



**ACCREDITING
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for COMMUNITY and
JUNIOR COLLEGES**

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June 30, 2010

Mr. Spensin James
President
College of Micronesia-FSM
P. O. Box 159
Kolonias Pohnpei, FSM 96941

Dear President James:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting June 9-11, 2010, reviewed the institutional Self Study Report and the report of the evaluation team which visited College of Micronesia-FSM Monday, March 8-Thursday, March 11, 2010. The Commission recognized the accomplishments of the College in addressing recommendations since the time of the last evaluation visit, but notes several are not yet fully addressed.

The Commission acted to **issue Warning** and to ask that College of Micronesia-FSM correct the deficiencies noted. The college is required to complete a Follow-Up Report by **March 15, 2011**. That report will be followed by a visit of Commission representatives.

Warning is issued when the Commission finds that an institution has pursued a course of action which deviates from the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Standards of Accreditation, or policy to an extent that raises a concern regarding the ability of the institution to meet Accreditation Standards. The accredited status of the institution continues during the Warning period. However, the institution's accreditation will not be reaffirmed until the conditions which warranted the Warning are resolved. The Warning is being issued at this time for deficiencies identified in the team report and associated with Recommendations 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

The Follow-Up Report of March 15, 2011 should demonstrate resolution of the deficiencies associated with the recommendations noted below:

Recommendation 1. *Improving Institutional Effectiveness and Leadership and Governance*

To fully meet this standard, the team recommends the college evolve its communication efforts to ensure broad-based participation and encourage purposeful dialogue in which all stakeholders participate in the exchange of different points of view and reflections that lead to genuine communication and participatory governance (I.B.4, IV.A.3).

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With regard to Recommendation 1, the Commission requires that COM-FSM also regularly evaluate the effectiveness of its participatory governance system in helping the institution to achieve its educational mission and to provide quality educational services.

Recommendation 2. *Improving Institutional Effectiveness*

To fully meet this standard, the team recommends that the various plans of the college be integrated into the development of a comprehensive long-range educational master plan that is linked to and includes a long-range budget plan (IB4, III.D).

Recommendation 6. *Physical Resources*

To fully meet this standard, the college must develop a facilities master plan that reflects the institution's long term educational goals and plans and is linked to an identified, reliable, and ongoing funding source that supports the total cost of facilities ownership (III.B.2.a).

Recommendation 7. *Technology Resources*

To fully meet this standard, the team recommends that the college systematically assess its use and need for technology and use the results to develop a new technology plan that is guided by the college's strategic goals and educational master plan (III.C., III.C.1a-d, III.C.2).

Recommendation 8. *Financial Resources*

To fully meet this standard, the team recommends that the college systematically integrate financial resources planning with the various college plans into a comprehensive master plan that is directly linked to the budget planning and allocation process (III.D.1.a).

Recommendation 9. *Decision-making Roles and Process*

To fully meet this standard, the team recommends that the college evaluate its organizational structure and governance processes to ensure that college stakeholders are involved in decision-making processes and that the results of systematic evaluations, meetings, and decisions are broadly communicated (IV.A.1, IV.A.2, IV.A.2.b, IV.4.A.3, IV.A.5, IV.B.1.a, IV.B.2.a-b, IV.B.2.b, IV.B.2.e).

I wish to inform you that under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the Commission must take action to terminate accreditation. College of Micronesia-FSM must correct the deficiencies noted no later than **March 15, 2012**.

Commission Reminder: The Commission expects that institutions meet standards that require the identification and assessment of student learning outcomes, and the use of assessment data to plan and implement improvements to educational quality, by fall 2012. The Commission reminds College of Micronesia-FSM that it must be prepared to demonstrate that it meets these standards by fall 2012 (Standards I.B.1, II.A.2.e, II.A.2.f, II.B.4, and II.C.2).

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The college conducted a comprehensive self study as part of its evaluation. The Commission suggests that the plans for improvement of the institution included in the self study report be incorporated into the institution's operational work to support the continuing improvement of College of Micronesia-FSM.

The recommendations contained in the Evaluation Team Report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the visit. The Commission reminds you that while an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, the college is expected to use the team report to improve educational programs and services, and is expected to resolve the issues identified by the Commission.

A final copy of the Evaluation Team Report is attached. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the team report and this letter dissemination to your College staff and to those who were signatories of your college Self Study Report. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Regents. The Commission also requires that the Evaluation Team Report and the Self Study Report be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. Should you want an electronic copy of the report, please contact Commission staff.

Finally, ACCJC staff is available to assist the College with consultation and advice on the recommendations identified above. COM-FSM is encouraged to seek assistance from the Commission or from a knowledgeable third party or consultant in order to meet the standards.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational quality and students' success. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D.
President

BAB/tl

cc: Mr. Joseph Saimon, Accreditation Liaison Officer
President, Board of Regents, College of Micronesia-FSM
Ms. Sandra V. Serrano, Team Chair

Enclosure