

29 September 1988

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: MARADEL GALE

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MICRONESIA PROGRAM

Outline of the Micronesia Program

The intention of the program is to place advanced graduate students in government offices of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and in the member states of the FSM. There, the students would work on discrete planning-related projects under the supervision of a government official, and with a local counterpart. This would enable the student to transfer planning and administrative skills to the counterpart as well as complete a needed project for the government.

A second part of the program is to create a formal affiliation, under the aegis of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), between the College of Micronesia (COM) and the University of Oregon (or parts of the University). This would facilitate the interchange of faculty members between the member institutions of the COM and the University of Oregon.

Purpose of the Program

There are two basic reasons to develop the Micronesia program. The first is to provide needed technical skills to the Micronesian governments. The second is to provide UO students with an opportunity to utilize their skills in a cross-cultural context, and to learn the necessary cultural adaptation that such an experience requires.

What Has Been Done

Over the past four years, Maradel Gale has been meeting with people in Washington, D.C. to discuss the development of such a program. These meetings were with representatives of various funding and sponsoring agencies, as well as representatives from the FSM to the U.S. In April, 1988, Gale again visited Washington, and made additional important connections for the proposed program.

In May, 1988, Gale, accompanied by student John Haakanson, visited the Federated States of Micronesia to make the necessary island contacts to establish this program. We were very successful in meeting with and obtaining the support of the agencies and persons necessary to implement this program.

How Will the Program be Funded?

The request for proposals from USIA for the 1989 university affiliation program now contains the necessary language to enable us to apply for a grant under that program. This grant application is being developed at this time. The FSM budget officer is preparing the necessary documentation for a request for technical assistance funds from the Department of the Interior, Office of Territorial and International Affairs (OTIA), Technical Assistance Division. This will go to OTIA during the remainder of 1988.

Other grant possibilities being pursued include the Department of Education (FIPSE and Division of International and Territorial Affairs), the Fulbright-

Hays training grant program (group projects abroad), and the Private Sector Programs office of USIA.

What Will Happen Next?

During the spring term, a course will be offered in the Planning, Public Policy and Management department, entitled "Planning and Administration in Developing Countries". This course will be required for persons interested in spending three months in Micronesia in either the summer (June-August, 1989) or fall (September-November, 1989). During the course, we will explore the general questions of planning in developing countries, as well as look specifically at the situation in Micronesia. There will also be a large component on acculturation required to live and work in Micronesia.

Who Will Go to Micronesia?

During the spring term, 1989, there will be an application process for interested students to indicate their desire to participate in this program. We will look for students who have performed well in the domestic Community Workshop program or who have completed internships with agencies within the U.S. Depending on interest, the program may be open to law students and students in the graduate business administration programs. There will be a competitive selection process to choose the four to six students who will go to Pohnpei in June. A similar process will be used to select the students who will spend fall term in Micronesia.

What is the Role of the Faculty?

A faculty member will accompany each group of students and will remain in Micronesia with the group for a month. During this time, in addition to assisting the students to make the necessary cultural accommodations, the faculty member will participate in seminars and workshops with the College of Micronesia and with interested government officials.

What Will it Cost to Participate?

The proposed budget for the program includes coverage for round-trip airfare between Eugene and Pohnpei, transportation of student bicycles (if desired), some car rental, medical and evacuation insurance, and a per diem in an amount more than sufficient to live comfortably in a Micronesian-style hotel in Kolonia and to eat in the several restaurants. There will be no out-of-pocket costs to the students, and they may be able to save money on the per diem. The internships will not be paid, but there will be academic credit available for the experience through the student's department.