



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 December 4, 2025

Members Present

Interim Chair Thomas Kijiner Jr.	Regent Timothy Owens	Regent Julius Lucky
Regent Kino Kabua	Student Regent Willy J. Lebeau	Regent Katt Chonggum
Regent Dr. Yukiko Muller	Regent Jelton Anjain	

Member Absent/Excused

Regent Morean S. Watak	Regent Roanna Zackhras
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CMI employees and others in attendance:

Meitaka Kendall-Lekka, Interim President
Kelly Sebastian, Executive Officer/Executive Secretary for the CMI Board of Regents (ESBOR)

The meeting was called to order @ 9:09 AM

Agenda Items

1. Opening prayer & Roll call, and call to order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Matters for Discussions
 - 3.1. Amended Contract & Cost - ESSP Arrak Project with World Bank
 - 3.2. LG Trip
 - 3.3. FY '23 Audit Update
4. Other Matters
5. Matters for information
 - 5.1. RFP
 - 5.2. Christmas Party

Minutes

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

Interim Chair Kijiner commenced the BOR meeting and officially called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM.

Regent Owens led the opening prayer.



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2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Regent Owens made a motion to approve the Board's Agenda. Regent Chong-Gum seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSIONS

- 3.1. Amended Contract & Cost - ESSP Arrak Project with World Bank
 - 3.1.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that the ESSP Arrak Project requires an additional \$203,000 due to delays and World Bank timelines, and she requested Board approval before signing the amended contract.
 - 3.1.2. Interim Chair Kijiner questioned the cause of the delay, noted CMI is absorbing the cost, and warned that inaction could result in the loss of a million-dollar TVET project.
 - 3.1.2.1. Regent Lucky explained that delays were due to material delivery and timing issues, resulting in a trade-off to build bathrooms now and complete the workshop later with CMI covering the \$203,000.
 - 3.1.3. Interim Chair Kijiner highlighted CMI's uncertain financial position, citing over \$600,000 in known obligations and incomplete reconciliations.
 - 3.1.3.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka confirmed cash flow is weak, reconciliations are ongoing, and full financial clarity is not yet available.
 - 3.1.4. Regent Kabua recommended reviewing internal funding options first, including vendor payment arrangements, before seeking Cabinet support.
 - 3.1.5. Interim Chair Kijiner proposed authorizing the Interim President to sign the amendment and, if needed, explore use of the maintenance fund (~\$1.2M).
 - 3.1.6. The Board agreed in principle to authorize the Interim President to proceed to secure the ESSP Arrak TVET project.
- 3.2. LG Trip
 - 3.2.1. Interim Chair Kijiner informed the Board about the Land Grant trip, noting it was shared due to the travel moratorium and its strategic importance.
 - 3.2.2. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported she was invited by Dr. Theresa and Dr. Tellei to join a January three-day meeting with CMI, COM, and PCC to develop Land Grant endowment proposals (~\$50,000 each).
 - 3.2.3. Interim Chair Kijiner estimated the trip cost at \$3,000 with a potential return of \$25,000 or more, calling it a worthwhile investment.
 - 3.2.4. Regent Kabua expressed support and asked about the focus of the proposals.
 - 3.2.4.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka stated proposals must be Land Grant-related, possibly expanding agroforestry or developing a new bachelor's program, and is committed to updating the Board.
- 3.3. FY '23 Audit Update
 - 3.3.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that EY completed a draft FY2023 audit with 16 findings, similar to FY2022, but has halted finalization due to over \$200,000 in unpaid audit fees.



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- 3.3.1.1. Interim Chair Kijiner expressed concern despite approved TAP funds and expressed concern that EY may decline future audits.
- 3.3.1.2. Interim President Kendall-Lekka stated the \$319,000 TAP funding is expected to be paid to CMI but has not yet been received, and she is awaiting a budget breakdown.
- 3.3.2. Interim Chair Kijiner warned that audit delays place CMI back at square one and that losing EY would require finding a new audit firm, creating further complications.
- 3.3.2.1. Regent Owens asked whether Cabinet assistance could be requested if funds are unavailable.
- 3.3.3. The Board tasked the Interim President with locating funds, confirming TAP disbursement timing, paying EY, and negotiating continued engagement, with an update requested by early next week (Tuesday).

4. OTHER MATTERS

5. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 5.1. RFP
 - 5.1.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that no RFP responses have been received yet, though ACCT indicated they expect to submit this week.
 - 5.1.2. Interim Chair Kijiner noted the RFP was sent last Monday and that at least three proposals are required.
 - 5.1.2.1. Due to limited responses and the holiday period, the Presidential Search Committee will likely meet by Zoom and extend the deadline by two weeks to secure sufficient bids.
- 5.2. Christmas Party
 - 5.2.1. The Board was invited to attend the CMI Christmas gathering on December 15 at 6:00 p.m.
 - 5.2.2. Interim Chair Kijiner and Regent Muller will donate the Christmas tree, while Interim President Kendall-Lekka noted the event will be cost-conscious and hosted on campus.
- 5.3. Other Matters
 - 5.3.1. Regent Kabua requested a report on the College's liabilities.
 - 5.3.1.1. Interim Chair Kijiner stated the issue will be addressed at the Finance Committee meeting on the 10th and discussed further in executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM



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Signed by:

C1B15922CD0248A...

Scribe

Kelly Luce Sebastian,
Recording Secretary

Signed by:

677F88DBF98E447...

Reviewed & Approved by

Thomas Kijiner Jr.,
Interim Chair, Board of Regents

May 18, 2026

Date Approved