



CMI

BOARD OF REGENTS

College of the Marshall Islands

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

P.O. Box 1258
Uluga Campus

Tel: (692) 625-3394/3291/4931
Fax: (692) 625-7203
Email: bor.regents@cmi.edu

Special Board of Regents Minutes - Approved June 16, 2021

Members Present

Chairperson Kathryn Relang
Regent Marie Maddison
Regent Ione deBrum

Vice-Chairman Helmer Lang
Regent Julius Lucky
Regent Kino Kabua

Regent Harden Lelet
Regent Stiffney Paul

Member Absent

Regent Mark Stege

CMI employees in attendance:

Dr. Irene Taafaki, CMI President
William Reiher, Executive Vice President
Stevenson Kotton, Vice President for Administrative and Business Affairs
Dr. Elizabeth Switaj, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Kelly Sebastian, Executive Officer/Executive Secretary for the CMI Board of Regents (ESBOR)

The meeting was called to order @ 9:10 AM

Agenda Items

1. Opening prayer & Roll call and call to order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. CMI Budget FY2022
4. Information from President and her Team to Board
5. BOR request for future items and information

Minutes

1. OPENING PRAYER, ROLL CALL, AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Lang opened the BOR meeting with a prayer, then Chair Relang called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Regent Maddison moved to approve the CMI Board of Regents Agenda with the additional agenda item. Regent deBrum seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.



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3. CMI BUDGET FY2022

- VPBAA Kotton presented the FY2022 Combined Revenue & Expenditure - Unrestricted & Restricted Fund, explained the budget breakdown, and mentioned that the budget portfolio is far from complete - we don't know the final budget.
- The budget is projected at 14 million.
- There will be another meeting to finalize the budget as to date CMI has not received the final budget figures for the General Fund, SEG or the Compact.
- The 1.6 RMI Subsidy (General Fund Fund) will be decreased by 250,000 because there are cuts within the Ministry that will affect some of their essential services.
 - With 2.7 in CARES ACT, President Taafaki recommended that we provide PSS with an additional \$250,000 for the general fund.
- At a meeting with the RMI Ambassador in DC, Minister Kitlang Kabua and ss on Monday 14th June, CMI learned that for the first time this year the US was adding inflation money due under the SEG and that the amount available increased to \$6.7M.
- Funds are guaranteed to establish DE Centers on Kili and Santo. The projection from President Taafaki and VPBAA Kotton is an additional 250,000 from the SEG.
- The General fund will decrease since there will be a 11% cut across the board.
- The budgets are our core funding of the College in terms of all the operations that are critical to our programs in the academic area.
- The funding under the CARES ACT (2.7 M) is restricted to compensating for COVID-19 related health and safety, academic changes and IT services to ensure student access to learning.
- The Compact Budget Portfolio is due to DOI on July 1st.
- The new RMI budget submission date is June 25th, and consultation starts on Monday, June 28th.
- Page 8 in the budget portfolio, reference is made to the amount the RMI contributes per student. This rate is decreasing due to increases in enrollment. This is not meant to imply criticism but an assurance that whatever the level of contribution CMI will continue to increase the level of program that we provide to RMI.
- A question was asked regarding the number of students who do not receive Financial Aid: In the last statistics available from IPEDS, 96% of CMI students received Pell grant and 4% are not receiving.
 - Students not eligible for a Pell grant are counseled and advised to apply for work study programs or to make payment allotments so that they do not incur debt.
 - A memo will be going to President Taafaki for paying off 400,000 student receivable going back to March 2020, using the CARES ACT funding. This is allowable under the Institutional Funds authorized by Congress.
- Once the budget figures have been made final, CMI will complete its budget and distribute for approval.
- VPBAA Kotton recommended that the Board vote via email on the Budget Portfolio before it goes to BCC.



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DECISION

- The final Budget Portfolio will be circulated via email by VPBAA for the approval by the Board of Regents.

4. INFORMATION FROM PRESIDENT AND HER TEAM TO BOARD

- Regarding the request to appear before the Accreditation Commission: Instead of appearing, a letter was submitted to the ACCJC on June 9. The College has yet to receive the outcome of the consideration of the Peer Review.
- In response to the Chair's request for the status of the workforce in light of the continued entry restrictions: For repatriation, CMI submitted a prioritized list of 17 people (teachers plus dependant and staff).
- VPASA Switaj reported that for the Summer semester, CMI is contracting our regular instructors or other known instructors recruited for teaching on an adjunct basis. To date all courses are covered.
- President Taafaki and VPBAA Kotton met with the Minister of Education and Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure on June 15th to discuss the information received regarding the plan for the back road.
- As background, the President explained:
 - In 2007, the College paid for the Quit Deed Titles of Lotodik and Biker-Att wetos located on the first bay, just behind Office Mart.
 - Public Works has now entered into a contract with a contractor to build a sea wall and to do the landfilling.
 - The Uliga Elementary School and other recreational facilities for the benefit of Assumption and the College will be built on a portion of the reclaimed land.
 - The CMI Education Department will be located in proximity to the Uliga Elementary School and other recreational facilities for the benefit of Assumption and the College.
 - Mr. Joe Hancher has been contracted to undertake the coastal protection project;
 - At the conclusion of the meeting with the Ministers, the Minister was agreeable to the idea to extend the coastal protection east so that the entire ocean shoreline of CMI is protected.
 - CMI will contact Joe Hancher, the contractor and ask for the variation of the contract to accommodate this extension.
 - VPBAA Kotton added that the sea wall planned is 50ft from the shoreline but CMI is asking for an additional 50ft further than the shoreline. He added, BECA has done the study, but we only got the plan for the school.
 - In the opinion provided by CMI Legal Counsel, David Strauss, legally the College will own all the land reclaimed in Biker-Att and Lotodik. The College possesses the Quit Deed documents and has all the proof of payments.
- CMI has met with Senator Phillip, who agreed to consult with the Uliga Community and the private sector in the neighborhood of this initiative.
- The College will provide an update to the Board.



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5. BOR REQUEST FOR FUTURE ITEMS AND INFORMATION

- No future items.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:33 AM

Scribe

Kelly Luce Sebastian,
Recording Secretary

Reviewed & Approved by

Kathryn Relang
Chairperson, Board of Regents

August 31, 2021

Date approved