

**College of the Marshall Islands**  
**Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: 11:10 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**Faculty Senate – Minutes of Discussion**

**Chair:** Alvin Page – FS President

**Deputy Chair:** Rosalinda Sumaoang – FS Vice President

**Minute Taker:** Alexander Velasquez – FS Secretary and Treasurer

**Quorum:** 23 required, 30 in attendance.

1. The meeting was called to order.
  - i. **Quorum was reached at 11:20 AM.**
2. The College Mission Statement was read.
3. Review of the Minutes from April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - i. Minutes were approved and seconded with no abstentions.
4. Special/Urgent Business
  - i. Dean Angela Franklin would like to come in to speak to Faculty Senate (from here on abbreviated as FS) about student updates.
    1. However, a definite date has not been determined for this.
  - ii. There is uncertainty as to whether there will be another FS meeting this semester, as the next FS meeting date takes place during finals week.
    1. Last semester, a FS meeting was had during finals week, but this was due to the previous FS meeting falling on the same date as the Fall semester faculty retreat. Hence there was the need for faculty to meet at least one more time.
      - a. For now, the May 13<sup>th</sup> FS date remains tentative – we will play it by ear and if there is urgent business to attend to, then the date will be left open for faculty to meet on that date (please see note 5iii1 & 5iii2 below).
5. Unfinished Business
  - i. Reminder to Complete the Faculty Senate Working Conditions and Satisfaction Survey
    1. 37 out of 53 faculty members have completed the survey – that's 70% of all faculty members.
    2. Ideally, we would like to have all 53 faculty members complete the survey; however, as a baseline we would like at least 85% (that's at least 45 faculty members) of faculty complete the survey.
  - ii. Survey Discussion
    1. One faculty member expressed that he would be more inclined to participate if the results for each of the questions were shown as the questions are answered or even before they are answered to get a general consensus of faculty opinion and to then chime in their own responses.
      - a. However, those responsible for creating the survey said that they were not aware that was even an option on the Google doc.
    2. There was also a reminder that faculty should be respectful with their language when responding to the survey.
    3. Many responses thus far seem to be neutral on the issues raised.
  - iii. A Dilemma Regarding the Survey
    1. There was a slight dilemma raised during the discussion of the survey:
      - a. President Dr. Irene Taafaki is interested in seeing the results of the survey.
      - b. There is also the importance of breaking down the data and creating the narrative faculty would like to present and bring it to EC.
        - i. This leaves faculty with two options:
          1. Option 1: If FS does not meet again, then the survey results could be emailed to all faculty, and all faculty could respond to the results of the survey via email.

- a. However, email is not effective in comparison to having faculty together in one place at one time, such as what happens at FS, and having the faculty as a body agree or disagree as to what should be presented to EC.
          - i. This means that faculty will not have the time to create and agree on some sort of narrative to present to EC until the following academic year.
          - ii. This also means that Dr. Irene Taafaki will look over the raw results of the survey without faculty input.
  - 2. Option 2: FS could meet on May 13<sup>th</sup> during finals week and our first order of special/urgent business will be to comb over the survey results and decide how it should be presented to EC.
    - a. A decision will be made regarding a meeting as May 13<sup>th</sup> draws near.
6. Executive Council & Executive Officers' Report
  - i. Ridge to Reef Program: Four workshops have been set up in Majuro, Ebeye, Jaluit, and Wotje to train 80 potential students in the AS degree for the purpose of providing skills and encouraging the interest in Agriculture through transitional activities.
7. Human Resources Committee
  - i. The Parental Leave Policy was approved.
  - ii. The Housing Allowance Policy was approved.
  - iii. The Short-Term Disability Policy was approved.
  - iv. PMS: There will be a new automated system that is user-friendly in comparison to what PMS is like at the moment.
8. Curriculum Committee RSA
  - i. AGF 207 (Aquaponics) was approved.
  - ii. AGF 210 (Agricultural Entrepreneurship) was approved.
  - iii. The program document for the Associate of Science in Agroforestry Education for Health and Sustainable Livelihoods was approved.
  - iv. Bookkeeping I was approved.
  - v. CC also started looking at Adult High School documents.
9. Institutional Effectiveness Committee
  - i. Nothing relevant for FS purposes.
10. Enrollment Management Committee
  - i. Dr. Raab shared a draft of CMI Policy No. 367: Graduation with faculty this morning.
    - 1. Faculty should comment on the document if they want to have a say on policies related to graduation.
      - a. There was an interesting discussion had during today's FS meeting regarding one of these policies:
        - i. According to the policy: "The associate-level graduate with the highest GPA shall be recognized as the valedictorian... Only courses taken at CMI will count for the calculation of the GPA for graduation honors."
          - 1. This policy leaves open the possibility that a student may transfer to CMI, get a 4.0 for one semester, have enough credits to graduate and become the valedictorian.
            - a. However, some faculty believed this was unfair to the other students and said that the class valedictorian should be required to attend CMI for at least a full academic year.

1. Also, what GPA should be considered for class valedictorian? Should it be the cumulative GPA or the GPA within the department?
  - a. **If faculty want a say in the matter, then they should comment on the document that Dr. Raab shared this morning with faculty.**

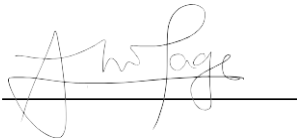
11. Plant & Facilities Committee

- i. Distance learning facilities are being worked on, including the Arrak campus.
- ii. Dean Angela raised the issue about the rat problem, and a discussion was had about the rats:
  1. Rats are smart – they can smell the previous dead rats and avoid the poison set there.
  2. Also, Stevenson has not approved any kind of budget for rat traps.
    - a. Reminder: Please be careful with food because the rats are attracted to food scraps.
- iii. The ACs have been fixed on the 2nd floor of the STEM building, including faculty offices and the student lounge.
- iv. There will be another meeting on Monday for CCTVs to be approved.
- v. Plant & Facilities is now aware that there are cats are on the roof of RH.

12. Announcements

- i. Please Join the Liberal Arts and Marshallese Departments for their exhibitions today: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Etaanak.
- ii. The Employee and Faculty Retreat will be held next week, Friday, April 29th at MIR Poolside.

**13. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.**



Alvin Page  
Faculty Senate President



Alexander Velasquez  
Faculty Senate Secretary/Treasurer