

# Executive Council

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COLLEGE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
P.O. Box 1258  
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

TELEPHONE: (692) 625-3394/3291  
FAX: (692) 625-7203

**To: All Executive Council Members:** Alfred Capelle, President of CMI  
Dr. John Tuthill, Dean of Academic Affairs  
Nenette Boucher, Dean of Student and Community Services  
Diane Myazoe, Dean of Cooperative Research and Extension  
Louiston Louis, Comptroller

**Cc:** Dr. John Carroll, Hawaii Community College  
Dr. Barbara Arthurs, Hawaii Community College  
Leilani Arthurs, Hawaii Community College

**From:** Cheryl Jorban, Executive Assistant

**Re:** Minutes of 7/18/01 EC Meeting

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A special EC meeting with Dr. John Carroll, Dean of Student Services; Dr. Barbara Arthurs, Counselor; and Leilani Arthurs, all of Hawaii Community College, convened at 4:25 p.m. on July 18, 2001.

EC Members present: John Tuthill, Nenette Boucher, Dilip Nandwani (acting Dean of CRE), Louiston Louis, Ray Boucher, and Cheryl Jorban.

Acting President John Tuthill introduced Dr. John Carroll, Dr. Barbara Arthurs, and Leilani Arthurs. They are here as a result of ongoing conversations with Alfred concerning many possibilities for cooperation between Hawaii Community College and CMI. Yesterday afternoon (7/17/01) they met with John Tuthill to determine the appropriate topics and people to talk to. Today (7/18/01) John Carroll and Barbara met independently with many different directors and staff members at CMI. John Tuthill then asked John Carroll and Barbara to share with EC members the results of those meetings.

John Carroll thanked everyone for supporting them while in Majuro. He indicated that both he and Barbara had been looking forward to this trip. Faculty at HawCC had sufficient interest in Marshallese students at HawCC to pursue ways to learning more about them. As a result, Barbara and another faculty member at HawCC came up with a proposal to enable the trip to CMI to pursue further relationships and interests between CMI and HawCC.

John Carroll said he met with John Tuthill, Mark Canney from ADB, and Minister Kendall. As a result of those meetings, he felt that there were indeed many opportunities for developing relationships between the two institutions. He noted Barbara's interest in establishing relationships to help deal with students who attend HawCC. Another possible opportunity is an exchange between students and/or faculty at CMI/HawCC. John Carroll said that what he experienced today/yesterday in terms of meeting with various people was well worth the trip and will enable CMI and HawCC to plan and talk further about specific things which can be done within the next year or two that will advance the interests of both institutions.

Barbara also thanked John Tuthill and Nenette for arranging meetings today. Leilani and Barbara met with Rosita, Jenny, Jane, John and Josephine Hunter, and Ted Stepp. She indicated that this trip was extremely valuable for her and Leilani. Leilani is a tutor at the UH-Hilo writing lab, and some of her writing students there are from the Marshall Islands. The value of this meeting to Barbara is to simply observe the students here. She noted with interest that Marshallese students just seem to "sit around". Barbara indicated that transition with both academic preparation and cultural differences is an important issue for CMI/HawCC to pursue. She stated an example of the taxi rate in Hilo being transferred in the minds of Marshallese students as equivalent to the taxi rate in Majuro, which of course is not the

case, and the fact that the minimum wage in Hawaii is often a reason for students from here to pursue working at a McDonald's rather than continuing in their education.

Barbara said that her talks with John Hunter and Josephine were valuable to her in terms of what orientation needs should be met. As a result of their talks, the notion of a degree from CMI in absentia, with CMI students completing the final credits in their fourth semester at HawCC, was discussed. In the meeting Josephine mentioned that RMI Scholarship Board might not see that as a viable step in terms of going from one community college to another. However, John Hunter suggested that a progression from Upward Bound to a CMI program whereby HawCC would be incorporated into the AS program before moving into a degree program could be pursued.

John Carroll agreed that these transition issues are extremely importantly for the success of Marshallese students. John Tuthill also agreed, and added that if the RMI Scholarship Board sent the students to HawCC to complete their AS degree, this would be an immediate goal for them to achieve, as opposed to the 2-year BA degree program, and if they don't graduate with an AS/AA degree at HawCC, they come back to CMI and have a harder sell to the Scholarship Board to further their BA degree at UH-Hilo.

Ray stated that at the last CMI BOR meeting, the failure of CMI students at UH-Hilo due to living off campus was noted. Ray asked about the possibility of students only living in the dormitories while at HawCC.

John Carroll indicated that HawCC has shared facilities with UH-Hilo for dormitories. Deadlines need to be met in order to reserve room at the dorm, but arrangements could be made through early reservation and advanced payment. John Tuthill agreed that a contractual arrangement with HawCC could be made to ensure dormitory space for a set number of students.

Ray also asked where Marshallese students currently at HawCC came from. John Carroll indicated that some come directly from Hilo because families live there, others come from UH-Hilo at the recommendation of faculty.

Ray also mentioned a concern of the Board in terms of the low placement levels of our students from CMI. John Carroll explained that HawCC uses the

Compass placement test, and that by using the same test instrument, the students would be evaluated at the same level. Barbara indicated that she is not sure what placement test UH uses, but she is aware of the writing proficiency test, and a battery of other tests.

