



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 19, 2025

Members Present

Interim Chair Thomas Kijiner Jr.
Regent Roanna Zackhras
Regent Dr. Yukiko Muller

Regent Timothy Owens
Student Regent Willy J. Lebeau
Regent Jelton Anjain

Regent Julius Lucky
Regent Kino Kabua

Member Absent/Excused

Regent Katt Chonggum

Regent Morean S. Watak

CMI employees and others in attendance:

Meitaka Kendall-Lekka, Interim President

David Strauss, CMI Legal Counsel

Kelly Sebastian, Executive Officer/Executive Secretary for the CMI Board of Regents (ESBOR)

The meeting was called to order @ 10:06 AM

Agenda Items

1. Opening prayer & Roll call, and call to order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Matters for Discussion/Approval
 - 3.1. IPS
 - 3.2. Labor Law 2025
 - 3.3. Others

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 10:06 AM.

Regent Owens led the opening prayer.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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



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3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL

3.1. IPS

- 3.1.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that the IPS has been pending and noted concerns about the current fund manager's reporting, with a proposal to consider Dan Roland; VPBAA Kotton was unavailable to brief the Board.
- 3.1.2. Interim Chair Kijiner recommended deferring discussion to allow Regents time to review the IPS, noting the need to consider an RFP for fund management.
- 3.1.3. Regent Kabua agreed that all Board members should review the IPS before deliberation.
- 3.1.4. Legal Counsel Strauss advised comparing the proposed IPS with the current IPS and reviewing five years of investment performance against benchmarks.
- 3.1.5. Discussion of the IPS was deferred unanimously, with direction to provide the old IPS and five-year reports for a full review in January or February.

3.2. Labor Law 2025

- 3.2.1. Legal Counsel Strauss explained that the 2025 amendment extends non-resident employment from 2 to 5 years, but contains serious drafting errors, including references to repealed laws and unclear repatriation rules.
- 3.2.2. The law appears to require repatriation after 5 years, but is unclear on contract renewals and unintentionally favors workers who change employers.
- 3.2.3. Interim President Kendall-Lekka raised concerns about upcoming contract renewals and lack of clear guidance from Labor and Immigration.
- 3.2.4. Regent Lucky noted inconsistencies between Labor, Immigration, and Finance data on non-resident workers and related fees.
- 3.2.5. The law needs clarification; CMI will monitor its impact through actual contract renewals and seek further guidance.

3.3. Others

- 3.3.1. Interim Chair Kijiner reported that the Interim President's contract expires at the end of the month, requiring Board action to avoid a lapse.
 - 3.3.1.1. Legal Counsel Strauss advised that extending the contract for a defined period (3 months) demonstrates active pursuit of a permanent president and avoids negative public or ACCJC perception.
- 3.3.2. Interim President Kendall-Lekka updated the Board on ACCJC engagement, audit delays, Pell Grant compliance concerns, and ongoing review of refund timing relative to federal requirements.
 - 3.3.2.1. Student Regent Lebeau clarified discrepancies in student account closure timing related to bookstore charges and refunds.
- 3.3.3. The Board agreed in principle to extend the Interim President's appointment through March 31 or until a new president is appointed, with a resolution to be circulated via DocuSign.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 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