



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 May 18, 2026

Members Present

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

Member Absent/Excused

Regent Morean S. Watak	Regent Katt Chonggum	Regent Kino Kabua
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CMI employees and others in attendance:

Meitaka Kendall-Lekka, Interim President
 Dr. Adedayo Ogunmokun, Vice President for Land Grant
 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 @ 3:00 PM

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
 - 3.1. October 15, October 24, November 25, December 4, December 11, & December 19
4. Board Chair Report
5. President's Report, Accreditation & Audit Update
6. Standing Committee Reports
7. Report and Recommendations/Approvals/Action
 - 7.1. Resolution to Confer Degrees, Certificates, and Diplomas (Graduate List)
 - 7.2. Concept Paper 2 Optional Supplemental Life Insurance for Parents and Parents-In-Law Life Insurance (PAPILLI) & Resolution
 - 7.3. Integrated Planning Manual & Resolution
 - 7.4. Maintenance Fund Request
 - 7.5. METO Imperatives & Resolution
8. Matters for information
 - 8.1. CMI Graduation: May 21 @ 4 PM
 - 8.2. ABE Graduation: May 20 @ 10 AM
 - 8.3. Ebeye Graduation: May 26 @ 4 PM
 - 8.4. Childcare Location



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9. BOR request for future items and information

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 3:00 PM.

Regent Owens led the opening prayer.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Regent Owens made a motion to approve the Board's Agenda. Regent Muller 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 October 15, October 24, November 25, December 4, December 11, & December 19 - Approval of these minutes will be completed [online](#).

- 3.1.1. Due to concerns with the Excel spreadsheet buttons not working, Regents who are unable to click approval buttons were asked to send their approval directly to Kelly by email or another communication platform.

4. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

- 4.1. Interim Chair Kijiner reported that there was no report to present.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT & ACCREDITATION, AUDIT UPDATE

- 5.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that the presidential and VPBAA searches are ongoing, with about six presidential applicants received as of the last HR update.

- 5.1.1. Also shared that an institutional dashboard has been completed to centralize quarterly highlights and academic program information for the Board, the Minister, and the next president.

- 5.1.2. Interim Chair Kijiner expressed appreciation for the dashboard, noting it will help the Minister report to the Nitijela and respond to future questions.

- 5.2. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that the FY2023 draft audit report has been received, and management is working with the auditors to address a major finding before the report is finalized. She noted that FY2024 audit preparation has begun, but the engagement process is still pending.

- 5.2.1. Interim Chair Kijiner reported that discussions were held regarding audit delays, timelines, and possible ways to keep CMI's audit work moving forward. Management was asked to review the situation further and provide recommendations to the Board on the next steps.

- 5.2.2. Regent Lucky suggested reviewing prior audit-related options that had been considered in previous discussions.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS



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- 6.1. Finance Committee:
- 6.2. Academic & Student Affairs Committee:
- 6.3. Strategic Planning Committee:

Interim Chair Kijiner noted that committee reports were deferred and asked committee chairs to meet and be prepared to provide updates at the next Board meeting.

7. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS/APPROVALS

- 7.1. Resolution to Confer Degrees, Certificates, and Diplomas (Graduate List)
 - 7.1.1. VPASA Switaj reported that the graduate list includes 104 High School Equivalency recipients, 85 certificates of completion, 182 associate degrees, and 28 bachelor's degrees. She noted that three nursing graduates were included following a formal grade appeal that was upheld by the appropriate review panel.
 - 7.1.2. Interim President Kendall-Lekka noted that the information was received shortly before the meeting.
 - 7.1.3. Interim Chair Kijiner stated that management's process should be trusted unless Board involvement becomes necessary. Also requested title corrections to reflect "Interim Chair" and "Interim President."
 - 7.1.4. Regent Owens raised a concern regarding the spelling of one ABE student's name.
 - 7.1.4.1. VPASA Switaj stated that the ABE team confirmed the name matches the student's official documents.
 - 7.1.5. Interim Chair Kijiner thanked Regent Muller for agreeing to deliver the welcoming remarks on behalf of the Regents, noting that he had asked her to do so due to his travel schedule and uncertainty about returning before Thursday.

Regent Lucky moved to approve the Resolution to Confer Degrees, Certificates, and Diplomas with the amendments. Regent Zackhras and Student Regent Lebeau seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- 7.2. Concept Paper 2 Optional Supplemental Life Insurance for Parents and Parents-In-Law Life Insurance (PAPILLI) & Resolution

Interim President Kendall-Lekka requested that the item be deferred because the HR Director was not present at the meeting.

- 7.3. Integrated Planning Manual & Resolution
 - 7.3.1. Interim Chair Kijiner reported that the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the Integrated Planning Manual and generally supported it, noting that it brings the college's various plans under one umbrella.



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- 7.3.1.1. Emphasized that it is a living document that can be updated and improved as it is implemented.
- 7.3.2. VPASA Switaj added that this is the first major effort to connect institutional planning with resource allocation in a comprehensive way. Noting that timelines may need adjustment as implementation begins, but approval is an important first step.

Regent Owens moved to approve the Integrated Planning Manual Resolution. Regent Anjain and Student Regent Lebeau seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- 7.4. Maintenance Fund Request
 - 7.4.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported an urgent need to replace carpeting in Student Services and other areas using the Maintenance Fund.
 - 7.4.2. Interim Chair Kijiner supported moving forward once quotes are received, noting the work is necessary for maintenance and safety.
- 7.5. METO Imperatives & Resolution
 - 7.5.1. VPASA Switaj reported that the METO Imperatives summarize the long-term Strategic Master Plan into four key themes to guide planning, annual plans, and budget alignment.
 - 7.5.2. Regent Lucky and Interim Chair Kijiner asked how the imperatives align with the National Strategic Plan and whether numerical targets should be included.
 - 7.5.3. VPASA Switaj explained that the goals align with national education and training priorities and that some targets connect to existing student achievement indicators.
 - 7.5.4. Interim Chair Kijiner recommended reviewing the numerical targets further to avoid setting unrealistic public expectations. Management was asked to revisit the targets and share revisions before online approval.

8. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 8.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reminded Regents of the upcoming graduations: ABE Graduation on May 20 at 10 AM, CMI Graduation on May 21 at 4 PM, and Ebeye Graduation on May 26 at 4 PM.
 - 8.1.1. Interim Chair Kijiner encouraged Regents to attend and support the Board representatives speaking at the ceremonies.
- 8.2. Childcare Location
 - 8.2.1. Interim President Kendall-Lekka reported that the WYSER Project is requesting a decision on the proposed childcare center location, as the originally recommended site would overlap with future campus plans and existing facilities.
 - 8.2.2. VPASA Switaj explained that the recommendation is to relocate the childcare center to avoid conflicts with the planned Student Center. Noting that the recommendation was made by the project architects and would not create additional costs or delays if approved promptly.



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- 8.2.3. Regent Lucky raised concerns about impacts on existing facilities and graduation-related space and encouraged consideration of alternative locations.
- 8.2.4. Interim Chair Kijiner discussed the need to balance available campus space, future development plans, and project requirements, noting the urgency of making a decision due to project timelines and funding requirements.

The Board discussed location options and agreed to proceed with the original proposed location for the WYSER childcare center.

9. BOR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS AND INFORMATION

10. OTHER MATTERS

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 PM

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