

SBA reports to the Board of Regents: Fostering Excellence and Equity for All Students

College of Micronesia-FSM

Student Body Association (SBA) Report to the Board of Regents: Fostering Excellence and Equity for All Students

December 4-5, 2025, Colonia, Yap, Federated States of Micronesia

“Standing up for student rights and welfare, whether it’s academic policies, campus facilities, or social issues.”

This report presents the key highlights for this semester, outlines recent progress and initiatives, and improvements

Campus highlights: Building engagement and growth.

each of our six campuses has made significant strides in promoting student engagement, leadership, and community development:

1.National campus:

- **Welcome party and completion of the cultural huts:** The Welcome Party & Student Cultural Hut event was held on September 9, 2025, at the Recreation & Gym, bringing together COM-FSM students from both Pohnpei and National Campus, along with the COM Choir and gym staff. The purpose of the activity was to warmly welcome new students and celebrate the completion of the cultural huts, promoting unity and friendship among the student body. The program featured live musical performances by the COM Choir, an open dance floor that encouraged student participation, and provided refreshments for all attendees. As a result, the event successfully fostered cooperation, strengthened peer connections, and created an enjoyable and inclusive atmosphere for students to engage and build new friendships.
- **Halloween party:** The Student Body Association has made significant strides in promoting student engagement, leadership, and community development by organizing dynamic events, such as the Halloween party held on October 31 at the National Gym. The event featured a thrilling haunted house, planned by the Chuuchok students, which attracted many participants who came to support the association's fundraising efforts. In addition to the haunted house, the event included exciting performances, further enhancing the vibrant atmosphere. Through initiatives like this, the association fosters a strong sense of community, encourages student involvement, and provides meaningful

opportunities for students to connect, lead, and grow together. The event was a key example of how student-led efforts can unite the campus and support both fun and important causes.

- **Community Service:** On September 27, 2025, the Chuuk Students Organization (CHUUCHOK) conducted its first community service at the National Campus with the goal of promoting campus cleanliness and encouraging student responsibility. Members cleaned common student areas—from the dorms to the cultural huts—by raking under trees and collecting trash, an effort that strengthened teamwork and cooperation. On the same day, the Yap Students Organization (YSO) held its first community service in Kitti, aiming to strengthen the connection between COM-FSM and the wider Pohnpei community. YSO members assisted a local family by cleaning around their naqs and garden, fostering cultural exchange, appreciation, and a strong bond between the family and the students. On October 4, 2025, the Kosrae Student Organization (KSO) carried out its first community service at the KSO Cultural Hut, focusing on maintaining student spaces through cleaning, digging a drainage ditch, and making minor repairs to ensure a safe and functional environment. On October 24, 2025, CHUUCHOK completed its second community service along the Causeway, supporting the Pohnpei community's ongoing efforts to keep public spaces clean, reinforcing civic responsibility among students. On November 1, 2025, YSO conducted its second community service in Kitti, assisting another family with cleaning around their home; this activity aimed to foster service-minded leadership and unity, with all members participating and receiving warm hospitality from the family. Lastly, on November 3, 2025, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) students carried out a campus-wide cleanup—from the dorms to the cultural huts—to promote environmental awareness and communal pride, with full participation from residence hall students, resulting in strengthened cooperation, shared responsibility, and a cleaner campus environment.

2. Career and technical education:

- **Fun Monday:** The Fun Monday events, held every week since September, aim to create a positive and welcoming campus environment that motivates students at the start of each week. The purpose is to foster student engagement, promote social interaction, and reduce stress while strengthening the sense of community between students, staff, and faculty. Activities like the TRIO program's trivia challenge offer fun ways for students to participate and win prizes, while staff and faculty involvement helps build stronger relationships and shows students that their well-being is a priority. The outcomes of these events include increased student engagement, better attendance, and improved campus morale. These activities also give students something to look forward to each week, ultimately boosting motivation and contributing to a more connected and supportive campus atmosphere.

- **Campus cleanup:** On October 22, the SBA and SBO officers collaborated on a trash pickup event aimed at promoting teamwork, responsibility, and community involvement. The purpose of the activity was to encourage students to take pride in their campus environment and to set an example of active participation in maintaining a clean and welcoming space. Through this initiative, the officers worked together to demonstrate the importance of shared responsibility, inspiring other students to engage in similar efforts in the future. The outcomes included strengthened teamwork between the officers, a cleaner campus, and increased student engagement in keeping the school environment tidy. Most importantly, the event fostered a stronger, more connected campus community, where students felt a sense of pride and ownership in their surroundings.
- **Mental health:** In celebration of World Mental Health Day on October 10th, events organized by the campus nurse and counselor were held throughout the month and included a mindfulness and breathing exercises activity, guest speakers, a presentation by the counselor and a mental health and wellness fair. By promoting balance and well-being, CTEC built a healthier, more caring campus community.
- **Thanksgiving/Christmas celebration:** On November 28, 2025, CTEC students, staff, and faculty gathered at the CTEC gym to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas in a festive event filled with dancing and a variety of delicious food. The celebration was organized collaboratively by students, staff, and faculty, with the Student Body Association (SBA) playing a central role in promoting student engagement, leadership, and community participation. Students were actively involved in planning and coordinating the event, allowing them to strengthen their teamwork, organizational skills, and sense of responsibility. The purpose of the event was to bring the school community together to enjoy a shared cultural celebration and foster meaningful interactions among students, staff, and faculty. Its goal was to strengthen school spirit and unity while providing students with opportunities to develop leadership skills and contribute positively to the CTEC community. Overall, the event successfully promoted collaboration, connection, and a strong sense of belonging across the entire school.

