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The College of the Marshall Islands Faculty Senate

Regular Meeting, August 28, 2026, Friday

MEETING MINUTES

Present During the Meeting: 15
Not Present/Unexcused During the Meeting: 25
On Leave or Excused, Others: 1
Time Meeting Started: 11:10 AM

Executive Summary

The Faculty Senate convened with the required minority quorum and focused primarily on strengthening faculty representation, communication, and accountability within CMI's standing committee structure. The Senate confirmed several committee representatives, addressed vacancies, and clarified selection and reporting arrangements for committees whose RSAs do not clearly define these processes. Members also advanced measures to strengthen representative accountability through incentives and formal engagement monitoring. Other significant matters included WAVES/ABE concerns regarding consolidated instruction and compensation, the Senate's pursuit of formal representation on the Budget Committee, the resignation and replacement of the Faculty Senate Vice President, and efforts to secure a meaningful faculty role in the selection of the Faculty Dean/Faculty Ombudsman. Several actions will require follow-up with department chairs, standing committees, and the Executive Council.

Executive Key Outcomes

- **Committee Representation:** Faculty appointments to several standing committees were confirmed or advanced, with outstanding vacancies referred for follow-up.
- **LEAP and LSC Governance:** The Senate approved department-chair selection of representatives, with committee members determining who will report to the Senate; corresponding RSA clarification was recommended.
- **Curriculum Committee Accountability:** The Senate approved amending its Bylaws to require CC-selected faculty representatives to report to the Faculty Senate.
- **Budget Committee Representation:** The FS President will request formal Faculty Senate representation on the Budget Committee, preferably with voting rights.
- **Representative Incentives and Monitoring:** Incentives for appointed/elected Senate representatives were acknowledged, and formal monitoring of committee engagement and reporting was unanimously approved.
- **WAVES/ABE Concerns:** Consolidated instruction and compensation concerns were referred back through the appropriate academic and funding channels for documented review, with the option to return the matter to the Senate.
- **FS Vice Presidency:** Andrea's resignation was accepted, and Va was elected as replacement Vice President, subject to formal acceptance.

- **Faculty Dean/Ombudsman:** The Senate approved identifying and voting on a preferred candidate for recommendation to the Executive Council while advocating for greater faculty participation in the selection process.
- **Governance Follow-up:** Several RSA and Bylaw provisions were identified for clarification to strengthen faculty representation, reporting, and institutional communication.

I. Preliminaries

A. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Summary

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 11:11 a.m. after confirming the required 25% minority quorum of its 41 members. Following the reading of the CMI Mission Statement and an opening prayer, members were reminded that the meeting was being recorded via Zoom. The previously distributed meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without corrections, opposition, or abstentions.

The Senate then proceeded to review Faculty Senate representative appointments, acknowledged members who had accepted their appointments, and opened nominations to fill the remaining vacant representative positions.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

II. Presentation and Voting for Faculty Senate Representatives to CMI Standing Committees

A: I.T.C.

Summary

The Senate reviewed faculty representation on the Information Technology Committee (ITC), which requires two faculty representatives under its RSA. Alex had accepted the appointment, while Kendall had not yet responded. With additional faculty members still arriving, the Senate agreed to defer the item and return to it later in the meeting.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

B: H.R.C.

Summary

The Senate confirmed that Dr. Joshi and Mr. Derek Debrum accepted their appointments as faculty representatives to the Human Resources Committee (HRC). The Senate also acknowledged Alex for accepting his appointment to the Information Technology Committee (ITC).

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

C: P.F.C.

Summary

The Senate discussed the vacant faculty representative position on the Plant and Facilities Committee (PFC) after the original nominee, Mr. Dako, declined. Several nominations were made but declined or could not be confirmed due to scheduling constraints. Terry Henos was subsequently nominated, and the Senate agreed to contact him to confirm his willingness to serve. Members also raised the need for a master calendar of committee meetings to support faculty participation and representation.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

D: E.M.C.

Summary

The Senate acknowledged Ms. Gina for accepting appointment as a faculty representative to the Enrolment Management Committee (EMC), which requires two faculty representatives. Gade was nominated and accepted the second position. Members noted the value of having representation from both developmental education and credit-level programs on the committee.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

E: L.E.A.P.

Summary

The Senate reviewed faculty representation on the LEAP Committee, whose RSA requires one faculty representative from each instructional department but does not specify the selection process. After discussing whether representatives should be selected by the Faculty Senate or departments, the Senate approved motions for department chairs to select their respective LEAP representatives and for those representatives to determine among themselves who will report to the Faculty Senate. The Senate also recommended clarifying the LEAP Committee RSA to formally reflect this selection and reporting process.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

F: L.S.C.

