



CMI

BOARD OF REGENTS

College of the Marshall Islands

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

P.O. Box 1258
Uliga Campus

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

Special Board of Regents Minutes - Approved December 5, 2022

Members Present

Chairperson Kathryn Relang
Regent Kino Kabua
Regent Stiffney Paul
Regent Yolanda Lodge-Ned

Vice-Chair Harden Lelet
Regent Helmer Lang
Regent Marie Maddison

Regent Julius Lucky
Regent Salome Andrike
Student Regent Faith Mia Lanwi

Member Absent/Excused

Regent Ione deBrum

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
Stanley Lorennij, Vice President for Land Grant
Jill Derby, Ph.D., AGB Consultant
Takbar Ishiguro, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order @ 9:06 AM

Agenda Items

1. Opening prayer & Roll call and call to order
2. AGB Presentation on the Board Self-Evaluation - Dr. Jill Derby
3. Matters for information
4. BOR request for future items and information

Minutes

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

Chair Relang called the meeting to order at 9:06 am and asked the Regents and SLT to introduce themselves.

2. AGB PRESENTATION ON THE BOARD SELF-EVALUATION - DR. JILL DERBY



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- 2.1. Dr. Jill introduced herself and said that she was in the Nevada Board of Regents for nearly 18 years and now sits as the chair of the Board of the American University over in Iraqi Kurdistan (in the Middle East).
- 2.2. She has worked as a consultant for AGB for almost 20 years and works mostly in the public sector. But I particularly like to work with community colleges.
- 2.3. She thinks that community colleges are the heart and soul of higher education and the communities they serve are so important.
- 2.4. She'll feed back to the board the analysis and assessment of the survey results and share where we'll need to be looking out on this self-assessment.
- 2.5. She has also made a series of 8 recommendations for the board that we'll see as we go through.
- 2.6. Dr. Jill presented the Board Assessment Report (link below) and respectfully referred Regents to the detailed report in the folder for the meeting:
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1aDf99-8FIWaaQJ9ng57Hw5ev-PLuzX7f/edit#slide=id.p2>
- 2.7. 2022 Board Assessment Full Response Report:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uAjlAe4fytoWzvHGvCkIaFdQSvvLTrP8/view?usp=share_link
- 2.8. AGB Board Assessment Report Guide:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nJtNdhg3_xlW6M1-g8DOfyozdSVT-eZe/view?usp=share_link
- 2.9. Dr. Jill presented the Recommendations from the Board Assessment Report:
 - 2.9.1. Establish a program to increase the Board's understanding of the College's budget and finances. Have members of the Finance Committee partner in leading this effort.
 - 2.9.2. Review best practices surrounding Board orientation and implement improvements. Ask new Regents what has been missing for them.
 - 2.9.3. Review committee charters and encourage committee leaders to take responsibility for agenda preparation in partnership with Senior Leadership representatives.
 - 2.9.4. Shape Board and Committee agendas to include elements of strategic importance to CMI that promote important discussion. Achieve report/discussion balance.
 - 2.9.5. Find ways to encourage full participation in Board deliberations and discussion by all Regents.
 - 2.9.6. Look for opportunities to include a social event or gathering in the space surrounding board meetings that allow.
 - 2.9.7. Schedule an annual board retreat or education session that allows time for a focus on board processes, function and enhancement opportunities.



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- 2.9.8. Undertake an assessment of individual Board members to determine their satisfaction with their service and role and to identify possible avenues of further contribution.
- 2.10. **Discussion of the Results:**
 - 2.10.1. Regent Kabua: Feel that it's really useful and can take back to the other boards that I sit in to do.
 - 2.10.1.1. Agreed on the Chair's comment: Board members would benefit from training on understanding college budgets, financial reports, audit reports, and investments - importing on our financial literacy as well.
 - 2.10.1.2. Surprised by the comment: In my experience, the Board has not asked for information on the economic and social impacts of the college on RMI. The board has taken a passive oversight role instead of active involvement in the strategic leadership of the institution - to understand better what area we need to hone it on.
 - 2.10.1.3. Agreed with the point that the Committee Chair be involved with the SLT in terms of putting the agenda together and reporting back to the overall board. Go over more clearly on the role of the committee chair.
 - 2.10.1.4. Board training: it's only when we attend these training that opens our eyes and understand. Am very happy that this board focuses on strengthening the skill and knowledge of the board, provides ample training opportunities, and encourages the board members to attend if they haven't.
 - 2.10.2. Dr. Jill is very impressed by the board's bylaws and the strategic plan.
- 2.11. What stands out as being most significant?
 - 2.11.1. Regent Lodge-Ned: Very delighted to hear some of the feedback, especially on the note: Nurturing good social relationships among board members can be important when contentious issues arise.
 - 2.11.1.1. One of the places you can find strategic issues or look at the overall broad goal and the main area the college looks into going into the future is a strategic discussion.
 - 2.11.1.2. Chair Relang: The process of having the committee meeting prior to the regular board meeting, which we've started just recently, is to capture all of this kind of information at the committee's meeting, also so we have less information being brought and being discussed at the board level. We've also requested if there are any items that need to come to the board's attention and that go out to the regents and SLT for those topics or information to be tabled at the next meeting or the committee meetings and provide recommendations to the board.
 - 2.11.2. Regent Maddison: Overall is very positive and also seeing the achievements over the years. The next step for the role of the board, be a board advocacy,



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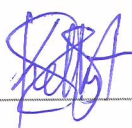
especially with the government, the college is a very good example. CMI should be seen as an educational and community resource for the government.

- 2.11.2.1. One of the questions asked was about the external relationship you have. Look and enhance your engagement with the government.
- 2.12. There are all sorts of opportunities for great strategic discussions to come out of this survey and the results.
- 2.13. Chair Relang: We also had discussions on the renewal of our strategic plan 2023 and to have that be an opportunity to have the Board retreat to capture some of the other comments made in this evaluation.
 - 2.13.1. Main topics: Strategic plan, Finances, Advocacy, and Policies.
 - 2.13.2. Chair Relang has taken note of the comment on developing a committee on the implementation of these findings.
- 2.14. A lot of challenges ahead, but you got all the right people in place to take them on.
- 2.15. Chair Relang: Looking at sometime early in January for the board to get together and dive deeper into areas from the survey.
- 2.16. Chair Relang thanked Dr. Jill for the analysis and recommendations. And that if we have other questions or comments we'll email them.

3. BOR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS AND INFORMATION

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meeting adjourned @ 11:10 AM



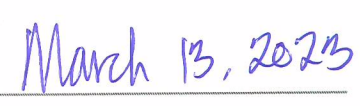
Scribe

Kelly Luce Sebastian,
Recording Secretary



Reviewed & Approved by

Kathryn Relang
Chair, Board of Regents



Date approved