus Staff Rep.	Winter George	X	
17.	Pohnpei Campus Faculty Rep.	Danny Ibarrola	X	
18.	Pohnpei Campus Faculty Rep.	Phyllis Silbanuz	X	
19.	Pohnpei Campus Faculty Rep.	Tendy Liwy	X	
20.	Yap Campus Staff Rep.	Pius Mirey	X	
21.	Yap Campus Staff Rep.	Ezra Choay Yoror	X	
22.	FMI Staff	Ken Pedrus	X	
23.	Student Body Association Rep.			

Additional Attendees:	Gordon Segal, IT Director
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Agenda/Major Topics of Discussion:
Agenda: College interest in exploring usage of Schoology as Learning Management System

The College is exploring this platform, and is VERY interested, in this particular Learning Management System (LMS).

The LMS will supplement learning at the college. Some instructors at the National Campus already use Schoology in its free form, and have been using it for a few years.

Additional to the LMS, Schoology is also offering an assessment tool that is integrated into the LMS that could possibly replace TracDat (assessment tool currently used by COMFSM). We pay an estimated \$25k annually to TracDat in licensing currently.

IT Office has been working with Schoology direct exploring the software, and have confirmed that it can work with our SIS. That is the MOST integral part; that it can support our home grown system. They have provided IT with a testing/beta site free of charge that will expire soon.

The prices are based on enrollment, and the quote is higher than what the college has in terms of enrollment. Terms can and will be negotiated, and prices reflected are their initial offering.

The College is actively perusing a solution of this nature, and is leaning towards taking the next step with Schoology before the end of the fiscal year. This is not a IT only initiative. It is in cooperation with student services and institutional affairs. IT's involvement is to make sure it can integrate with your systems at COMFSM. Institutional affairs have expressed compatibility and wants to peruse it as far as instruction is concerned. Student services is interested, not only because of its positive impacts on students, but its ability to supplement Nuro Retention Systems (formerly Copley) which just has been purchased by Student Services.

Comments:

Monica: I've been using Schoology for a couple of years, and I really like it. I post all my assignments and readings on it, use the gradebook, use rubrics, message my classes, and the students submit all their assignments on Schoology. My wishlist for the paid version would be plagiarism detection software; is that included with the paid version? Reporting plagiarism was recently passed as a Board regulation, but we do not have the appropriate tools to detect it. Yes, we can use Google to catch copying from the web, which is quite tedious for a large number of students. However, Google cannot catch internal plagiarism when students pass their papers on to their family and friends.

Phyllis: I like schoology and would love to use it but the limitations of band width is a very valid concern for Pohnpei Campus as well as other state campuses. I am for it as long as we can use it effectively at all campuses.

Renton: Totally agree and a YES for me. I have experienced using the LMS interface as a student while studying online. I was wondering if our college should pursue and invest in Schoology. It is user friendly and offers many great features which I believe will also improve the learning experience here at COMFSM. Its features offer full support for student engagement and allow not just a few or

half of the class population to participate in assignments (group discussions for the most part) but involve all students to participate. A student will have the capability to view the instructor's comments on why such grade is assigned and what areas he/she should improve next time. I agree with Phyllis, this is a great tool but bandwidth limitation is an issue. However, we have a promising path ahead of the campuses in terms of network limitations. Yap and Chuuk are getting their fibers, funding for eastern Micronesia is already secured so Kosrae will be linked soon.

Nelchor: I'll highly recommend this concept as long as the college system will benefit.

Hiro: It's a sweet deal. Definitely a Yes for me. And I do hope what Renton has mentioned earlier in regards to our bandwidth limitation will soon be taken care of.

Atkin: I have no experience with this platform and just read about it now. I wish that the college could try (campus wide) the platform at least a year before we purchase just to test the product if its work for our system as a whole. If it support our purpose then I agree.

Shaun in response to Atkin: I was just there last week, and I was testing it. Yes it is not perfect, but I tested it to see if it can work. Part of what we were doing is playing with the traffic to see where we might be able to allow for more traffic. It is feasible at your campus.

Kosrae Campus has the slowest internet of all campuses. I will note that Committee members Renton Isaac and Hiro Noda recently completed their bachelors degrees from CSU-Global, which uses schoology to deliver course content.

IT is aware that it will not be perfect at different sites, but are looking further down the road as internet is improving across all sites.

Nixon: I believe the program is going to benefit COM-FSM. One of the challenges we have is to identify at risk students before mid-term because when the deficiency list distributed, it is already too late for us to intervene with tutoring program. We submitted a request to OAR requesting new students' high school transcript. OAR denied our request. I believe this program could help us work with at risk students as early as the first or second week of school.

Edper: I agree with the direction that we are currently taking of taking a more serious look at an LMS that could provide a platform for interaction with our students and learning assessment tool at the same time. Personally speaking the disconnection between our very own SIS (aka myShark) and Tracdat added burden to our educators here rather than making assessment a pleasant experience for us educators. I understand the juxtaposition of these two because the two complement each other on its inherent inadequacy. But there should be a better way than having two disparate system. Speaking from an Information Systems background also, I could not even consider Tracdat a true blue Information System to be honest. We input results for Tracdat for example to record rather than Tracdat should be producing the results from our interaction with students (e.g. Quiz, Assignment, Activity etc) that is already connected to our Learning Outcomes. Tracdat becomes a big digital note taker in that regard and no processing and analytical capabilities at all which modern Information Systems exhibit. Additionally, human input is potentially erroneous whereas if the results are from the scores of a test, quiz, activity etc that is again connected to the Learning Outcomes the potential for human (meaning the instructor) input error is virtually nil.

Now, looking at the Schoology proposal. While I understand that Schoology has been used by many faculty that I know here in this college (me included) the amount involved here (potentially \$60k annually) is not a small amount and the possibility to be lock in to their system (and could very

difficult to move out if we need to) is nothing to rush about. And thus we need to study therefore it more closer and widen our scope of search of other LMS. In that regard I suggest that we look at other LMS like Canvas LMS (www.canvaslms.com) and Litmos (www.litmos.com) for example. And from there compare the three for example from its strengths and weaknesses. I know some did the Edmodo as well. So, what I am trying to say is that we don't need to rush these things because the amount that we have to pay plus the potential of being lock in to one system could be potentially impact our limited resources here.

Also could you provide some ball park amount of how much are we also paying the current SIS? Do we still pay something annually or is it one time deal? Is it possible also to explore for some outside developer to make an IS that both act an LMS and SIS? And if the overall cost is much lower then paying to an establish LMS for example plus the luxury of being tailored-fit to our need is there, would it not be nice to explore such option.

All other members either voted in approval of the LMS or had no comments at the time

Discussion of Agenda/Information Sharing:

New Business:

- No new business from all campuses

Comments/Upcoming Meeting Date & Time/Etc.:
Next meeting: TBA

Handouts/Documents Referenced:
College of Micronesia-Fsm – Sales Order 18616.pdf

College Web Site Link:

Prepared by:	Yuuki Omura	Date Distributed:	09/04/2017
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Approval of Minutes Process and Response: 09/05/2017

Submitted by:	Yuuki Omura	Date Submitted:	09/06/2017
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Summary Decisions/Recommendations/Actions Steps/Motions with Timeline and Responsibilities

Action by President: (this section will be filled in by the President's staff reflecting the President's decision regarding the recommendation from the various committees)

Item Numbers	Approved	Approved with	Disapproved	Comments/Conditions
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		Conditions		