

College of the Marshall Islands
Friday, October 13th, 2023: 11:10 AM – 12:00 PM
Faculty Senate: Minutes of Discussion

Chair: Alvin Page – FS President

Deputy Chair: Viviana Uriona – FS Vice President

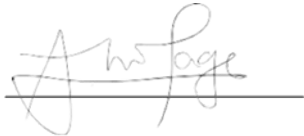
Minute Taker: Alexander Velasquez – FS Secretary and Treasurer

Quorum: 26 required, 30 in attendance.

1. Quorum was reached, and the meeting was made official at 11:24 AM.
 - i. (Quorum had been reached earlier, but there were audio issues that kept the meeting from becoming official until 11:24 AM.)
2. The College Mission Statement was read.
3. Review of the Minutes from September 22nd, 2023.
 - i. The minutes were approved and seconded with no abstentions.
4. New Business
 - i. Mellessia Crawford introduced herself. She is a member of the Education Department.
5. Reports/Actionable Items:
 - i. Executive Council & Executive Officers' Report
 1. EC met on Wednesday, October 4th. The report was shared for circulation, including the following policies:
 - a. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
 - b. Public Complaints Policy
 - c. Policy on Social Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion Draft
 2. Please comment on the above-mentioned policies.
6. Discussion
 - i. The Faculty Senate Bylaws
 1. A link to the FS bylaws, as well as a Google Doc of the bylaws that Moarieta shared with us long time ago, has been emailed to all faculty.
 - a. The Faculty Senate has decided to leave them the way they are.
 - i. David Sinkey will finish his letter titled "Conditional Recommendation" that has been circulated to all faculty. Once the letter is finished, the Faculty Senate will look at future changes to the bylaws.
 - ii. Faculty Senate RSA (Role, Scope, and Authority)
 1. Motion: To keep the Faculty Senate RSA the same.
 - a. The motion was approved and seconded without abstention.
 - iii. Housing Allowance
 1. An increase from \$750 to \$850 for housing has been approved, but no official word has been given from the College as of yet.
 - a. President Alvin will email HR and ask them to send out an official email.
 - iv. Faculty/Landlord Relationship
 1. There was a back-and-forth discussion as to what the relationship was among CMI, faculty, and landlords.
 - a. The main responsibility CMI has to the landlords is to supply the payment(s) for rent.
 - i. This is because if CMI gave faculty the rent payment as a part of their salary, the money would be taxed.
 - b. However, in the situation where there are conflicts or disputes, faculty members are left to deal with the issue for themselves.
 - i. For example, if there is a late rent payment or the rent is higher than CMI's allotted housing amount, then the faculty member is left to deal

with the issue and reimburse the landlord in the case that they demand payment.

1. This opened more discussion as to what CMI's role should be, and most faculty were of the belief that CMI should play a larger role in the faculty/landlord relationship, such as handling conflicts or disputes, especially regarding issues around payments.
 2. There should be an official policy or contract obligation coming directly from HR.
 - a. President Alvin will try to get HR to come to the next meeting and address any or all faculty concerns and to get an official policy on housing.
- v. Faculty Senate Ombudsman
1. One idea put forth related to the above concerns was to have a Faculty Senate Ombudsman that would listen to and discuss the university-related concerns of faculty members and librarians and help them address those concerns.
 - a. They would deal with the concerns or conflicts in various ways including assisting in the identification and evaluation of options.
 - i. This position will be sorted out later.
- vi. MISSA Taxes
1. CMI has paid MISSA taxes for the first and second quarters.
 - a. According to FABS Director Pradeep: CMI prepared a \$300,000 check for MISSA last Tuesday. Faculty contributions to MISSA will not reflect on the system in a few weeks, so the referral office will not honor your attempt to renew your health card due to missing contributions on the printout for MISSA.
7. Adjournment
- i. Meeting Adjourned at 12:04 PM.



Alvin Page
Faculty Senate President



Alexander Velasquez
Faculty Senate Secretary/Treasurer