



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

Regular Board of Regents Minutes - Approved February 20, 2026

Members Present

Interim Chair Thomas Kijiner Jr.	Regent Timothy Owens	Regent Julius Lucky
Regent Roanna Zackhras	Student Regent Willy J. Lebeau	Regent Katt Chonggum
Regent Dr. Yukiko Muller		

Member Absent/Excused

Regent Morean S. Watak	Regent Jelton Anjain	Regent Kino Kabua
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CMI employees and others in attendance:

Meitaka Kendall-Lekka, Interim President
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 @ 10:07 AM

Agenda Items

1. Opening prayer & Roll call, and call to order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Review of the last BOR meeting minutes - Online Approval
4. Board Chair Report
5. President's Report, Accreditation & Audit Update
6. Standing Committee Reports
7. Proposed - Minimum Wage Correction (Resolution) & CMI Housing Rate Resolution
8. Report and Recommendations/Approvals/Action
 - 8.1. IPS
 - 8.2. IT Policy: Social Media Policy, CMI CCTV Policy, and Resolution
 - 8.3. Policy 310 Admission 2026 Revision and Resolution
 - 8.4. Online Learning Policy 380 2026 Revision and Resolution
9. Matters for information
10. BOR request for future items and information
11. Other Matters

Minutes

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



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Interim Chair Kijiner commenced the BOR meeting and officially called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

Regent Owens led the opening prayer.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BOR MEETING MINUTES

- 3.1. Interim Chair Kijiner requested the Regents to review all the BOR meeting minutes held on August 25, August 29, September 1, September 10, October 15, and October 25, 2025.
- 3.2. Approval of these minutes will be completed [online](#).

4. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

- 4.1. Interim Chair Kijiner reported that the Strategic Planning Committee finally met and reviewed key planning documents, including the Integrated Planning Manual, Wapepe, and Meto plan.
 - 4.1.1. Encouraged all Regents to review the documents, noting they show how CMI's smaller plans connect to the larger institutional plan.
 - 4.1.2. Acknowledged Regent Kabua's planning experience and her willingness to support the committee despite her busy schedule.
- 4.2. Interim Chair Kijiner reported that ACCT has been selected to assist with the presidential search, with contract details still being finalized, especially travel costs. The proposed timeline targets the week of June 15, 2026, for announcing the next CMI president, though it may happen earlier.
 - 4.2.1. Regent Owens asked whether the Interim President's contract would continue until then.
 - 4.2.2. Interim Chair Kijiner shared that it has been rolling over, while Interim President Kendall-Lekka noted the contract may need revision because of language tied to the March deadline.
- 4.3. Interim Chair Kijiner informed the Board that a confidential internal personnel matter is currently under review through the appropriate process.
 - 4.3.1. Noting that updates will be provided to the Board as needed, and reminded Regents that the matter must remain confidential.
- 4.4. Interim Chair Kijiner reported that there is no update on the Auditor General's Office investigation, which remains ongoing with the Auditor General's Office, the AG's Office, and the administration.
 - 4.4.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka added that legal counsel mentioned follow-up questions still need to be answered by the internal auditors.
- 4.5. Regents were invited to send any questions to Interim Chair Kijiner.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT & ACCREDITATION, AUDIT UPDATE



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- 5.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that VPLG Ogunmokun is on duty travel and provided an update on Land Grant funding opportunities, including a proposal amount that may increase from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
 - 5.1.1. Noted that potential funding must align with Land Grant objectives, with agroforestry identified as a possible program area.
 - 5.1.2. CMI will also host the next Land Grant meeting in April
- 5.2. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that a new auditor is on site and that FY2023 audit work is progressing, with completion targeted around mid-March. FY2024 is expected to follow, with the goal of completing FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 audits within the year.
 - 5.2.1. Interim Chair Kijiner added that completing the audits is important to demonstrate progress to ACCJC and government partners.
- 5.3. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that CMI is working with the Ministry of Finance on funding and expects approximately \$700,000.
 - 5.3.1. Noted work on Pell drawdowns, AP aging, vendor statements, and a financial recovery plan.
 - 5.3.2. Interim Chair Kijiner emphasized the need to identify what CMI owes and what support is needed from Cabinet.
- 5.4. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that the Arrak TVET Building is nearing completion.
 - 5.4.1. Regent Lucky noted the ESSP/World Bank connection, and Interim Chair Kijiner suggested seeking future funding for program operations.
- 5.5. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that Education Week was successful, with over 500 students attending on Monday.
- 5.6. VPASA Switaj reported that ACCJC requires a special report by November 1, along with the FY2022, FY2023, and FY2024 audits.
 - 5.6.1. Note that the current warning is tied to delayed audits.
 - 5.6.2. Reported that CMI is preparing for its institutional self-evaluation report, due August 1, 2027, with committees working on evidence and improvement recommendations, especially under Standard 3: Infrastructure and Resources.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.1. Finance Committee:
 - 6.1.1. Finance Chair Chong-Gum reported that the Finance Committee has not met yet this year and is waiting for financial recovery plan reports. Once received, the committee will meet next week and focus upcoming meetings on the recovery plan.
- 6.2. Academic & Student Affairs Committee:
 - 6.2.1. ASA Chair Zackhras reported that the committee had not yet met but plans to meet before the next Board meeting and noted that two policy revisions were shared for Board review.



