



**NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS
Regular Meeting of February 28, 2019**

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College was held on Thursday, February 28, 2019 in the BOR Conference Room, Saipan Campus. Chairman Cepeda called the meeting to order at 3:35p.m. Chairman Cepeda welcome everyone to the meeting.

a. Roll Call

Regents Present:

Regent Charles V. Cepeda, Chairman; Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla, Vice-Chairperson; Regent Michaela U. Sanchez, Treasurer; Regent Irene T. Torres; Regent Michael N. Evangelista, Esq; and Regent Zenie P. Mafnas.

Excused Absent: Regent Jesse M. Tudela

NMC College Staff

Frankie M. Eliptico, NMC Interim President; Andrew Reese, Chief Financial Officer; Velma C. Deleon Guerrero, Liberal Arts Coordinator; Maria Aguon, Tinian Campus Administrator; Patty Coleman, Acting Dean of CREES and Program Leader; Dr. Debra Steed, Business Department Chair; Ray Muna, Prior Learning Coordinator; Martin Mendiola, Rota Campus Administrator; and Helen B. Camacho, Board Secretary (Recorder).

Legal Counsel

Mark Scoggins, Legal Counsel

b. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Regent Orilla motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Regent Evangelista. All members voted yes, the motion carried.

c. Review and Adoption of Minutes

1. June 22, 2018 (Regular Meeting)
2. August 17, 2018 (Special Meeting)
3. September 27, 2018 (Regular Meeting)
4. November 06, 2018 (Special Meeting)

**Regent Evangelista motioned to adopt the meeting minutes, seconded by Regent Orilla.
All members voted yes, the motion carried.**

II. Public Comment Period

(Individuals may verbally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Comments should be limited to five (5) minutes. Written testimony is also accepted).

None.

III. Reports and Action from Standing Committees

A. Finance Committee

Regent Mafnas, Finance Committee Chairperson informed the board that the finance committee met on February 27, 2019 and discussed the *FY2020 Appropriations Budget Request*. The committee will be making its recommendation of \$7.7 Million dollars to the full board.

B. Audit Committee

None.

C. Human Resources Committee

None.

D. Regent Nominating Committee

None.

E. Program Committee

None.

IV. Old Business

A. Presidential Search

Chairman Cepeda opened the floor for discussion and recognized Regent Evangelista at this time. Regent Evangelista stated that the college is undergoing so much after the recent destructions from Typhoon Yutu. It is important that the board maintains the current status so that it can give the college time to recover and making changes at this point might be very disruptive.

Regent Evangelista added that if the board sees that the college is at a point where there's some stability then the board can revisit the search for a new president. Regent Evangelista recommended delaying the search process at this time.

Regent Orilla also echoed the same sentiments and also asked to hear from the Interim President.

Frankie Eliptico, NMC Interim President provided some comments. He thanked the board for its support and great working relationship. IP Eliptico stated that although there are a lot of challenges at the college, the result of everything that has evolved is through the support of the Board and everyone at the college.

Chairman Cepeda shared that just to allay the concerns on how this would affect accreditation, he confirmed with WASC that it is the prerogative of the board so long as the board is supportive of the decision to put the search on hold. Regent Evangelista also commented on the importance of stability at the college and staying the course with the recovery efforts. Chairman Cepeda thanked everyone for its comments. No action was taken.

V. New Business

A. FY2020 Appropriations Budget Request

Regent Orilla motioned to support the finance committee's recommendation of \$7.7 Million Dollars for the FY2020 Appropriations Budget Request, seconded by Regent Sanchez.

Discussion/Comments:

Frankie Eliptico, NMC Interim President presented the FY2020 Appropriations Budget Request. He highlighted some important details below:

Request Amount:

- Request of \$7.7 Million dollars

Reasoning or Analysis:

- Take into account the state of the economy and put forth what the college needed just for salaries. Expenses such as adjunct pay, overload, Internet, telephone, classroom equipment, classroom furniture are all funded through tuition and fees.

- The budget call asked the college to submit a budget that reflected a 10% cut which translates into 15 employees that would need to be cut.
- Last year, the college reached the \$6 Million level because the legislature added the \$500k in CW Fees and the \$1 Million from the casino BGRT as a supplemental to the college. If the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) is going to force a cut on the college, that they cut it at that level because that's what we received last year.
- The \$7.7 Million supports all of the current employees and the critical vacancies to be able to continue the provision of workforce development programs in the workforce especially at a time when we need it the most.

IP Frankie concluded his highlights by asking for the boards support through the finance committee to support the recommendation.

In response to Regent Evangelista's question, the request for FY2019 was \$10 Million, however, the college only received \$6.3 Million. CFO Reese also added that it also included the board's budget. Regent Evangelista recommended increasing the amount because there is a good chance that it'll be cut as it has been historically been the case. Regent Mafnas agreed with the concerns but there is also that possibility that the college will be cut regardless of the requested amount.

Regent Orilla noted that the amount being requested is not a wish list but rather it is solely for salaries. She advised that the only reasonable increase should be for facilities.

After much discussion, the board agreed to recommend \$9.2 Million Dollars.

Regent Orilla withdrew her earlier motion of \$7.7 Million Dollars. Regent Orilla motioned to request \$9.2 Million Dollars for the FY2020 Budget Request, seconded by Regent Sanchez. All members voted yes, the motion carried.

B. Legal Counsel

Frankie M. Eliptico, NMC Interim President informed the board that as a result of the RFP for board legal counsel, two proposals were received.

Regent Orilla motioned to go into executive session, seconded by Regent Sanchez. Regent Orilla withdrew her motion to address the other agenda items before going into executive session.

VI. NMC Executive Reports

- A. Interim President's Report
 1. Typhoon Recovery Updates

Frankie M. Eliptico, NMC Interim President provided some highlights. He noted the following:

- Been working with FEMA and Army Corps. of Engineers to construct and place the temporary structures. Because of this, we were able to resume the morning classes. Prior to this, we were operating also out of Saipan Southern High School.
- Recruitment process for the Spring Semester begins April 01.
- Construction of the classrooms will cost around \$70 Million dollars.
- Funding Options: FEMA will be our initial source of funding. FEMA will identify the reimbursements that we will be receiving in reimbursements for each of the buildings that had been damaged at NMC.
- Applied for the 428 section procedures program that allows the college to consolidate and divert all of the funds towards the construction of the new facilities.
- Additional Funding Options (Grants): Economic Development Authority (EDA) and CDBG-DR funding assistance.
- Loan funding source: USDA Rural funding source; Tap Grants, CDBG Grants. Private Sectors: Matson, Tan Siu Lin Foundation.
- Start Smart on Saipan; Rota and Tinian to follow.
- Retention Activities: Taco Thursday.
 1. Accreditation Update - Report provided.
 2. Legislative Update - Report provided.
 3. Academic Program Feature: *Liberal Arts Program*

IP Eliptico informed the board that the program highlight for today's meeting is from the Science, Math, Health and Athletics department.

Velma C. Deleon Guerrero, Liberal Arts Coordinator presented and noted some important highlights about the program:

Academic Program Feature: Science, Math, Health and Athletics Program

- Science, Math, Health and Athletics program is the bridge to all of the other programs.
- Challenges: On average or about 90% place into developmental math.
- Course completion rates are very low (66% for Intermediate Algebra, 58% Principles of Biology or 52% for beginning Algebra).
- Reasons: Math required for only three years instead of four years in the public schools; difficulty recruiting math teachers; or a general sense that math and science is difficult.
- Partnerships: Regional Educational Laboratory (REL Pacific) to leverage the resources: Developing innovative approaches by administering math in the high schools; math transition course that will bridge the gap between high school math and college math;
- Secured Grant Funding: The Islands of Opportunity Alliance based in Hilo Hawaii and funded by the Louis Stokes STEM Pathways and Research Alliance aims to prepare and diversify STEM workforce throughout the Pacific with a specific emphasis on and respect for the indigenous cultures of the islands. The program helps member institutions develop culturally relevant education and research experiences rooted in language and culture.
- Benefits: Provided the Natural Resources Management degree program with additional funding and resources. Paid internships for NMC Students exploring careers in natural

resources management. NMC students have also presented research at the Annual STEM Student Symposium and participated in Summer Bridge and Transfer program that help them transition into four year degree programs.

- Additional Resources: Build EXITO Grant, Grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and STEP-UP Program.
- Recommendation: Restore equipment lost from the Typhoon; Rebuild the Science/Math Lab.

Ms. Guerrero concluded her presentation by stating that these are just a few things that are being done to help the students but in order to succeed, there is more that needs to be done by investing more time and energy in the STEM related field.

The board was concerned about the high percentage rates for developmental courses. Interim President Eliptico informed the board that NMC and PSS are collaborating to develop a program to help these students.

In response to Regent Mafnas's question about exit exams, Velma explains that exit exams no longer exist and it's just a final exam but the same standard for finals are used for all sections.

Regent Orilla also asked about how the students are coping with the lack of equipment. Velma explained that the faculty is creative in their experiments in terms of what resources can be used in the meantime.

Regent Torres inquired about the Islands of Opportunity Alliance grant. Velma explained that it is a program that provides the grants to the different community colleges and it also assists students pursue careers in the STEM fields or even internships with any environmental agencies. It is only offered to students in the Science degree programs.

Regent Mafnas also asked if whether the National Science Foundation can offer some assistance. Interim President Eliptico indicated that we could apply for grants but we will need to build up our grants division to go after these grants.

VII. Legal Counsel

Regent Evangelista motioned to go into executive session, seconded by Regent Mafnas. All members voted yes, the motion carried. The board rose out of executive session at 5:35pm, there was no action taken.

VIII. Board Meeting Assessment Done.

IX. Miscellaneous Items None.

XI. Adjournment

Regent Evangelista motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Regent Orilla. All members voted yes, the motion carried. The meeting ended at 5:36p.m