



College of the Marshall Islands

Board of Regents Regular Meeting **Board Conference Room** **Tuesday, May 29, 2018** Draft Minutes

The Board of Regents of the College of the Marshall Islands convened at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 in the CMI Board Conference Room.

Present: Chairman Benjamin Chutaro, Vice Chairman Joseph Bigler, Regent Jelton Anjain, Regent Patrick Chen, Regent Marie Maddison, Regent Jabwil Ned, Regent Kathryn Relang, Regent Sultan Korean, Regent Dr. Pinano, Student Mashmet Langbel, and President Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono.

Apologies: Regent Julia Alfred

Staff in Attendance: Dr. Vincent Nix, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs; Stevenson Kotton, Vice President of Business and Administrative Affairs; Charlynn Andrike-Alfred, Special Assistant to the President.

Guests: Mary Van Auken

Opening Prayer/Call to Order

Chairman Chutaro led the opening prayer, and then called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Remarks by Chairman

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Board meeting. The Chairman summarized the matters before the board.

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

The Chairman moved to approve the CMI Board of Regents Agenda. Regent Kathryn Relang seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote.

Regent Maddison moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 20, 2018. Regent Chen seconded the motion to accept the February 20, 2018 minutes which passed with a unanimous vote.

Old Business

The Chairman moved to approve the proposed standing committee membership and schedule. Regent Relang seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote.

The general assembly of the Board of Regents adjourned to move into standing committee meetings at 2:20 p.m.

New Business

The general assembly of the Board of Regents reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

President's Report

Madam President, Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono, presented the President's Report to the Board of Regents. This Report included updates in the following areas:

Academic Initiatives, Accreditation, Adult and Continuing Education, Budget, Consultancy, Distance Learning, Enrollment, Graduation 2018, Human Resources, Integrated Planning, Land Grant, Regional Education Laboratory, and Stakeholders Relations.

The President highlighted CMI's challenging 4% graduation rate and how important it is to improve the quality of education by exploring more innovative ways to address this problem.

There are 30 new students in the second cohort of the summer accelerated program at the Development Education English. This is an 8 week intense program aiming to get students ready for credit level courses in the fall of the same year. STEM will be offering Math this year for the first time.

The President shared information on accreditation and applauded the hardworking faculty administrators for addressing the challenges in a very meaningful way. Dr. Richard Winn, President and CEO of ACCJC is here for his first visit to the RMI and CMI and will be making a few remarks at the graduation ceremony. The ACCJC report was sent on March 1, 2018 and we have now started working on the second report. CMI is currently working on the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education (BAEE) Special Report.

The President reported on the developing certificate courses for adult and continuing education in direct response to employers' needs in the RMI.

A summary of the CMI FY19 budget was presented to the Chief Secretary on May 21, 2018. The budget is still being finalized and will be shared with the BOR when it becomes available.

The President updated the Board on the CMI Distance Learning Centers in Ebeye and Jaluit. The ABE program continues to be offered in both centers. Jaluit is operating very well with requests for more programs including the BAEE. Ebeye is having few issues with enrollment

numbers but CMI is working closely with the Ebeye Center coordinator.

The President shared the enrollment for spring 2018 and the Graduation details. There are 972 students enrolled in spring 2018; 608 full time and 364 part time students. Graduation this year will be held at the Capital Building on May 31st and June 5th for the Ebeye graduation at the Gymnasium.

CMI has undertaken a consultancy project to evaluate the PSS accreditation system. This is the result of the JEMFAC resolution in 2017 to PSS that they should work with CMI in this area. The consultancy contract is worth \$47,800.00.

Dr. Vincent Nix completed the Enrollment Management Plan which is awaiting Board approval. Dr. Nix is aiming to improve the current graduation rate from 4%-15% in 2020. The recruitment for the first Learning Designer for CMI is in process. We expect that we will have a Learning Designer in place in the next 2 months. This position has been made possible by the Asian Development Bank grant of \$930,000.00 as part of the 'Improving the Quality of Basic Education' (IQBE) project over the next five years. The first payment of \$129,310 has been made.

Our new Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs, Dr. Vince Nix started work at CMI on April 10. He has been meeting with all of his direct reports and members of the CMI community. His very first assignment was to complete the Enrollment Management Plan or Wappepe which is now before the Board for approval. Underscoring all of Dr. Nix's responsibilities is the challenge to lead improvements to the current CMI graduation rate from 4% - 15% in 2020 (for students completing in 3 years from their first registration). Recruitment for

vacant or soon to be vacant faculty and staff positions continues to follow CMI HR policy and processes.

