

College of the Marshall Islands
Friday, February 10th, 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 at 11:25 AM.
2. Special/Urgent Business
 - i. Discussion Regarding Student Discipline Featuring Dean Angela
 1. We are a smoke-free, betel nut free, alcohol-free campus; yet, the use of illegal substances is still a big issue on campus.
 - a. In the case that a student shows up drunk to class or is caught chewing betel nut or some altercation takes place between students, you may call campus security. You may also email the counselors, and they will sit down with the student.
 - i. In many cases, the students come clean about their actions.
 - ii. In other cases, other witnesses are called in to confirm what took place.
 - iii. In the past, students have been sent to jail for being inebriated on campus.
 1. But now students are given warning letters and are offered counseling to improve. The disciplinary committee will sometimes require a student to participate in school campus activities and student life. This could help them avoid alcohol.
 - a. Some students improve, but some do not.
 2. There are different levels of violation, and the worst-case scenario is expulsion.
 - b. Counselors do not deal with learning issues, such as autism and the like. But learning issues and behavior issues can sometimes go hand-in-hand, in which case CMI has specialists off campus who can deal with it.
 - ii. Discussing Issues with SONIS Featuring John Villafania (John went through the Faculty SONIS Questions/Issues question-by-question, and his responses are presented below in the numerical order they appeared on the Faculty SONIS Questions/Issues document shared with the Faculty Senate.):
 1. The waitlist option for registration into classes is challenging and perhaps made redundant by the add and drop process in the first week of class, unless the department chairs are monitoring this closely (as only the chairs can act on the waitlist). If a department chair is in class throughout the day teaching or engaged otherwise, and individual instructors are adding/dropping students from their individual classes, then there is a sort of mismatch or the waitlist is not acted on at all.
 - a. **Response:** Waitlisting involves a lot of backend processing. Currently, I (John) am the one processing all waitlist requests on a first come first serve basis. This is usually done at the end of the day. Department chairs and registrar have access to it as well.
 - i. **Another Faculty Concern Regarding the Waitlist:** You can't see the student names on the waitlist, so if one student needs the class more

than another, there is no way to prioritize certain students over the others on the waitlist.

1. **Response:** It would be an additional cost to upgrade the SONIS system and view the students on the waitlist.
2. I submitted two consecutive M/W absentees to the registrar on the first week of class. Registrar dropped the student, but the "no show student" got re-registered again with help by department chair, thus making add/drop useless.
 - a. **Response:** This is a CMI procedure problem, not SONIS problem. This should be addressed to the chairs directly or to student services. A comments system is in place to alleviate the issue.
3. According to the students, they used to have their financial balance after the deduction of their tuition and other fees reflected in the SIS, the previous system, but now they cannot view or monitor their balance through SONIS.
 - a. **Response:** Students do have access to their financial information. (John gave a live demonstration of this feature during the meeting.)
4. The course schedule online doesn't include classrooms; it only shows time and days.
 - a. **Response:** This has been resolved; schedules now show room locations.
5. Is there a way faculty can make a note that there are some classes they will need the permission of the instructor to register for and put it on the course schedule when students are registering for classes?
 - a. **Response:** If you want to block students from enrolling in a course, permission by the instructor must be accepted as a prerequisite before enrollment. This would prevent all students from registering in the class.
6. Some classes have prerequisites such as English 90s or Placement in Credit Level English. However, some students, either students interested in enrolling in a certain class and/or advisees interested in other instructors' classes, had problems enrolling because they did not take English 90s, but when faculty looked at their transcripts, they had already placed at Credit Level English. For some reason, SONIS did not recognize the Placement at Credit Level. By the time faculty figured out what the problem was, classes were full. In the end, faculty had to fill out add/drop forms for the students. These students tried enrolling on the first day of registration, but this problem prevented them from registering.
 - a. **Response:** Placement levels are manually being migrated from SIS to SONIS, and sometimes the incorrect placement levels are given to students, hence why they are blocked from enrolling in certain classes.
7. It would be good to know what majors are in our classroom. Can SONIS assign the majors to the students' names on our class rosters?
 - a. **Response:** There is a way to display a student's active program on the course roster. However, this will require a lot of data entry via the admission and records department.
8. This number was skipped during the Faculty Senate meeting.
9. Business major students with a grade of 'D' in ICS101 were able to enroll in ICS104; however, they should have a 'C' to earn a 'Pass' in ICS101 for business majors.
 - a. **Response:** This has been solved. It was an option that the IT staff had to check for every registration period.
10. The rest of John's replies have been copied and pasted on the Faculty SONIS Questions/Issues document shared with the Faculty Senate. Any additional questions can be addressed to John.

3. Adjournment

- i. Meeting Adjourned at 12:10 PM.