John Tuthill indicated that often students don't understand that they will be required to take more standardized tests upon admission to other colleges in the States. Another point is that the 16 students who went to UH-Hilo were all under the old system where admission standards out of developmental studies were significantly lower than they are now. Presently the score needed to achieve credit level courses is much higher, and this should guarantee that the students would be better prepared for courses at UH-Hilo. Also, John Tuthill indicated that the level of expectation is more important than the kind of standardized test used, and stressed the importance of raising the teaching standards here at CMI.

Nenette expressed her concern that the Marshallese students live together and do not socialize among other students to improved their English. She asked what could be done to integrate our Marshallese students more with students from Hawaii or other states. John Carroll said that for educational purposes, Marshallese students could be placed with non-Marshallese students. John Tuthill pointed out that when the Marshallese live together, they are personally happier and more secure in their environment, and they can support each other more. John Carroll indicated that faculty at HawCC should be aware that this is a problem, and that they find strategies to help the Marshallese students within a classroom setting. Barbara agreed that if students were uncomfortable in their living environment, they would not do well. However, there are other students to realize the value in socializing and living with other students. Barbara said that one idea Jenny had was to involve Marshallese students more in student organizations whereby they can share in their culture and gain support through these kinds of organizations.

Barbara talked about using students who have successfully completed their studies at UH-Hilo as another way help students prepare for studies in Hawaii. Nenette said she has used students—Bruce Bilimon and Jenny Jarom—at CMI orientation to speak to students about going to school in the states. John Tuthill described one particular program that he and John Carroll talked about in depth. The ADB is sponsoring a \$9-million project for vocational education, and a third of that money is earmarked for vocational students who have completed a high

school education. CMI expects to be one of the primary deliverers of vocational education for those students who have achieved a high school certificate or GED. A needs assessment will determine what jobs and skills are needed over the next 10-15 year. The needs assessment may find there are skills in demand, but at a low level—such as 5 welders, 6 engineers, etc. It would not make financial sense for CMI to invest a huge amount of money to develop a vocational education programs for only a few students. However, HawCC has excess capacity in many of its technical areas, and they have the facilities. An agreement/partnership with HawCC could be made whereby CMI would provide the foundation work for these students, and then the students could go with RMI scholarships to HawCC to finish their technical training in those fields. CMI would still develop vocational education programs in some areas where there is greater need. John Tuthill will talk with Alfred more in detail about this possibility.

Ray asked if ADB would pay for the students to attend HawCC. John Tuthill explained that ADB will pay for buildings, equipment, and upgrading of instructors; however, the education of students is a recurring expense and ADB will not pay for the cost of students' education. Money to pay for the students will have to come from CMI or the RMI Scholarship Board.

Dilip asked if there was any qualifying admissions tests for students going to college in the States, and also if the students are required to come back to work in the Marshall Islands after they complete their schooling in the States.

Nenette responded to Dilip's first question by explaining the SAT, ACT, and TOEFL tests which are administered here in Majuro. Nenette also responded to the second question by saying that there is a requirement for those who receive RMI scholarship should come back to work for a set numbers of years, but it is not currently being followed. John Tuthill agreed that it is extremely difficult to enforce this obligation. He said the RMI Scholarship Board reported that this year over half of the people who received RMI scholarships did actually come back. Nenette said that the job offers are attractive and lucrative for those students who do return to the Marshall Islands.

Ray asked John Carroll to repeat what he said earlier (before the recorder was on) regarding the relationship between HawCC and UH-Hilo.

John Carroll said that HawCC was a division of UH-Hilo up until 1991. It was one institution, one administration. In 1991 the Board of Regents decided to separate HawCC from UH-Hilo. This allowed for HawCC to align with other community colleges in the state of Hawaii, making it a part of the University of Hawaii Community College system. Since then, HawCC has achieved its own separate accreditation under WASC, and operates as an independent college. However, HawCC still shares many resources with UH-Hilo, such as student housing, campus facilities, campus security, campus center, student health, etc. HawCC offers a liberal arts program as well as vocational technical programs. The liberal arts program is articulated with UH-Hilo, whereby students who graduate from HawCC are accepted into the baccalaureate program at UH. The counseling program tries to ensure that all credits achieved at HawCC apply to the particular major/baccalaureate program the student plans to pursue. Requirements at UH-Hilo even differ from requirements at UH-Manoa. Articulation agreements in theory should be easy; however, there are still some weaknesses in the areas of credits that apply to a particular program. It is important, thus, that counseling is done early on.

Nenette asked for a summary from John Tuthill of the points discussed at this EC meeting. John Tuthill recapped the following:

- 1) There are many opportunities for institutional linkages, and they are well worth talking about and pursuing.
- 2) There are areas of common interest between the two institutions whereby we can develop programs beneficial to both institutions and students.
- 3) Specifically, there is a possibility of working together in vocational education in some areas to be determined.
- 4) There is the possibility of having a fourth semester "bridge" type of program for baccalaureate-bound students whereby students would undergo a semester at HawCC before going on to UH-Hilo or other 4-year institution.
- 5) There is an awareness of problems, needs, and frustrations of our students that are common to both institutions.

John Carroll mentioned one final issue, which was discussed, in his talks with John Tuthill. There may be opportunities for HawCC faculty to get involved in helping out with the summer program at CMI.

John Tuthill indicated that there were many possibilities discussed, including student/faculty/staff exchanges for a semester or shorter period of time.

After some discussion about agricultural programs in HawCC and in the Marshall Islands, John Carroll and Barbara once again thanked everyone.

The EC meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.