



CMI

**Industry Advising Committee, Marine Science Program, STEM Department
College of the Marshall Islands**

Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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**Industry Advising Committee, Marine Science
01:00 p.m. to 2:00pm, November 22, 2024
Zoom Meeting**

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Attendees:

Kendal Romany (CMI),
Edward Alfonso (CMI),
Dua Rudolph (MICS),
Melvin Kilma (EPA),
Benedict Yamamura (MIMRA)

Absentees:

Glenn Joseph (MIMRA),
Kathy Debe Neien Jetnil (Jo-jikum)
Rufus Lajikit (Land Grant)
Isadore Robert (NDMO),
Joseph Genz (IOA-LSAMP Director),
Dolores deBrum Kattil (MICS),
Va Savu (CMI),
Steve Sharp (Clam Farm)

Mission Statement:

The College of the Marshall Islands will provide our community with access to quality, higher and further education, prioritize student success through engagement in relevant Academic, Career and Technical Education, and be a center for the study of Marshallese Culture. It will also provide intellectual resources and facilitate research specific to the needs of the nation.

I. Recite Mission

II. Welcoming and Introduction

III. Overview of the Marine Science Program

Mission: Preparing individuals to support scientific-based decision-making regarding marine ecosystems in RMI.

Learning Outcomes: Emphasis on marine research, conservation, and communication.

Discussion of grants supporting the program: NSF-ATE, IOA-LSAMP, and NSF-SSTEM.

Overview of activities, popular courses, and future developments.

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IV. Discussion of Program Objectives and Alignment with Industry Needs

Participants discussed the alignment of the Marine Science Program with current industry trends and workforce needs.

Discussions:

MIMRA representative: Highlighted upcoming research opportunities on an incoming vessel and the potential to involve students in marine diving projects. Recrew could provide a temporary diving instructor to support SCUBA training.

EPA representative: Recommended that foundational courses like Marine Biology be core requirements rather than electives. Environmental Science and Marine Biology are crucial for building a robust foundation.

MICS representative: Stressed the need for regional engagement and providing students with opportunities for specialized training, workshops, and research outside the Marshall Islands.

V. Planning for Ongoing Collaboration and Future Initiatives

The committee discussed strategies to strengthen collaboration and improve the program.

Recommendations from Stakeholder Agencies:

Focus on Regional Obligations:

Increase student travel opportunities for specialized training and research.

Facilitate participation in regional competitions like the MC Championship Awards Program.

Enhance Laboratory and Field Projects:

Include lab projects conducted at stakeholder agency facilities.

Focus on marine conservation and innovative solutions.

Operationalize PADI Training:

Ensure the SCUBA program is fully functional and accessible to students.

Collaboration and Support:

Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with stakeholder agencies to formalize collaboration.

Acknowledge that time spent by professionals from stakeholder agencies.



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Future Developments:

- Continue progress on developing an Associate Degree in Environmental and Marine Science.
- Enhance research capacity and improve facilities like the SCUBA room.
- Incorporate hybrid course offerings to increase accessibility.

VI. Action Items


- Finalize the foundational course curriculum to ensure Marine Biology is a core requirement.
- Engage with MIMRA and EPA for project and internship opportunities.
- Expand travel opportunities for students to participate in regional events and specialized training.
- Develop and sign an MOU to strengthen collaboration with stakeholder agencies.
- Operationalize the PADI SCUBA training program.
- Explore funding and logistical support for research and lab projects.

VII. Adjournment


The meeting concluded with a note of appreciation to all participants for their constructive feedback and commitment to enhancing the Marine Science Program.

Next Meeting: Spring Semester

Submitted by:

DocuSigned by:

 12/1/2024
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 Kendal Romany, Coordinator
 Marine Science Program

Concurrent by:

DocuSigned by:

 12/2/2024
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 Edward Alfonso, Chair
 STEM Department

Approved Date:

12/2/2024