

Fax Transmission Cover Page
Accrediting Commission For Community and Junior Colleges
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

To: Mr. Wayne Schmidt, President,
College of the Marshall Islands

Date: June 28, 2004

Fax #: 011.692.625.7203

Pages: 3 (includes cover page)

From: Dr. Barbara A. Beno

Subject:

COMMENTS:

Per your request, please find enclosed, the Commission action letter

for College of the Marshall Islands. Hard copy will follow in the mail.

If we can assist you in any way please contact our office.

Thank you in advance.

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June 25, 2004

Dr. Wayne D. Schmidt
President
College of the Marshall Islands
P.O. Box 1258
Majuro, MH 966960

Dear President Schmidt:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 9-11, 2004, reviewed the Progress Report submitted by the college and the report of the evaluation team which visited on April 6-9, 2004. I regret to inform you that, while the report was accepted and the fact that the college has made some progress was noted, the Commission acted to order **Show Cause** and to require that the College of the Marshall Islands submit a Progress Report by **October 15, 2004**. The report will be followed by a visit by Commission representatives.

The Show Cause order is imposed when an institution is in substantial non-compliance with the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, standards, and policies. The Show Cause order requires that the institution show cause as to why its accreditation should be continued. If loss of accreditation is likely to cause the institution to close during the Show Cause period, the institution must make preparations for closure according to the Commission's *Policy on Closing an Institution*, which is enclosed. Reaffirmation of accreditation is delayed during the Show Cause period if show cause is ordered as a result of the institution's comprehensive review. The Commission is required by the United States Department of Education not to allow deficiencies to exist for a total of more than two years.

The Progress Report should address the following Commission concerns about Eligibility Requirements:

Eligibility Requirement #5: Administrative capacity. The college continues to have a serious problem with retention and ability to fill administrative vacancies.

Eligibility Requirement #14: Student Services. The college does not maintain accurate information about student grades and fees. Student services staff need training on new software.

Eligibility Requirement #15: Admissions. The college utilizes systems that are manual and labor intensive. Staff need training on the new software that could provide an automated database.

Dr. Wayne D. Schmidt
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Eligibility Requirement #17: Financial Resources. The college does not have a financial plan that addresses maintenance of the financial solvency and the current college budget does not contain a contingency reserve. The employment of Financial Aid personnel is important to support students receiving financial aid.

Eligibility Requirement #18. Financial Accountability: While the college has made laudable strides in accountability for the 2002-2003 year, the college must continue to ensure that future audits will maintain this level of accountability.

In the Progress Report, the college should also address progress on team recommendations as follows: Recommendations 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 26, 27.

I have previously sent you a copy of the evaluation team report. Additional copies may now be duplicated. The Commission requires you to give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college self study. This group should include the campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that the report and the self study be made available to the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this. Should you want the report electronically to place on your web site or for some other purpose, please contact Commission staff.

The comments contained in the evaluation team report represent the observations of the evaluation team at the time of the Progress visit. The Commission reminds you that an institution may concur or disagree with any part of the team report, but the college is expected to use the report to improve the educational programs and services of the institution.

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

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Beno
Executive Director

BAB/tl

Enclosure

Dr. Ira Hecht, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Board President, College of the Marshall Islands
Dr. Robert Harris, Team Chair
Mr. James Castress, U.S. Department of Education
Team Members