

# **Interim President's Report**

**November 21-22, 2022, Meeting of the COM-FSM Board of Regents**

## **1. Words of Appreciation:**

I want to begin my report by thanking the Cabinet and their staff for extending their supports to the President's Office when both Norma Edwin and Hadleen Hadley were absent from the Office and things are beginning to go back to normal but will take a while before the office becomes fully functional. Again, thank you all for your individual and collective help you extended to the President's Office during the difficult period of the past few weeks.

## **2. The FY2023, FY2024 Budgets and Financial Statements:**

I am pleased to inform that both budgets for FY 2023 and FY 2024 have balanced after many meeting sessions in making sure the figures do make sense and trustworthy.

I have discussed with the Cabinet and I am now recommending to the Board that the Comptroller should be required to issue periodic financial statements, at least quarterly, and the one for September 30<sup>th</sup> must be submitted together with the proposed annual budgets for the Board's review and action.

## **3. The 2023-2028 Strategic Plan:**

A new Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued but was subsequently recalled because it needed some adjustments. So far, we've identified three issues which could be added to the **2023-2028 Strategic Plan** which include: (a) full automation of both the operations and the delivery of academic instructions; (b) assessment of the pay scale and how it can further improve recruitment and retainage of staff; and (c) to position the College to be a versatile partner of both the private and the public sectors.

## **4. Meetings and communications:**

### **a. World Bank's Grants for Skills Development**

A staff and I met with the Secretary of the Departments of Resources and Development and Education on the World Bank \$16 million grants. We've learned a lot about its goals and objectives but surprised that the initial number of students to go through the program was only around 80 given the size of the money involved. Toward the end of the meeting, we learned that the college was one of the active participants in the initial development of the grant. Accordingly, we assured them that the college will continue to support the program and that the vocational, technical and career programs will be working closely in partnership with the Departments of Education and Resources and Development including all the players in FSM.

### **b. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)**

Updates will be presented by the college's Accrediting Liaison Officer (ALO), Jennifer Helieisar. Briefly, the ACCJC Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) review team has requested additional evidences from the college and the ALO has been informed that their report will be forthcoming soon.

It is noteworthy to mention that the college's Institutional Researcher I of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) is almost done with updating of the **Turning Points: Evaluation of Strategic Plan, Mission, and Values for 2021-2022**.

**c. University of Guam (UOG) visit**

UOG President, Dr. Thomas W. Krise Thomas, just informed the members that he intends to leave the University of Guam after his current contract expires in January 2023. The next meeting for the Chief Executive of the Colleges and University has been scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month.

**d. The Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning (JCRP)**

Vice for Administrative Services (VPAS) President Habuchmai and I met with the Chief Negotiator, Leo Falcam, Jr, and his staff. He told us that there's been no substantive change in the negotiation from their last meeting in Washington, D.C. He did not think the college's eligibility for Pell and other US Federal grants will be changed unless there's change in the enabling US law.

We brought up the AmeriCorps issue and the fact that Freely Associated State (FAS) students are ineligible for it. His staff had already researched the issue and confirmed that FAS students are excluded, and therefore ineligible, only US citizens are. He advised that he will discuss the issue with his delegation and inform us of any outcome.