College of the Marshall Islands
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The College of the Marshall Islands Faculty Senate

Regular Meeting, October 09, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Present During the Meeting: 18
Not Present/Unexcused During the Meeting: 17
On Leave or Excused, Others: 5
Time Meeting Started: 11:10 AM

I. Overview

The Faculty Senate approved its presidential finalist preference and forwarded facilities, IT, and security concerns to the appropriate committees.

II. Key Decisions

- The Senate endorsed **John Jack Niedenthal** as its presidential preference by a 6–5–1 vote; the Senate president's concern about the advertised master's-degree requirement remained personal and was excluded from the official position.
- Meeting minutes were approved, and the Senate accepted the presidential preference results.
- Facilities, IT, and security concern documents were closed for comment and approved for committee review, with additions covering classroom access, CCTV, air conditioning, lighting, and safety.

III. Outline

Opening and Minutes

- The mission statement was read.
- Previously distributed minutes were approved without recorded abstentions.

Presidential Preference

- Anonymous voting by 12 attendees produced six votes for **Jack Niedenthal**, five for Andrea, and one for Kenneth.
- The Senate formally endorsed **Jack Niedenthal**.
- Members discussed the advertised master's-degree requirement and the Senate president's personal reservation.
- Members raised concern about low faculty participation in the forum meetings of the selection process.

Committee Concerns

- Facilities concerns will be forwarded to the Plan and Facilities Committee.
- IT concerns were closed and will be forwarded to the IT Committee.
- Security concerns will be forwarded to the appropriate facilities committee, including classroom and nursing-lab access, adjunct IDs, CCTV, emergency response, and after-hours control of air conditioning and lights.

Surveys and Reports

- Faculty were reminded to complete surveys on summer scheduling and six-week versus seven-week formats.
- Committee reports covered air conditioners, generators, buses, budget participation, curriculum matters, AI guidelines, and student evaluation access.

Faculty and Staff Matters

- Three adjunct representatives were recognized and asked to gather adjunct input on the summer schedule survey.
- The Faculty Senate and Staff Senate Exec. Officers discussed retirement contributions and the operational impact of accelerated eight-week terms.
- A response to the dean's explanation of overlapping summer courses was still being finalized.
- The meeting adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for the fourth Friday in October.

C. Closing:

The Senate tabled the remaining agenda items due to members' class schedules. 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 October 09, 20226 Faculty Senate regular meeting was adjourned at <u>12:15 PM</u>

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

Submitted By: Curtis Vila	Concurred By: Vasemaca Savu	Senate Body Approval Date:
Faculty Senate Secretary	Faculty Senate Vice President	
AY 25-27	AY 26-27	