



CMI

College of the Marshall Islands

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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 January 30, 2026

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

MEETING MINUTES

Present During the Meeting: 22 (5 Zoom Attendees, 2 Officially Excused)

Not Present/Unexcused During the Meeting: 22

On Leave & Excused, Others: 0

Time Meeting Started: 11:20 AM

(Notes uncaptured by the Zoom recording)

1. Although majority of the Senate members arrived early, the meeting started late due to an unexpected change of venue. Consensus: Due to current situation at the College, the Senate will possibly be able to hold its future meetings at the Board Room as originally was.
2. Between 11:25-11:35 am, the faculty Senate members were invited by the Faculty Senate President to use their respective laptops to participate in the survey regarding 8-week vs 15-week course format.

Summary (Zoom captured)

The meeting discussed the new mission of the online college of the Marshall Islands, emphasizing research. The Senate reviewed and approved previous minutes, with some abstentions. The Senate debated whether to include "research" as a standalone theme or integrate it with the METO Theme already focused on "extended access to learning." Concerns were raised about faculty workload and the feasibility of conducting research given current teaching loads. At an academic program level, data on student success metrics were presented, highlighting high achievement in collaborative group activities and presentations. The workload policy was also discussed, with concerns about its implementation, legal implications, and impact on faculty rights.

I. Introductions:

- a. **Faculty Senate President: Dr. Viviana Uriona** welcomed the Senate members and informed the body that the 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 January 16, 2026, FS Regular Meeting were officially approved with 1 abstention.



II. Deliberations/Actionable Items

Faculty Senate President invited updates from different committees, highlighting emails sent by multiple faculty Senate representatives especially that about the 2026 summer schedule.

CMI METO & Research

FS Representative to IEC explains the streamlining of the education METO into the CMI strategic imperatives and the need to emphasize research as it is part of the CMI mission. Faculty Rep presented the Marshallese stick chart capturing the concepts from the CMI METO, highlighting the lack of research in the theme. Faculty Rep discussed the importance of research and the need to have it as a standalone theme to set goals and targets or if it be incorporated with an already existing theme in the METO.

- Faculty 1 raised concerns about the feasibility of research given the current course loads and student success focus.
- Faculty President clarifies that research includes literature reviews and critical thinking, which are already part of various courses.
- Faculty 2 questions the focus of research, whether on faculty or a combination of faculty and students.
- Faculty Senate Vice President raised concerns on institutional level of support structures for the idea to have Research as a major or standalone theme by itself in the METO.
- FS Representative suggests that research should be a standalone theme to ensure institutional support and clear goals.

Further discussions arrived to a consensus that the proposed “Research” as a component of the METO can be incorporated in the METO through an already existing theme focused on “extended access to learning”.

Data and Student Success Metrics

- FS Representative to IEC presents data on degree programs and their success in meeting program learning outcomes (PLOs), highlighting collaborative group activities and presentations as successful methods.
- Faculty questions the source and accuracy of the data, noting that it only reflects students who completed tasks, not the entire enrolled population.
- Faculty emphasizes the importance of understanding the entire student population, including those who drop out or fail courses.
- Faculty suggests adding a note to the data to reflect the number of students enrolled initially, not just those who completed tasks.
- Faculty encourages members to detect gaps, biasness and carefully evaluate data and charts being presented by academic administrators in meetings like in-service, or symposiums, retreats, noting for instance the reporting of student course completion success in an 8-week course format instead of 16 when in fact the student was already unsuccessful in passing the course on the first term and that such success only happened in the second term 8-week course format through a safety net course section designed to catch those who failed the same course in the first term.



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Workload Policy and HRC Process

- Faculty Senate President provides a brief update on the workload policy, mentioning the need for a final paper from HRC that was not provided by previous administrators.
- Faculty expresses frustration with the lack of transparency and the need for data from all department to support the Faculty Senate's points about the workload policy.
- Faculty suggests inviting the VPAA to the senate to discuss the workload policy and address concerns.
- Faculty Senate Vice President emphasizes the importance of critically evaluating the workload policy and its impact on faculty rights and freedoms.

Proposal to Support a longer meeting period of the Faculty Senate

- Faculty proposed a change in scheduling of Friday classes to accommodate the possibility of having a longer meeting time period for the Faculty Senate which would benefit the College.

II. 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. Check email for summer schedule updates.

The January 30, 2026, Faculty Senate regular meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM

Submitted By:

Curtis Vila
Faculty Senate Secretary
SY 2025-2026

Concurred By:

Vivian Uriona
Faculty Senate President
SY 2025-2026

Approval Date:

February 13, 2026