

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

BOARD POLICY NO. 4904

Chewing Betel Nut and/or and Tobacco Use Policy

Date Adopted: 1981

Date Revised: 1998; 21 May 2009;

Date Reviewed: 15 December 2015; 0

References:

A. Purpose

The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM or the “college”) is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and productive learning environment. This policy establishes clear expectations for the use of betel nut, tobacco, and smoking products on all COM-FSM campuses and properties, ensuring consistency, fairness, and accountability in enforcement.

B. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following terms are defined to ensure consistent understanding and application across all COM-FSM campuses.

1. **Betel Nut.** The seed of the areca palm, often chewed alone or with additives such as tobacco, lime, or other substances.
2. **Tobacco Products.** Includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other product containing tobacco or nicotine intended for smoking, chewing, or inhaling.
3. **Designated Areas.** Specific outdoor locations approved by each campus administration for smoking or chewing betel nut/tobacco, clearly marked and communicated to students and staff.
4. **Intoxicants.** Alcohol or any other substance that impairs physical or mental faculties.

C. Prohibited Conduct

1. Students are strictly prohibited from:
 - a. Chewing betel nut, tobacco, or any tobacco-based product **outside designated chewing areas.**
 - b. Chewing betel nut, tobacco, or any tobacco-based product that is **soaked or mixed with alcohol or other intoxicants, in all areas** of COM-FSM campuses and properties.
 - c. Smoking pipes, cigars, cigarettes, or any other tobacco products **outside designated smoking areas.**

D. Designated Areas

1. **Tobacco Smoking.** Smoking of tobacco products is permitted only in designated outdoor smoking areas, as determined by each campus.
2. **Chewing.** Chewing betel nut or tobacco may be permitted only in **designated chewing areas**, as determined by each campus, provided the product is **not soaked or mixed with alcohol or other intoxicants.**

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

BOARD POLICY NO. 4904

E. Disciplinary Penalties

This policy primarily addresses violations involving chewing or smoking outside of designated areas. Cases involving use marijuana and/or illicit substances are governed by BP No. 4906 (Illicit Drug Policy). Cases involving chewing betel nut, tobacco, or any tobacco-based product soaked or mixed with alcohol or other intoxicants are governed by BP No. 4905 (Alcohol Policy).

1. First Offense
 - a. Referral to the Director of Student Life at the National Campus, the Coordinator of Student Life at CTEC, or the Student Services Coordinator or designee at the State Campuses.
 - b. Written warning.
 - c. Educational counseling of up to two hours which must be completed within one month.
 - d. Possible community service (or work details) of up to four hours which must be completed within one month.
2. Second Offense
 - a. Referral to the campus Disciplinary Committee.
 - b. Written reprimand.
 - c. Educational counseling of up to four hours which must be completed within three months of the decision by the Disciplinary Committee.
 - d. Possible community service (or work details) of up to four hours which must be completed within one month.
3. Third Offense
 - a. Referral to the campus Disciplinary Committee.
 - b. Written reprimand.
 - c. Educational counseling of up to six hours which must be completed within three months of the decision by the Disciplinary Committee.
 - d. Possible community service (or work details) of up to six hours which must be completed within one month.
4. Subsequent Offenses (beyond third)
 - a. Referral to the campus Disciplinary Committee with a recommendation to the President, through the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services (VPEMSS), for appropriate disciplinary action.
 - b. Penalties may include:
 - Suspension for a specified period.
 - Prohibition from entering COM-FSM campuses.
 - Permanent expulsion, depending on the severity and frequency of the offenses.

F. Failure to Comply

Non-compliance with assigned disciplinary actions may result in:

1. Withholding of grades and/or transcripts until compliance is verified.
2. Denial of registration for continued classes.
3. Potential impacts on financial aid eligibility.

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

BOARD POLICY NO. 4904

G. Disciplinary Committee Composition

Each campus maintains its own Disciplinary Committee to handle violations occurring on that campus. The committee is responsible for reviewing alleged violations of this policy, determining appropriate sanctions, and ensuring fair and consistent application of disciplinary actions within the context of each campus.

To carry out these responsibilities effectively, each campus has a Disciplinary Committee with the following composition:

Role	National Campus	CTEC	State Campuses
Chair	Director of Student Life	Coordinator of Student Life	Student Services Coordinator
Faculty Representative	One faculty member appointed by the Dean of Academic Program	One faculty member appointed by CTEC Dean or Instructional Coordinator	One faculty member appointed by Campus Dean or Instructional Coordinator
Student Representative	One student independently appointed by the VPEMSS, not under the chair	One student independently appointed by the CTEC Dean, not under the chair	One student independently appointed by the Campus Dean, not under the chair

See AP No. 4904

~~Students are not permitted to smoke pipes, cigars, cigarettes, or any other tobacco products in COM FSM buildings. At some campuses smoking is only permitted in designated outside smoking areas. Students are not permitted to chew betel nut or any type of chewable tobacco, except in designated areas.~~

~~Violations:~~

- ~~A. *First Offense.* A first offense will not be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and is handled by the VP for Enrollment Management and Student Services or the Campus Dean/Director.~~
- ~~1. The maximum punishment that may be levied by the administration is a written reprimand to be placed into the student's personal file, and up to two hours of supervised work detail, to be completed within one month.~~
- ~~B. *Second Offense.* A second violation of the chewing of betel nut and/or tobacco use policy is one that occurs within the same semester of the first offense. A second violation of the chewing of betel nut and/or tobacco use policy will result in a referral to the Disciplinary Committee. Penalties will range up to the following:~~

COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM

BOARD POLICY NO. 4904

1. ~~A written reprimand, which will go in the student's personal file.~~
 2. ~~Up to four hours of supervised work detail, which must be completed within one month.~~
 3. ~~Up to two hours of drug/alcohol education/counseling, this must be completed within three months of the decision by the Disciplinary Committee.~~
- C. ~~*Third Offense.* A third violation of the chewing of betel nut and/or tobacco use policy is one that occurs within the same school year of the previous offenses. A third violation of the chewing of betel nut and/or tobacco use policy will result in a referral to the Disciplinary Committee. Penalties will range up to the following:~~
1. ~~A written reprimand, which will go in the student's personal file.~~
 2. ~~Up to six hours of supervised work detail, which must be completed within one month.~~
 3. ~~Up to four hours of drug/alcohol education/counseling, this must be completed within three months of the decision by the Disciplinary Committee.~~
 4. ~~Any other restrictions reasonably necessary to enforce the goals implicit in this policy.~~
- D. ~~*More Than Three Offense.* In the event any student commits and is to be disciplined for more than three offenses during a school year, the Disciplinary Committee may use its discretion and impose an appropriate penalty.~~
- E. ~~*Failure to Comply with Assigned Disciplinary Actions.* Non-compliance by the student of assigned disciplinary actions can result in the withholding of grades and/or transcripts until written notice of compliance has been filed with VPEMSS or the Campus Dean/Director, who will be responsible to provide the appropriate lists to the Office of Admissions, Records and Retention. The withholding of grades can interfere with the ability of the student to obtain future financial aid for his/her schooling. Failure to complete counseling and other requirements inside the given time constraints under any discipline imposed may result in the denial of the student to register for continued classes.~~