3.FSM fisheries maritime institute (FMI):

- **FMI cadets are helping keep campus running smoothly:** The FMI cadets have been essential in keeping the campus running smoothly through tasks such as washing buses, water-blasting sidewalks, and repairing bulletin boards. These hands-on activities teach valuable skills like teamwork, responsibility, and community spirit, while ensuring the campus remains clean, functional, and welcoming. Their efforts have played a significant role in the beautification of the campus, creating a more attractive and pleasant environment for everyone. Through their work, the cadets have not only enhanced the school's appearance but also fostered stronger relationships and a sense of pride in their shared community. These contributions have led to a

cleaner, more vibrant campus, where students and staff alike feel more connected and motivated.

- **Full-scale emergency exercise:**The FMI cadets participated in the full-scale emergency exercise at Yap Airport, gaining valuable firsthand experience in how real-world emergency situations are managed. The drill helped prepare them for future challenges, ensuring that if a similar disaster occurs, they will be ready to assist and support response efforts with confidence and skill.
- **Cadet activities: Cadet Picnic at Waanyan beach:**On Saturday, November 15, 2025, the FMI cadets went to Waanyan beach for a picnic. For these future seamen, this wasn't just a fun day out. The picnic gave them a chance to take a break from their usual routine, relax, and bond with each other. It also helped them feel connected to home, since these kinds of activities are similar to what they would do back home. It's a great way to boost their morale, show appreciation, and remind them of the pride and normalcy they have in their lives.

4.Chuuk campus:

- **Campus meeting:** Chuuk Campus SBA hosted the November 2025 All-Campus Meeting, which became a key highlight because it gave students an open platform to bring forward important issues, complaints, and concerns. The event encouraged meaningful discussion between students and administration, helping identify priorities for improving the campus experience. During the meeting one of the instructors from the Business department, complained about the AC, and students that aren't coming to his class. The instructor from the English department brought up his concerns of the lack of support by the SBA Officers. His concern was based on how the SBA manages the Intramural Sports Competition, which is held in October 2025. He encouraged the SBA officers to work together in order to support the students in sports activities in the future.
- **Academic Showdown:** The Academic Showdown is an academic enrichment activity held at the Student Center, designed to help students strengthen their exam preparation and improve performance through a fun trivia-style competition. The goal of the event is to motivate students to review major subjects, build confidence, and engage in healthy academic competition. Teachers participate as judges, while SBA officers and maintenance staff assist with setup, materials, and event coordination. This event is beneficial for students because it encourages active learning, teamwork within their regions, and meaningful interaction with faculty members, all while creating an enjoyable and supportive environment for academic growth. The purpose is to enhance readiness for final exams and promote a positive learning culture on campus.
- **Extravaganza:** The Extravaganza, also held at the Student Center, is a community-building event that brings together students, faculty, staff, volunteers, and student performers for an afternoon of activities, entertainment, and social interaction. The goal of this event is to strengthen campus connections and provide students with a space to relax, express

themselves, and participate in co-curricular engagement. Participants include supervisors, event support teams, SBA officers, volunteers helping with food and activities, and students showcasing talents such as singing, dancing, or poetry. This event is valuable for students because it supports their well-being, encourages involvement, and fosters a welcoming campus atmosphere. Its purpose is to build unity, celebrate student participation, and create a memorable experience that enhances overall campus spirit.

5.Yap campus:

- Halloween fun day: The Halloween Fun Day, held on October 31, 2025, in front of the COM-FSM Yap Campus student lounge, brought together campus students for an afternoon of activities designed to promote a sense of belonging, community, and togetherness. The event's goal was to help students become more comfortable with one another and to create an environment where they could interact freely outside the classroom. During the free period from 11:30 to 12:30, students gathered to paint their faces and participate in enjoyable games, including an ice cream eating competition, Shake the Box, and Musical Copra. These activities encouraged laughter, interaction, and friendly competition, contributing to a supportive social atmosphere. After the games, students relaxed, talked with one another, and enjoyed ice cream, further strengthening their connection. The event successfully fostered unity among students, offering them an opportunity to bond and build friendships. However, it was observed that some students were still hesitant to participate fully, suggesting that future events should include a wider variety of activities to ensure all students feel comfortable and encouraged to join.
- Regular Friday Cleanups: The Every Other Friday Clean-Up, held biweekly since September 12, 2025, at the COM-FSM Yap Campus, focuses on maintaining cleanliness in key student areas such as the pavilion (koyeng), benches under the trees, and the volleyball court. This ongoing activity aims not only to keep the campus environment clean and welcoming but also to teach students the importance of maintaining a hygienic space free from germs and illnesses. During each clean-up session, students rake leaves around the campus while socializing, turning the task into a cooperative and enjoyable experience. After gathering the leaves into piles, they work together to dispose of them properly in trash bins or designated biodegradable areas. The initiative has resulted in a consistently clean campus, creating a more conducive environment for learning and allowing students to focus better on their academic responsibilities. The activity is essential because it instills responsibility, promotes environmental awareness, and encourages students to take pride in the upkeep of their shared surroundings.

