# BOARD POLICY No. 2100

## Communications Policy

Date Adopted: 22 March 2006

Date Revised: 13 March 2013

Date Reviewed: 13 March 2013

References:

### Background

The 2010 Communications Plan was an effort to respond to a recommendation from ACCJC to develop and strengthen "purposeful dialogue" at COM-FSM. Yet the recommendation persisted through two further cycles of ACCJC review of Follow-Up reports and remains in effect as the College faces a significant review in 2013. In April of 2012 the college began an evaluation of the Communications Plan through a comprehensive survey followed by the summary report and analysis of that survey: *Purposeful Dialogue at COM-FSM*. In May campus constituencies gathered to discuss the findings and recommendations of that report. In September of 2012, all those activities were updated in *Strengthening Purposeful Dialogue at COM-FSM*, and the College is now poised to move forward on those findings and recommendations.

The ACCJC Recommendation 1 links "purposeful dialogue" with "participatory governance," and the existing plan reflects a focus on communication activities at the administrative level. The recent significant changes in governance reinforce a participatory rather than a hierarchical governance structure. A Communication Policy based on participatory governance is now needed to align these two elements and assure that "purposeful dialogue" is widely and deeply implemented at COM-FSM. This new Board of Regents *Policy on Communication* supersedes the previous policy that was approved in 2006.

### Policy on Communications

In order to align the twin concepts of "participatory governance" and "purposeful dialogue," the Board of Regents of the College of Micronesia-FSM hereby establishes this general policy governing communications. This policy shall apply to all employees and students at the institution and shall be in effect concurrent with the COM-FSM Strategic Plan: 2013-2017. The tenets of this policy are the following:



COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

- Purposeful dialogue within an institution is not merely a goal but also a reflection of the institution's values, culture and modes of governance.
- Purposeful dialogue must evidence civil discourse, respect for differences and freedom of expression.
- While the president is the public face of the institution and speaks for it in that role, purposeful dialogue is an everyday activity that must be tied to the Mission and Strategic Plan in terms that are measurable and active at all levels of the institution.
- Purposeful dialogue at COM-FSM must be multi-directional, of high quality, and subject to evaluation based on specific goals and objectives.
- Responsibilities for strengthening purposeful dialogue must be clear at institutional, program, unit and individual levels.
- Purposeful dialogue must address the challenges presented by cultural diversity and geographic separation at COM-FSM.
- Resources devoted to strengthening purposeful dialogue should accrue through normal planning and assessment activities.

See Administrative Procedure 2100