

**College of the Marshall Islands**  
**Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023: 11:10 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**Faculty Senate – Minutes of Discussion**

**Chair:** Alvin Page – FS President

**Deputy Chair:** Rebecca Raab – FS Vice President

**Minute Taker:** Alexander Velasquez – FS Secretary and Treasurer

**Quorum:** 27 required, 27 in attendance

1. Quorum was reached, and the meeting was called to order at 11:25 AM.
2. The College Mission Statement was read.
3. Review of the Minutes from January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  - i. The minutes were approved and seconded with one abstention.
4. Special/Urgent Business
  - i. Faculty Senate Discussion with Dr. Hamilton
    1. This discussion took place before quorum was reached; as a result, no official minutes were taken during the discussion.
      - a. However, the gist of Dr. Hamilton's discussion was that faculty observations are a part of her job description, and one of her main goal's is to improve attendance at CMI as a whole. She believes that one way to do this is to observe what the instructors with high attendance do in their classrooms and to see if those same methods of teaching could be incorporated into courses with low attendance to help those instructors also have high attendance in their classrooms.
  - ii. Announcement Prior to Meeting with John Villafania on February 10th
    1. A document titled "Faculty SONIS Questions/Issues" has been shared with all faculty. This will be for all faculty to voice their concerns about SONIS with anonymity before the next Faculty Senate meeting with John Villafania on February 10<sup>th</sup> where he will address all faculty concerns.
5. New Business
  - i. Planning the Faculty Retreat
    1. It has been confirmed that faculty have \$5,000 toward the retreat.
      - a. This year's Faculty Retreat will be aimed toward identifying and dealing with stressors.
        - i. As a result, a Google Doc was shared to all faculty so they could anonymously add to a list of what is stressing them out, and the retreat will be aimed at how to successfully deal with those stressors.
  - ii. Taxes
    1. One instructor noticed that they were getting paid less this semester.
      - a. A discussion about taxes ensued.
        - i. One instructor pointed out that the amount to be deducted from taxes is indicated on the faculty contract.
    2. Another instructor pointed out that rent is going up. One instructor's landlord wants to increase the rent.
      - a. This same issue was brought up in last year's Faculty Senate. Here is where the issue ended last year per the minutes from March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022:
        - i. The housing discussion is off the table for now because the Housing Policy was approved by the Executive Council (EC) last week:
          1. \$750.00/month for a single renter,
          2. a maximum of \$1000.00/month for two people sharing an accommodation when both people are under full-time contract

with the College or up to \$500 when the spouse/partner is working for another organization and also receiving a housing benefit.

- a. Anything more than these amounts will be taxed by the RMI government.
  - i. Maybe another discussion could be had about how more can be provided from the College for faculty. These could come in the form of non-cash benefits, such as the vouchers provided for by the ENRA program.
  - ii. However, one faculty member raised the issue that even if the money is taxed, the money will still be beneficial to us faculty. Nevertheless, the housing policy has already been approved at EC.

b. This issue will be brought up at EC again.

6. Institutional Effectiveness Committee

- i. Per the minutes from October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022: Rosina Korean was renominated as the Faculty Senate representative.
  1. The RSA for IEC only requires one Faculty Senate representative, but the RSA for IEC states that one of its members needs to be the Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee (CC). **Since Rosie Koroï is currently the Chairperson of CC, Ms. Koroï now needs to be a member of IEC.**

7. Enrollment Management Committee

- i. EMC met last week and talked about student housing; it was mostly a student-centered list of concerns.
- ii. Elizabeth recommended a member of physical plant join the committee so as to address any issues in the dormitories that students experience, as Arrak students, for example, live in the campus dorms at Arrak but complain that they lived at MIR for the same price but had much better living conditions.
  1. The letter on behalf of the faculty body in a show of support for the students is yet to be drafted.

8. Adjournment

- i. Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 PM.