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

Regular Meeting, September 11, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Present During the Meeting: 18
Not Present/Unexcused During the Meeting: 20
On Leave or Excused, Others: 2
Time Meeting Started: 11:10 AM

Executive Summary

The Faculty Senate advanced several governance, policy, and operational priorities. The Senate confirmed David Sinkey as its interim Faculty Ombudsman/Faculty Dean choice for AY 2026–27 and approved proposed revisions to the HR policy and Faculty Senate bylaws intended to formalize faculty participation in the Ombudsman selection process; these will be forwarded through the appropriate governance channels.

Executive Key Outcomes

- AI Policy approved: The Senate approved the CMI Artificial Intelligence Policy for forwarding to LEAP for its next-stage review/vote.
- Faculty Senate self-evaluation approved: The AY 2025–26 self-assessment report was approved for publication on the Faculty Senate website.
- Facilities concerns formally elevated: Recurring issues—including building leaks, broken AC units, generator/power reliability, and classroom locks—will be consolidated, with the Senate approving a request for a systematic Physical Plant response.
- ASC retirement contribution concerns escalated: The Senate approved contacting the CFO for clarification on contribution-processing delays, applicable policy/process, and coordination with ASC for further explanation.
- Student transportation concern advanced: The Senate authorized its representative to raise a proposed discounted student taxi fare with the Dean of Student Services.
- Immediate faculty actions: Faculty were asked to comment on the faculty minimum qualifications and probationary-period documents before the next HRC meeting and participate in the still-open Summer 2026 faculty survey.

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I. Preliminaries

A. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Summary

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order after confirming quorum. The CMI mission was read, and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved without corrections or objections.

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

II. Shared Docs Debates & Discussions-Motions and Approvals

A: FS Dean/Ombudsman FS-Approved

Summary

The Faculty Senate approved David Sinkey as its interim Faculty Ombudsman/Faculty Dean for the academic year, pending proposed HRC policy and Senate bylaw changes.

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

B: HR Policy Change & FS Bylaws Revision-Approvals

Summary

The Faculty Senate approved revisions to HR Handbook 1.11.4 and its bylaws to formalize faculty participation in selecting the Ombudsman/Faculty Dean. The proposal will be forwarded to EC and the appropriate governance channels.

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

C: CMI Artificial Intelligence Policy-Approved

Summary

The Faculty Senate approved the CMI AI Policy, emphasizing appropriate instructor-guided academic use of AI. The policy will be forwarded to LEAP for consideration at its next meeting.

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

D: Self-Evaluation Report of the FS AY25-26-Approved

Summary

The Faculty Senate approved the AY25–26 Self-Evaluation Report for publication on the Faculty Senate website, with one abstention noted.

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

III. Reports of the FS Reps to CMI's Standing Committees

A: Plant & Facilities Com. Report

Summary

The Senate identified key facilities concerns, including outdated PFC records, building leaks, broken ACs, generator/power issues, and classroom locks. A motion passed requesting a systematic Physical Plant response, supported by a consolidated list of facilities concerns.

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

B: HRC-Report

Summary

Faculty were asked to review and comment on the Faculty Minimum Qualifications and Probationary Period policy documents before the upcoming HRC meeting to support policy finalization.

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

C: CC- Report

Summary

CC met and discussed appointing Faculty Senate representation, with two representatives expected to be selected. CC met and discussed appointing Faculty Senate representation, with two representatives expected to be selected.

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

D. LEAP-Report

Summary

LEAP has not held a meeting since the last Faculty Senate update. The next LEAP meeting is expected on September 24, where pending matters and updates will be addressed.

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

E. EC-Report

Summary

The EC and Budget Committee did not meet, and no meeting invitations were received. The Senate anticipates an EC meeting the following week.

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

F: I.E.C-Report

Summary

IEC is reviewing the Wapepe 2025–2029 Plan and seeking faculty feedback on equitable student success. The committee also reviewed information on non-continuing students to identify support needs.

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

G: L.S.C. - Reports

Summary

LSC lacked quorum but reported ongoing student satisfaction and online tutoring surveys. The Senate also supported raising the option of third-party tutoring, including Marshallese-language support, to address tutor shortages and prepare for online classes.

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

H. EMC-Report Bus and Survey

Summary

The Senate approved raising the discounted student taxi fare proposal with the Dean of Student Services. The Summer 2026 faculty survey remains open, with results to be compiled and shared with EMC.

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

IV. Special/Old URGENT BUSINESS Parliamentary Discussions/Debate

A: ASC-Retirement Debates & Discussions

Summary

The Senate raised concerns over delayed ASC retirement contributions and unclear processing procedures. A motion passed to request clarification from the CFO on CMI–ASC policies and payment delays, and to coordinate with ASC for representation at the next Senate meeting.

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

B: Dr. Andrea Recusal and Waiver

Summary

Dr. Andrea Hazard recused herself from Faculty Senate participation in compliance with the presidential search process and requested removal from the Senate mailing list.

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

V. 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 September 11, 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: