



**NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
Regular Meeting of February 09, 2018**

Minutes

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College was held on Friday, February 09, 2018 in the BOR Conference Room, Saipan Campus. Chairman Michael Norita Evangelista, Esq., called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m. and called for roll of the members. Six members were present and a quorum was established. Chairman Evangelista welcomed everyone to the meeting.

a. Roll Call

Regents Present:

Regent Michael Norita Evangelista, Esq., Chairman; Regent Michaela U. Sanchez, Treasurer; Regent Zenie P. Mafnas; Regent Irene T. Torres; Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla, Vice Chair via Zoom; Regent Charles V. Cepeda via Zoom.

NMC College Staff

Dr. Carmen Fernandez, President; Maria Aguon, Tinian Center Executive Director; Adrian Atalig, Information Technology Director; Mike Manglona, Network Specialist; Floyd Masga, UCEDD Director; Vince Merfalen, Facilities Director; Johnny S. Aldan, Nursing Faculty; Richard Waldo, Business Department Faculty; Arthur De Oro, Grants Coordinator; Anita Camacho, PPMO Manager; Velma Deleon Guerrero, SMHA Department Chair/ Liberal Arts Program Coordinator; Christine Inos, Learning Support Services Director; Zerlyn Taimanao, Instructor/Criminal Justice Coordinator; Lucille Deleon Guerrero, Disability Support Service Counselor; Jack Kiyoshi, Human Resources Director; Jennifer Castro, Program Manager, UCEDD; Frankie M. Eliptico, Dean of Institutional Advancement; Andrew Reese, Chief Financial Officer; Barbara Merfalen, Dean of Academic Programs and Services; Jesus C. Borja, BOR Legal Counsel and Helen B. Camacho, Board Secretary (Recorder).

At this time Chairman Evangelista recognized Regent Cepeda. Regent Cepeda wanted to know if today's meeting meets the required number of members present to conduct business. Counsel Borja indicated that after reviewing the policy No. 1015.9 Meetings via VTC, the policy does permit it as long as there's a quorum. For the record, the members who are present in person today make quorum. Furthermore, Board members

who are attending the meeting via VTC or by phone can also be counted towards a quorum. Regent Cepeda thanked the counsel for his review.

Chairman Evangelista also indicated that he has an urgent matter that he needs to attend to and will eventually have to leave the meeting. It was for this reason that the Chairman requested for legal counsel to review the policy to ensure that there is quorum to continue the meeting. Chairman Evangelista proceeded to request that Vice-Chairperson Orilla take over the meeting. Regent Sanchez also recommended that Regent Orilla chair the meeting in absence of the Chairman. Regent Orilla agreed and the meeting was continued.

#### Review and Adoption of Agenda

**Regent Zenie P. Mafnas motioned to move (IV) NMC Executive Reports before (III) New Business (Election of Officers), seconded by Regent Torres. All members voted yes, the motion carried.**

#### Review and Adoption of Minutes

October 27, 2017 regular meeting

**Regent Sanchez motioned to adopt the October 27, 2017 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Regent Torres. Counsel Borja offered a minor amendment to the minutes. On the last page (5), third line where it states that upon returning from executive session Chairman Evangelista noted no actions were taken and replace with “no actions need be taken.” All six regents voted yes to adopt the amended minutes, seconded by Regent Mafnas. The motion carried.**

#### **II. Public Comment Period:**

None.

#### **III. NMC Executive Reports**

##### **a. President’s Report**

##### **1. WASC Accreditation Update**

President Fernandez reported that the next accreditation report due is the Mid-Cycle review. The annual report is submitted in March and it will be followed by instructions for the Mid-Cycle review due in May 2018. We have a progress report due November 1, 2018 to address the recommendations from the June 6, 2017 Interim/Progress Report Action Summary.

##### **2. Legislative Update**

Frankie M. Eliptico, Dean of Institutional Advancement provided an update (handout provided). The Senate passed the casino Gross Revenue Tax (GRT) bill appropriating \$1 million to NMC. On January 31, 2018, the House passed Senate Bill 20-21 that proposed

to make NMTI a government entity and it is now with the Governor for his approval or disapproval. The college has always had major concerns with the bill because it does not identify the source of funding for the operations for this educational entity and this may affect the funding of all future appropriations to NMC.

Chairman Evangelista asked how the proposed bill would fare with the constitution that created NMC to be responsible for trade schools.

Counsel Borja informed the Board that the argument can be made that it contravenes the constitution and therefore that it would be unconstitutional. The other argument is that the constitution does not state specifically that only the college is given this authority or jurisdiction over trade schools and vocational training. Someone could argue that the Governor can create another entity to also do that. Ultimately, if the law passes, the Board will have to make a decision whether to challenge it or not.

Frankie also added that the Attorney General raised a similar point in his written comments to the legislature. The bill is subject to challenge if it is passed into law. Chairman Evangelista also expressed concern that this act might reduce the funds for NMC that is needed from the legislature.

Regent Cepeda requested that a copy of the Attorney General's opinion to the legislature be provided to the Board.

3. \$4.5M for NMC – FEMA (PW96); and \$84K (PW 98)

President Fernandez provided an update. She noted the following important highlights.

1. FEMA (PW96) update - \$4.6 million total amount for the gym:  
A&E due in February but an extension was granted for 3 months.  
The next step is the bidding process.  
Completion date for the gym is December 2019.

Regent Mafnas stated that the College must move quickly to complete the project and get the gym operational as we may face a visit from the funder U.S. Housing and Urban Development. President replied that she has requested the documents and will ensure that NMC is in compliance.

Chairman Evangelista asked the president to keep the Board updated whenever possible or at the next Board meeting.

2. PW (98) Building D2 Renovation (Student Center):  
Total project amount was \$84,000, however, the project only cost \$54,000.  
The difference will be applied to Building I roof repair.

#### b. CFO Report

Andrew Reese provided a financial status update of the college. He noted the following:

- Personnel Funding for FY18: \$4,678,992

- FY18 CWAP Funds: \$547,000
- Plans for Supplemental Funds FY18 are to cover personnel and facilities cost.

A copy of the financial report was provided to the Board.

At this point, Chairman Evangelista had to leave for an emergency so Vice-Chair Orilla took over the Chair.

#### **IV. Election of Officers**

##### **Chairman**

Regent Sanchez nominated Regent Cepeda to serve as Chairman, seconded by Regent Torres. Regent Sanchez moved to close nomination. All members voted yes, unanimously elected to serve as BOR Chairman.

##### **BOR Vice-Chairperson**

Regent Cepeda nominated Regent Sanchez as Vice-Chairperson. Regent Orilla closed the nomination. However, Regent Cepeda withdrew his nomination. Regent Sanchez nominated Regent Orilla to serve as Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Regent Mafnas. All agreed to close nominations. By acclamation, Regent Orilla is elected as BOR Vice-Chairperson.

##### **BOR Treasurer**

Regent Mafnas nominated Regent Sanchez to serve as BOR Treasurer, seconded by Regent Torres. The nomination is closed. By acclamation, Regent Sanchez is elected as BOR Treasurer.

#### **V. Board Meeting Assessment – Done.**

#### **VII. Adjournment**

**Regent Orilla motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Regent Torres. The motion carried. The meeting ended at 4:30pm.**