

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; 03-05 December 2025

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.**

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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.

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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