

College of the Marshall Islands
Friday January 22nd: 11:10 AM – 12:00 PM
Faculty Senate – Minutes of Discussion

Chair: Adedayo Ogunmokun – FS President

Deputy Chair: Alvin Page – FS Vice President

Minute taker: Alexander Velasquez – FS Secretary and Treasurer

Quorum: 36 participants; quorum reached.

1. **Quorum was reached at 11:16 AM;**
 - i. New faculty members were introduced and the agenda was adopted.
2. **The previous minutes from the last official meeting** were not reviewed because there was confusion as to when the last official meeting took place.
 - i. The last official meeting took place on November 13th, 2020.
 - ii. There was a motion passed to table the official review of these minutes to the next meeting.
3. **Executive Council & Executive Officers' Report**
 - i. There was a reminder for EC to share the online learning policy with the Faculty Senate secretary so that it could be shared with the rest of the faculty. Mr. Doulatram confirmed that the draft policy was both approved and sent to the secretary.
 - ii. Also, the Faculty Senate needs to develop the implementation strategy for the policy.
 - iii. There was an agreement to set up a committee and have the committee discuss this.
 - iv. There was a motion for three Faculty Senate members to form a sub-committee to begin investigation into what the implementation strategy requires Faculty Senate to do; motion seconded; no abstentions.
 - v. The committee will meet and see what Faculty Senate are being asked to do.
 - vi. The suggestions for membership were as follows:
 1. Desmond Doulatram (EC Member)
 2. Curtis Vila
 3. Mylast Bilimon
 - vii. The motion was seconded, no abstentions.
 - viii. Feedback is expected for the deadline of the implementation strategy and the terms of reference for the final group to do it.
4. **Curriculum Committee RSA**
 - i. There was an invitation sent out to all Faculty Senate members:
 1. The curriculum committee is seeking a faculty member to chair the General Education committee. This faculty will work closely with the Liberal Arts department and other CMI academic programs to review and make recommendations to the CMI General Education requirements.
 2. For more information, please contact Florence Peter or other CC members.
 3. This is a paid position.
5. **Institutional Effectiveness Committee**
 - i. The meeting minutes will be posted online for all to see.
 - ii. It was shared with Faculty Senate President, Vice President, and Secretary
6. **Plant & Facilities Committee**
 - i. No update on keys (to classrooms and bathrooms);
 - ii. President Ogunmokun asks for a follow up as soon as possible.
7. **Information Technology Committee**
 - i. IT should be more proactive to make sure that everything works before the semester starts.
 - ii. Also, the remote controls should be working for the projectors.
 - iii. Mr. Vila noted that the IT helpdesk has a ticket prioritization that is done based on the availability of the staff; hence, sometimes there are both slow and fast response times.
 1. As a result, IT has allowed faculty the ability to reset student passwords for Gmail accounts.
 2. Hence, forgotten passwords are no longer an excuse for students to not do their work on computers during class times.
 3. IT should make this open information for all Faculty.

- iv. Concerns were brought up about classrooms, especially air conditioners and computers.
 - v. Only half of the computers work in WH classrooms.
 - vi. Most of the times, faculty must send students to the computer lab to write reports, and sometimes those computer labs are booked.
 - vii. Faculty should use the IT helpdesk to address their concerns over computer issues, projector issues, and any technical issues they have in class.
8. For other issues, such as air conditioners that do not work, faculty should use the HIPPO system.
- i. HIPPO should be updated soon so that it could be compatible with Google Chrome and all faculty will be trained.
 - ii. HIPPO is a powerful tool for data collection, hence, why IT is using helpdesk.
 - iii. However, some faculty members raised issues that it only works quickly on Google or that it is slow and/or does not work on certain browsers.
 - iv. Other complaints were that sometimes it only works if it has been bookmarked, and sometimes the current link does not work.
 - v. President Ogunmokun will send the bookmarked link (that works for him) to the rest of the faculty.
9. Revisiting the change to CMI's College Hour was tabled for next meeting.
10. The Participatory Governance Committee informed the Faculty Senate that the committee is not for shared government but for reviewing administration instead.
11. President Ogunmokun updated the Faculty Senate regarding the last informal meeting he had with the President of the College: Dr. Taafaki. Below are the major points from the meeting:
- i. Review of RSA for faculty Senate:
 - 1. President Ogunmokun thinks we should be the one to decide for ourselves as faculty instead of waiting for the Participatory Governance review so that we don't redo anything from the college structure and the way things have to be done.
 - ii. PMS
 - 1. There should be relevance and fairness with how the PMS evaluation of our work as faculty is done.
 - 2. There should not be a feeling of punishment and a sense of great demand that removes us from the core being of teaching.
 - 3. There will be a review of PMS so that faculty will be involved in the review.
 - iii. Online Policy Implementation Plan
 - 1. We were given the go-ahead for this.
 - iv. Request for Faculty Financial Issues
 - 1. President Taafaki's view is that the salary scale needs to be changed in the upward direction, and many of the financial issues may not be there with this change.
 - 2. President Taafaki will pursue it this change, and faculty may be involved.
 - v. Change to the Semester System
 - 1. Dr. Elizabeth is thinking about an eight-week class system (a quarter system); departments are being advised on other courses that will be taught in sixteen weeks.
 - 2. The sixteen week courses will work at the same time as the eight-week long courses.
 - 3. We may even have instructors who do both.
 - vi. Independent Study
 - 1. Faculty has brought up the issue in the past that there is no compensation for independent study.
 - 2. The issue was brought to Dr. Taafaki, and she informed President Ogunmokun that usually independent study looks good for tenure, but there is no tenure system here at CMI.
 - 3. So, there was an idea for the possibility that this could count toward PMS or if there could be another kind of compensation for independent study.
 - 4. Dr. Taafaki will look into this.
 - vii. Housing Compensation for non-Majuro Marshallese Faculty
 - 1. Non-Majuro Marshallese must pay rent to live on Majuro or room with any family on the atoll.

2. However, non-Majuro Marshallese faculty have asked for the possibility for CMI to provide housing instead.
 3. Unfortunately, this is not possible because it is a policy issue.
 4. Also, Dr. Taafaki believes that if salary increases, it will not be a problem.
 5. In the case of settling faculty from Majuro to Ebeye, housing is provided. But to settle faculty from, say, Ebeye to Majuro is too problematic.
12. President Ogunmokun reminded faculty that, in our classes, we try to promote entrepreneurship, Marshallese language, agriculture, and marine resources.
 - i. Maybe we could supplement texts and readings with material related to the subject.
 - ii. This would be a good idea to incorporate in the Faculty Teaching & Learning series.
 13. The Pre-Engineering Program has been planned to start.
 - i. Faculty need information on the time that must be committed to the program.
 14. We need a faculty member to replace Dr. Hazzard and lead the Faculty Teaching & Learning series.
 15. We should, as a faculty, recognize Dr. Hazzard's effort here as a faculty member at CMI.
 - i. There was a motion for the officers to sign and draft a letter of appreciation to Dr. Hazzard for all her effort and contributions to the college.
 - ii. The motion was seconded, no abstentions.
 16. Students are not cleaning up after they meet.
 - i. We should talk to our students in class about cleaning up after themselves.
 - ii. Maybe prizes could be given as reward for cleaning the environment.
 17. CMI has appointed someone to take minutes as Faculty Senate. Therefore, the secretary is no longer responsible for the minutes of each meeting.
 18. **Adjournment at 12:03 PM.**