A proposal was submitted to the Land Grant Board (February 7) for \$100,000 towards learning materials. The proposal was based on electronic database subscriptions for ALL CMI campuses and centers and new laptops for faculty. \$75,000.00 was approved for CMI; COM was also awarded \$75,000; PCC will submit a proposal later. A second proposal was submitted to the Land Grant Board by CMI on behalf of Regent Wilbur Heine (Minister of Education, RMI) requesting a \$1m donation to the 3 colleges of the COM Land Grant, COM-FSM, PCC and CMI. The request has been deferred for consideration at a later time. The three Land Grant researchers are working well on agriculture, aquaculture and food research projects.

Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)

Present: Committee Chairman Bigler, Regent Dr. Pinano, Regent Relang, President Dr. Koroivulaono.

President reported that the METO is the first education master plan that the college has developed.

The first strategic plan was developed in 2015 and comes to an end at the end of this year. The second strategic plan will be in development from June to October 2018.

Issues on people migrating to the US, low graduate rates, high dropouts, etc were discussed. Planning should be aligned with other plans and with CMI resources.

Finance/Risk Assessment/Audit Committee (FRAAC)

Present: Committee Chairman Chutaro, Regent Chen, and VPBAA Kotton.

Chairman Chutaro gave the report. The FRAAC report focused on the financial risks associated with the 2023 expiration of the financial provisions or funding under the Compact of Free Association.

Chairman Chutaro reported that the College has taken positive steps in financial risk mitigation through the adaptation of a financial management system that is modern, operates and updates in real-time, and has built-in safeguards. The new system supports the College's drive to ensure its future financial stability.

Regent Chen added that the College is taking the right steps by focusing on continually improving academic success rates and providing quality employees for the economy.

Academic & Student Affairs Committee (ASAC)

Present: Regent Anjain, Regent Maddison, Regent Ned, Student Regent Mashmet Langbel, Dr. Vincent Nix

Dr. Nix presented on the Wappepe plan. There are 8 goals in the plan. This Committee discussed how to improve the 4% graduate rate over 5 years by looking at students and their program sheets, offering services to students, advising students from semester to semester, having a system in place using the tools that we have to champion timely student graduations.

The VPASA's report also covered the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program, the College's RMI high school diploma equivalency. The ABE program also offers training and testing in HiSet,

a US high school equivalency test that replaced the GED program, and the test that the College formerly used. To date, the ABE program is now offered at the Uliga campus and the Ebeye and the Jaluit Centers. The ABE program is funded by the Special Education Grant (SEG).

VPASA Dr. Nix elaborated on the success of the pilot Accelerated Program (AP) which the President covered earlier. She said the goal was to have students successfully complete two levels of Developmental English in 8 weeks, 4 weeks for the level 2 course and 4 weeks for level 3. Developmental Education (DevEd) Students are eligible to enroll in credit English courses upon successful completion of the level 3 course. 100% passed level 2 and 82% passed level three. Additionally, she reported, 92% of these students registered for Fall 2017 classes. The success of the summer pilot program led to the DevEd Department's creation of modified AP pilots for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters. The results of these pilot programs will be analyzed once mid-term grades are available, she reported.

The VPASA's report briefly covered the Navigating Student Success in the Pacific (NSSP) grant program which made possible the creation of two specialized advanced certificates in special education—one with a concentration in teaching deaf students and another with a concentration in teaching students with severe disabilities.

VPASA Dr. Nix reported that the first cohort of students are now enrolled in CMI's first ever bachelor's degree program that was recently approved by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Seventeen students are enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education (BAEE) program for Fall 2017. Student Regent Binejal was congratulated for choosing to be one of these first students in this historic program.

CMI also gained approval from ACCJC for a new credit certificate program in Marine Science, the VPASA reported. The enrollment numbers for this program are good.

The VPASA stated that the College has improved its English and Mathematics placement methodology by using, for the first time, four separate measures instead of only using only entrance exam scores to place students. The College is now using the following: 1. CMI placement exam score 2. English/math grades for 11th graders 3. English/math grades for 12th graders 4. Cumulative high school GPA. The College will also include standardized exam results if available including TOEFL, SAT, and ACT scores. The recently placed students' academic results will be used to assess the new placement methodology.

The Board of Regents applauded the College leadership for their innovative measures and hard work.

ACTION ITEMS

Regent Relang moved to approve the Budget Portfolio FY 2017-2018. Regent Pinano seconded. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

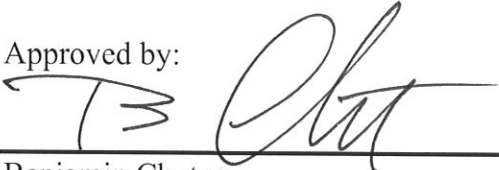
Vice Chairman Bigler moved to approve the Board of Regents 2018 Meeting Schedule. Regent Ned seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote.

The Executive Session started at 12:57 p.m. and ended at 1:30 p.m.
The Board of Regents' meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Charlynn Alfred
Recording Secretary

Approved by: 

Benjamin Chutaro
Chairman, Board of Regents