- Christmas decorating competition: The COM-FSM Yap Campus held a Christmas Decorating Competition from November 24 to 28, 2025, involving students, faculty, and staff. The activity aimed to ignite the Christmas spirit and foster a sense of togetherness among participants. Teams of students were assigned specific areas to decorate, including the CRE building, faculty offices, veranda, student koyeng, student lounge, SS Office, and the admin office. Encouraged to showcase their creativity, students spent several days preparing their decorations. On November 28, the Dean, along with staff members and SBA officers, evaluated each area, awarding points that determined the winning team. The activity successfully encouraged collaboration and camaraderie, as students put aside differences to work together and express the spirit of Christmas through their decorations. This event not only cultivated creativity and teamwork but also promoted a positive and festive environment, helping students develop social skills, a sense of community, and appreciation for shared celebrations.

6.Kosrae campus:

- Spirit Week: From October 21–31, the Student Body Association (SBA) organized a Spirit Week to promote student engagement and campus unity. Each day featured a different theme. For example, Monday was “Aloha Day,” during which students dressed in island-inspired attire. Tuesday was “Twin Day,” where pairs of students coordinated matching outfits. Wednesday’s theme was “Career Day,” allowing students to dress according to their future professions or career aspirations. On Thursday, students participated in “Crazy Hair Day,” showcasing unique and creative hairstyles. The week concluded on Friday with “Halloween Day,” where students wore costumes to celebrate the occasion. This activity is highly beneficial for students as it encourages creativity, self-expression, and participation in campus life. Spirit Week also fosters a sense of community, reduces stress, and strengthens peer relationships by creating a fun and supportive environment.
- Staff-Led support event: The purpose of these three staff- and student-funded activities—free breakfast on the first two days of instruction, Coffee Day, and Coconut Day frozen treats, each held on a different day during the first week of school—was to immediately reduce student stress and financial concerns, demonstrate the school's commitment to supporting their well-being, and ensure that every student could participate. All items provided, including coffee and the coconut frozen treats, were generously donated by staff and students, highlighting our community’s dedication to creating a welcoming and inclusive start to the school year.

Challenges requiring board support

- Classes were frequently disrupted by loud music coming from individuals gathering on the road. Although this issue may not yet have been formally reported to the dean or other campus authorities, it warrants immediate attention. Additionally, this situation further underscores the need to review the land ownership and usage in that area. This recurring disruption not only affects the learning environment but also raises broader concerns regarding campus safety, noise control, and the overall student experience. If left unaddressed, it may contribute to declining class engagement, increased frustration among students and faculty, and a negative perception of the campus environment. To effectively resolve this issue, it is important for campus leadership to collaborate with local authorities, landowners, and community members to determine clear boundaries and responsibilities for the area in question. Establishing designated zones for gatherings, implementing noise regulations, or enhancing campus security presence may be necessary steps to prevent further disturbances. Moreover, improved communication channels—such as a streamlined process for students or faculty to report incidents in real time—would allow the administration to respond more quickly and proactively to issues like this. Taking these measures will help maintain a safe, respectful, and academically focused environment for all members of the campus community.
- There is a clear need for new or improved campus facilities that support recreational and social gatherings, as such spaces are essential for promoting student well-being and strengthening the campus community. Given that the Chuuk campus is not situated on permanent land, A campus needs a dedicated space where students can play sports because physical activity is an essential part of student life. Having a permanent campus is important as it provides stability, allows the school to build proper facilities, and creates a strong sense of community. Access to a gym and sports equipment helps students stay healthy, reduce stress, improve focus, and develop important skills such as teamwork and discipline.. What plans are in place to address this issue and ensure the development of appropriate long-term facilities?.

Improvements

- The new buildings at CTEC and National (For Nursing and Trades and technology programs): The new buildings for Nursing and Trades and Technology programs greatly improve students' learning by providing modern, well-equipped spaces designed specifically for Nursing and trade and technology programs. With updated labs, better technology, and more room for hands-on practice, students gain real-world skills in a comfortable and professional environment. These improvements boost motivation, enhance training quality, and better prepare students for

future careers.

Conclusion

This year brought important achievements and meaningful steps toward improvement. Each area has helped shape a stronger path forward for our college. With continued support and collaboration, we are confident in our ability to build on our progress and address what still needs work.

On behalf of the SBA officers, I want to thank the Board for their time, consideration, and commitment to addressing the issues that matter most to our students. We look forward to continuing our collaboration as we work toward meaningful improvements for our entire college community.

Thank you for your time and continued support.