



CMI

College of the Marshall Islands

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The College of the Marshall Islands Faculty Senate

Regular Meeting October 24, 2025

Supposed Meeting Start: 11:10 AM
Face-to-Face Meeting Location: RH 119 CMI Uluga Campus
Zoom Meeting ID: 237 313 9684 Zoom Passcode: 874523
Polycom-Rooms @ Arrak Campus & CMI D.E. Centers
Simple Minority Quorum

MINUTES

Present During the Meeting: 29 (8 via Zoom)

Not Present/Unexcused During the Meeting: 21

On Leave & Excused, Others: 0

Time Meeting Started: 11:15 AM

I. Introductions:

- a. **Faculty Senate President: Dr. Viviana Uriona** welcomed the Senate members and informed the body that meeting is now in session and recording via Zoom will commence.
- b. The **FS Secretary** read the College's Mission statement.

II. Deliberations/Actionable Items

a. August 22, 2025 Approval of the Meeting Minutes

President Uriona: The October 2, 2025, FS meeting minutes was presented for further comments, changes, and adoption. The minutes mostly captured the engagement of the FS body with Interim CMI President Meitaka Kendall-Lekka.

FS Secretary: A copy was shown on the screen. Informed the Senate body that the minutes contain notes that state the audio recording was weak and/or inaudible due to technical reasons, and sometimes multiple (approx. 5) faculty speaking at the same time. Members of the Senate are encouraged to observe speaking turns.

President Uriona: Found all the topics discussed in the previous meeting to be present in the proposed minutes. President Uriona asked the body for any motion to approve the minutes.

Faculty 1: Motioned

Faculty 2: Seconded

The October 2, 2025, Faculty Senate Special meeting minute was unanimously adopted without abstention or anyone voting against it.

b. Approval of the Proposed Revisions of the Faculty Senate Bylaws

President Uriona: Reminded the Senate body that the proposed revisions were shared with the Senate multiple times and over a month ago. She asked if the Senate body needs to approve the revisions altogether or separately (per change in each Article of the Bylaws).

FS Secretary: Altogether, as the revisions were shared, and discussed as a whole document by the FS Body.



President & VP: Opened the floor for further comments, discussions, and changes related to the proposed revisions. The next step is to create a final version for voting.

FACULTY SENATE WEBSITE-DELIBERATION

Summary:

The Faculty Senate debated the addition of a New Article X1 to its bylaws, which proposes creating an Official Faculty Senate Website. Concerns revolved around potential conflict with CMI's IT policies regarding public posting and required departmental approvals. The Secretary confirmed compliance with existing policies is underway and clarified that the proposed Faculty Senate Website is a robust internal communication and documentation tool, distinct from the basic existing webpage on cmi.edu. This new website is hosted on a CMI server but managed internally. It was agreed that Senate body approval is required for its use, even for internal purposes. Making the site public would necessitate additional approvals and a link on cmi.edu. The Secretary also confirmed the Faculty Senate YouTube channel is unlisted (internal) for security, unless the Senate decides otherwise. Finally, the President raised a security concern regarding the long-term ability of individuals to request changes or deletion of content featuring them on the site.

MEMBERSHIP

Summary:

The Faculty Senate debated revising its Membership Article concerning adjunct faculty representation. The need for revision stems from the current lack of an elected adjunct representative and the adjunct body's status as under-represented and less organized. The proposed changes aim to ensure greater equality and transparency in representation, such as establishing a ratio (e.g., one representative per 20 adjuncts). The Secretary and Faculty 4 noted that many current adjuncts are academic administrators or outsiders, emphasizing the need for a dedicated representative to champion adjunct causes. The FS President believes the revision will encourage adjuncts to organize and elect a representative.

SIMPLE MINORITY QUORUM and SIMPLE MINORITY VOTE

Summary:

The Faculty Senate discussed its simple minority quorum rule, confirming its use for both meeting start times and voting (Article X), which the President noted has helped maintain majority attendance and operational efficiency. The President confirmed that no formal FS meetings are held during the summer term due to historically low faculty presence, though informal communication continues for critical issues. To move forward with the revised documents, a motion was raised and passed unanimously (zero against, zero abstentions) to clean up the document (removing all comments and finalizing the text) before sending the definitive version to the Senate body for an online vote the following week.

FACULTY SENATE WEBSITE

Summary:

The Faculty Senate formally deliberated the adoption of a new Faculty Senate Website. The FS Secretary advocated for the website as an essential repository for institutional knowledge, a tool for internal communication, and a means for presenting the body to the wider community if desired. A key clarification sought by Faculty 5 addressed sharing with external



users while maintaining an internal designation; the Secretary confirmed that FS officers, not the CMI webmaster, would handle specific external sharing requests via email. The session concluded with a motion by Faculty 7, seconded by Faculty 5, to adopt the Faculty Senate website as a new form of internal communication tool to advance the Senate's functions, specifically noting its value for posterity, academic knowledge, continuity, and Performance Management System (PMS) purposes. The motion passed with two abstentions and no opposing votes. Post-vote suggestions were focused on branding and visual guide aimed to improve the logo of the adopted site.

3-HOUR BLOCK CLASS

The meeting discussed the impact of adopting three-hour block periods for associate classes, particularly for second language learners and students with children. Concerns included increased cognitive load, fatigue, and disruptions. Despite data showing higher failure rates in eight-week courses, the administration insists on this format. Proposals included consolidating data to present to the EC and exploring alternative scheduling to accommodate different needs. The motion passed to gather and present evidence to support a return to 16-week terms, emphasizing the need for a unified faculty approach.

Action Items

- [] Gather data on the performance and feedback of students in the 8-week and 3-hour block formats
- [] Consolidate the data and present it to the administration to advocate for a more flexible approach
- [] Identify one person from each department to take responsibility for gathering and presenting the data

III. Closing Discussions

The closing discussions started with the late awarding and celebration for Jennifer Seru. Following this, Faculty Senate President Uriona announced that two major policy discussions—the Workload Policy and the Contract Renewal Policy—remain "on the table," and all other scheduled agenda items will be deferred until the next meeting. The primary focus of the discussion shifted to the search for a new CMI President, prompted by a faculty inquiry. Faculty Senate Vice President Sinkey, who is representing the Senate on the search committee, confirmed that a selection is anticipated by the summer term. The position is publicly open, though not yet posted on the website, and the body was reminded that President Meitaka's interim term will conclude on December 31st or upon the selection of the new leader. The meeting was then adjourned.

The October 24, 2025, Faculty Senate regular meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM

Submitted By:

Concurred By:

Approval Date:

Curtis Vila
Faculty Senate Secretary
SY 2025-2026

Vivian Uriona
Faculty Senate President
SY 2025-2026