Summary

The Senate reviewed faculty representation on the Learning Support Committee (LSC), which requires representation from each instructional department. Following discussion, the Senate approved motions for department chairs to select their respective LSC representatives and for the selected committee members to determine among themselves who will report to the Faculty Senate. Existing appointments will be confirmed with the respective department chairs, with replacements identified where necessary.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

G: C.C.

Summary

The Senate reviewed the Curriculum Committee (CC) RSA and confirmed that the committee selects two faculty members based on their interest or knowledge, while the CC formally reports to the Executive Council. After discussing the absence of a formal reporting requirement to the Faculty Senate, members approved a motion to amend the Faculty Senate Bylaws to require the CC-selected faculty representatives to also report to the Senate, ensuring consistent communication between the CC and Faculty Senate.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

H: I.E.C.

Summary

For the institutional effectiveness committee, we have the option of choosing one faculty or to choose the current SLO coach, we went with choosing the SLO coach, Miss Jennifer Poquita.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

I: E.C.

Summary

The Senate confirmed that the Faculty Senate President will represent the Senate at Executive Council (EC) meetings, accompanied by another non-voting faculty representative. The EC meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

J: B.C.

Summary

The Senate reviewed the Budget Committee (BC) membership and noted that the Faculty Senate does not have formal representation, although past Faculty Senate Presidents have attended as non-voting participants. The FS President agreed to raise the matter with the Executive Council and seek formal, preferably voting, Faculty Senate representation on the Budget Committee.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

III. URGENT BUSINESS Parliamentary Discussions/Debate

A: INCENTIVES FOR THE FS REPS

Summary

The Senate discussed incentives for appointed or elected Faculty Senate committee representatives, noting that professional development incentives are already provided for in the Bylaws and that additional guidelines and eligibility parameters still need to be developed. Members were informed that CMI had approved the purchase of 50 Cash Power credits valued at $20 each and 50 cell cards for distribution to eligible representatives. Questions regarding multiple committee assignments, mandatory committee membership, and the Senate's remaining budget were noted for further clarification

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

B: MONITORING INCENTIVE IMPACT TO ENGAGEMENT

Summary

The Senate discussed establishing a formal monitoring system to accompany the new incentive program for Faculty Senate representatives, emphasizing that incentives should be tied to meaningful engagement and accountability. Members agreed that committee participation, reporting, and instances where committees fail to meet should be documented and elevated to the Executive Council when necessary. A motion to formally monitor committee representative engagement was unanimously approved, with committee reports and supporting documents to continue being collected and archived through the Faculty Senate website.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

C: WAVES/ABE CONCERNS

Summary

The Senate discussed concerns raised by WAVES/ABE instructors regarding compensation and consolidated instruction, particularly teaching multiple levels simultaneously while receiving credit for only one course. The Senate acknowledged the concerns and recommended that the instructors formally revisit the matter through their chair and dean, coordinate with PSS as the funding source, and ensure that discussions, decisions, and their rationale are documented in meeting minutes. The matter may be brought back to the Faculty Senate for further consideration based on the outcome of those discussions.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

D. RESIGNATION OF ANDREA AND AN ELECTION OF A NEW FS-VP

Summary

The Senate accepted Andrea's resignation as Faculty Senate Vice President due to a conflict of interest arising after her election on August 21 and the subsequent release of the presidential candidate list on August 24. Following the approved resignation, Va was nominated and elected by the Senate as the replacement Vice President, subject to her confirmation and acceptance of the position.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

E. FACULTY DEAN/FACULTY OMBUDSMAN

Summary

The Senate discussed the Faculty Dean/Faculty Ombudsman selection and reaffirmed its preference to defer the current process while seeking a greater faculty role in the selection. Members approved a motion to identify a preferred candidate through nominations or volunteers, followed by an online Senate vote. The selected candidate would be presented to the Executive Council as the Senate's recommendation, recognizing that the Senate does not currently hold formal authority to make the appointment.

Link to read the parliamentary debate/discussions (click here)

IV. Closing:

The Senate tabled the remaining agenda items due to members' class schedules. It was clarified that Va's election as Faculty Senate Vice President remained pending her formal acceptance or declination, to be communicated to the Senate. The meeting was then adjourned.
FS President Ragus 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 August 28, 20226 Faculty Senate regular meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM

Concurred By: Oscar Ragus
Faculty Senate President AY 26-27

Submitted By: Curtis Vila
Faculty Senate Secretary
AY 25-27

Concurred By: Vasemaca Savu
Faculty Senate Vice President
AY 26-27

Senate Body Approval Date: