



CMI

College of the Marshall Islands

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

P.O. Box 1258
Uliga 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 16, 2026

Supposed Meeting Start: 11:10 AM
Face-to-Face Meeting Location: RH 119 CMI Uliga 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

Summary:

The meeting discussed the transition from cycle 6 to cycle seven for SLO assessments, emphasizing the importance of foresight in SLO planning. It was noted that courses offered in multiple sections should use a common assessment tool. Training and refresher courses will be offered in the Spring semester 2026. A proposal to change the summer academic calendar to two sessions was debated, with concerns about class time and student workload. The proposal aims to accommodate late-arriving students and in-service teachers, with classes running Monday to Thursday. The meeting discussed the differences between previous summer schedules and possible summer semester class schedules, noting that some summer students arrive late but are eager and quick learners. The group debated the effectiveness of summer sessions, with some suggesting a trial of two five-week sessions. Also addressed was the need for a new Faculty Senate secretary and the selection process for the Dean of Faculty, emphasizing the importance of faculty involvement and adherence to established Faculty Senate bylaws and policies found in the HR manual.

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 December 12, 2025, FS Regular Meeting were officially approved without abstention.



II. Deliberations/Actionable Items

SLO Cycle 6 Report and Transition to Cycle 7

• SLO Assessment Coach discussed the transition from cycle six to cycle seven, emphasizing the importance of planning in the spring and assessment in the fall. Coach highlighted the need for faculty to view SLO assessment as part of their job description rather than as extra work. The importance of foresight in SLO assessment was stressed, suggesting that it should be considered from the beginning of the teaching process. Coach mentions the best practice of using a common tool and report for courses offered in multiple sections. Coach plans to send information about upcoming training and refresher courses for spring. FS President asks if there are any questions or if the group should move forward with the special meeting with the SLO coach.

- The FS president mentions the need for reports from various committees, including human resources and physical plant

Election of Faculty Senate Secretary

• FS President announces the need to replace the elected Faculty Senate Secretary due to his departure. She explains the option of electing a secretary for one year starting from January, to support the transition of the newly elected faculty senate president and vice president in a new academic year in Fall semester. The FS president asked for volunteers and mentioned that the position offers a two-credit release hour. Time was given to the faculty to volunteer or nominate. No faculty volunteered. A motion is proposed to elect a new secretary for one year. Discussion shifted to the possibility of electing a secretary for half a year because one semester was already consumed by the outgoing faculty senate secretary, who, according to the Faculty Senate bylaw, should serve for one academic year. About 5 faculty members were nominated to assume the position, but all nominees declined. The election of a new FS secretary was temporarily tabled. Discussions were set to resume before the end of the meeting.

Report from the IEC

- IEC Faculty Rep reported that the IEC accepted the revised academic affairs mission statement, which is now available on the website.

Report from the EMC

- EMC Faculty Rep asked for a reconsideration of the Faculty Senate's former decision not to allow any changes in the currently published Academic calendar unless approved by the Senate. EMC faculty Rep proposed a change for the Summer 2026 to accommodate students who join CMI late due to high school graduation or church programs, and sometimes travel challenges from the outer islands. The Honorable Representative suggested that regular students can start as scheduled, while late students can join the second session. The proposal was met with mixed reactions, with some faculty expressing concerns about the feasibility of teaching the same content in a shorter timeframe.
- Faculty Senate President- revisited the collective decision of the Senate made last semester about the Summer calendar and suggested reviewing the decision to keep the calendar as it is.
- Faculty raised concerns about the impact of shortening the summer session on class time and student workload. The initial discussion highlighted the need for further analysis and data to support the proposal to avoid a repeat of what happened to the implementation of the 8-week format courses.
- Faculty explains that the class hours will remain slightly the same, but the schedule will be adjusted to fit the shorter duration.
- Faculty points out that students may perform better in summer sessions due to the continuous nature of classes.



- Faculty emphasizes the difference in student caliber during summer classes compared to regular semester classes, noting that summer students are eager to learn and quick learners.
- Faculty mentions the varying credit hours and class schedules during summer, highlighting the commitment of students due to daily classes unlike in Fall and Spring semesters.
- Faculty points out issues with credit hour calculations for three-credit classes, suggesting a need for a survey to gather data on eight-week versus 15-week sessions.
- EMC Faculty Rep mentions the EMC committee's upcoming meeting to discuss the summer session, urging everyone to prepare information for the next meeting.

Survey and Data Collection Proposals

- Faculty proposes finishing the eight-week versus 15-week survey and combining it with new data to present a renewed proposal by the Senate to EMC.
- Faculty suggests making all relevant information available for everyone to review before the next meeting.
- Faculty raises concerns about the comparability of data due to the different teaching schedules in summer versus regular semesters. Faculty 6 suggests conducting a separate survey for the summer session to account for its unique characteristics.
- A computation of the contact hour period for the proposed sessions was discussed and will be shared.

For 3 credits courses will mean
45 hours in 5 Weeks
9 hours per Week
2.25 Hours a day (4 days a Week)

For 4 credits courses will mean
60 hours in 5 Weeks
12 hours per Week
2.40 hours a day (5 days a Week)

Decision on Summer Session

- Faculty Senate Rep to EMC warns that delaying a decision on the summer session could lead to unfavorable outcomes, urging a quick decision on whether to support it. Faculty Rep, suggested trying out the summer session with the understanding that any issues can be addressed later.
- After an exhaustive discussion, the Faculty Senate Rep to EMC expressed the following motion:

“I move that the Faculty Senate reconsider its stance on the academic calendar for summer 2026, and I propose that we try the five two sessions of five weeks this summer 2026, and we write it in very clear, black and white. If it doesn't work, we go back to the usual summer calendar.”

- Faculty seconded. The majority of the Senate voted to adopt the motion with two voters against.



Nomination and motion for a New Faculty Senate Secretary

- Faculty President resumed discussion on the need for a new secretary.
- Faculty Senate VP suggests tasking each department with finding a nominee for the secretary position.
- FS President discusses the importance of having a reliable and dedicated secretary to handle the Senate's responsibilities to its members.
- Nominations were made by faculty, but all nominees declined.
- A motion was presented to have the current officers serve as temporary secretary for the coming days until the next meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without any abstentions.

Selection Process for Dean of Faculty

- Faculty Senate VP led the discussions about the selection process for the Dean of Faculty, emphasizing the need for faculty involvement and adherence to the 2009 job description. He explains the historical context of the selection process for the Dean of Faculty to better support faculty needs.
- Faculty Senate President reminded the Senate members about the importance of the topic as it was already presented to the body 2-years back.
- Faculty Senate Secretary motioned to make Jennifer an interim Dean of Faculty due to the lack of a clear selection process in the current HR manual.
- The discussion shifted to the Faculty Senate's recognition of the HR manual as a policy because it houses all board-approved policies and is published publicly online. Multiple faculty expressed their affirmative voice that the HR manual is a compilation of board-approved policies.
- FS President shared an example of a newly purchased appliance that has a manual, that such manual is not a policy.
- The discussion highlights the importance of following the established selection process and the need for faculty awareness and input.
- Further discussions will continue in the next meetings, even online.

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 January 16, 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:

January 30, 2026