



CMI

College of the Marshall Islands

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P.O. Box 1258
Uluga Campus
Majuro, Marshall Islands, MH 96960

Tel: (692) 625-3394/3291/4931
Fax: (692) 625-7203
Email: itcommittee@cmi.edu



The College of the Marshall Islands Faculty Senate

Regular Meeting November 28, 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: 20 (9 via Zoom)

Not Present/Unexcused During the Meeting: 30

On Leave & Excused, Others: 1

Time Meeting Started: 11:15 AM

(Note: The FS Meeting was simultaneous with the Preparation for CMI Festival of Arts)

Summary:

The meeting prioritized several critical areas of institutional governance and academic operations. Key policy discussions included concerns about the emerging lack of meetings among standing committees caused by cancellations and/or lack of quorum. The Faculty Senate Officers confirmed progress on bylaws changes presented at the highest governance body of the College (EC) specifically to clarify the Vice President's role and address voting representation, publication, and supporting details on minority vote and deletion of an email address.

Repeatedly, sought were the reports of elected representatives from the Standing Committees. Reports were shared, such as no meetings or quorum was not met at or from the EC, ITC who are currently gathering laptop inventory, while a College-Syllabus Template open for comments was shared with the FS body, plus a note about an A.I. policy being developed by the LEAP committee. The proponents of new business items were called to the floor to present their topic/s but was not present. Administratively, a crucial need was identified for a consultation from the Labor Office to guide job security and repatriation laws. Furthermore, a survey was proposed and shared on screen to gather faculty feedback on the impact of the three-hour, eight-week AP class format, indicating an immediate focus on assessing innovative course structures. The calendar discussion is still ongoing, with a focus on maintaining the current schedule while accepting changes for future semesters. Comments were requested for the draft copy of the SPED policy.

A significant portion of the discussion centered on *faculty welfare*, with the complex Workload Policy identified as the most urgent item requiring further dedicated session at the Executive Council meeting and a clear, unified report for the EC. This policy discussion faced procedural complications, but the necessity of reaching a final decision was stressed. Operational necessities included compiling a list of faculty needing contract renewals. Logistical challenges were also discussed, particularly the need to resolve transportation issues for classes held outside CMI Uluga campus, which requires follow-up with the Dean and department chair, potentially including the awareness and/or usage of an online booking system for College-owned vehicles.

Finally, financial and administrative logistics were clarified for the faculty. Updates were provided on housing payment refunds, confirming that reimbursements are possible for October and November—due to a recent increase in the rent allowance to \$1,200—and would be processed.



The meeting concluded with a reminder to report any refund issues to HR and a request for an official update on the status of Dependents' tuition fee refunds. The overall tone emphasized the importance of clear communication, coordinated committee action, and timely resolution of issues affecting faculty and students.

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.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **FS President** requested a final review of the minutes and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.
- **Faculty 1** made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by **Faculty 2**
- The minutes from November 14, 2025, FS Regular Meeting were officially approved without abstention.

II. Deliberations/Actionable Items

Actionable Items Includes:

- Send the survey on 3-hour and 8-week courses to faculty for feedback and comments.
- Follow up on inviting a representative from the Labor Office to provide guidance on job security and repatriation laws.
- Provide an update on the outcome of the vote and recommendation from the Enrollment Management Committee (EMC) regarding the academic calendar.
- Continue discussions on the faculty workload policy and schedule a special session to address the various issues.
- Provide an official report on the committee's final decision regarding the workload policy.
- Follow up with the department chair, dean of WAVES, and others to address the transportation challenges for students traveling between the main campus and Maritime classrooms.
- Provide a listing of available College-vehicles and explore/utilize an online booking system.
- Communicate the housing payment refund process to all faculty who paid more than the previous allowance in October and November.
- Request an update on the potential refund of Dependent tuition fees.

III. Closing: FS President: Gave thanks to the Honorable Members of the Faculty Senate for their high participation and attendance and expressed words of encouragement for FS representatives.

The November 28, 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