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- 6.2.2. VPASA Switaj reported that enrollment reached 1,030 students—the highest since Spring 2023—with increases in both headcount and full-time equivalency, indicating students are taking more courses.
- 6.2.3. Discussion also covered how government social programs may impact student retention, especially among female students, and potential support through a proposed women's health garden project.
- 6.2.4. Regent Lucky requested reports on the bootcamp program's completion rates and tracer studies.
- 6.3. Strategic Planning Committee:
 - 6.3.1. Interim Chair Kijiner reported that the Strategic Planning Committee plans to meet within the next 2–3 weeks and is continuing to review the Meto and Wapepe planning documents.
 - 6.3.1.1. Highlighted ongoing gender gaps at CMI, noting that while female enrollment is higher, female students graduate at lower rates than male students, largely due to family, health, and caregiving responsibilities

7. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS/APPROVALS

- 7.1. IPS
 - 7.1.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that Raymond James has requested CMI's assistance in hosting an investment training event in July, but no decision has been made due to limited information and concerns about capacity and costs.
 - 7.1.2. Interim Chair Kijiner recommended reviewing Raymond James' proposal, current investment performance, reporting responsiveness, and projected returns before considering any change in investment manager.
- 7.2. IT Policy: Social Media Policy, CMI CCTV Policy, and Resolution
 - 7.2.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that the main concern was the approval language in the CCTV policy, particularly who has authority to approve retrieval of CCTV footage.
 - 7.2.2. Interim Chair Kijiner stated that the language should be clearer, possibly requiring presidential approval for serious incidents, but noted that "serious" must be defined.
 - 7.2.2.1. The Board agreed the policy is needed but should be revised by management and reviewed by legal counsel before approval at the next Board meeting.
 - 7.2.3. For the Social Media Policy, Interim President Kendall-Lekka noted it is a first draft and may need revisions, especially with future restructuring of the communications office.
 - 7.2.3.1. Interim Chair Kijiner recommended that it should also be reviewed by legal counsel.
- 7.3. Policy 310 Admission 2026 Revision and Resolution



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- 7.3.1. VPASA Switaj reported that the proposed revision would allow CMI to admit certain students without a high school diploma into designated workplace pathway programs, while still complying with financial aid requirements.
- 7.3.2. Interim Chair Kijiner emphasized that the change is intended for workforce training opportunities and not to lower academic standards or discourage high school completion.

Regent Lucky moved to approve Policy 310: Admission Resolution. Student Regent Lebeau seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- 7.4. Online Learning Policy 380 2026 Revision and Resolution
 - 7.4.1. VPASA Switaj reported that the revisions clarify regular and substantive interaction requirements and shift CMI toward formal distance education courses that students can access from any location. Implementation is proposed for August 1, 2027, to allow time for curriculum review and approval.
 - 7.4.2. Interim Chair Kijiner asked how the changes would affect outer island centers and whether programs could be completed fully online.
 - 7.4.3. VPASA Switaj explained that some programs may eventually be fully online, depending on curriculum and accreditation approval, and that distance education tuition currently remains the same as in-person courses.

Regent Lucky moved to approve Policy 380: Online Learning Resolution. Student Regent Lebeau and Regent Chong-Gum seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

8. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 8.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that discussions with the Nitijela HESA Committee focused on concerns about the nursing program and ways to strengthen it in collaboration with the hospital. One proposed change is to restructure the program so that students complete coursework first and then focus on clinical training, allowing greater attention to hands-on experience.
- 8.2. VPASA Switaj clarified that the proposal would reorganize the existing three-year program rather than extend its length.
- 8.3. Interim Chair Kijiner noted that concerns raised in Nitijela about nursing graduate preparedness led to the discussions and expressed support for ongoing collaboration to improve the program.

9. BOR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS AND INFORMATION

- 9.1. Interim Chair Kijiner reminded Regents to request any needed information through the Interim President, who can coordinate with Kelly to share materials.
 - 9.1.1. Encouraged Regents not to wait for Board meetings to raise issues and to communicate by email as needed.
 - 9.1.2. Noted that progress is being made, though slowly, and emphasized that CMI must follow proper rules and procedures to avoid legal risks.



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10. OTHER MATTERS

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM

Signed by:

C1B15922CD0248A...

Scribe

Kelly Luce Sebastian,
Recording Secretary

Signed by:

677F88DBF98E447...

Reviewed & Approved by

Thomas Kijiner Jr.,
Interim Chair, Board of Regents

September 11, 2026

Date Approved