PEOPLE PRESENT

Board Members

Board members Helen H. Abayare, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Justin S. Manglona, Manuel A. Sablan, Vicente N. Santos (Chairman), John I. Schwarz and Teresa I. Taitano were present.

NMC Faculty/Staff

The following staff and faculty were also present: President Agnes McPhetres, Administrative Vice President Tee Abraham, Academic Vice President Jack Sablan, Assistant to Academic Vice President Ivan Probst, Legal Counsel Ken Govendo, Assistant Legal Counsel Richard Hofschneider, Comptroller Harris Lawrence, Vocational and Technical Education Director Jack Angello, Faculty Senate President Ed Zehr, Continuing Education Dean Ed Klingsberg, and Marine Technology Chair Abner Weed.

Others

Visitors included reporters from Marianas Variety newspaper, and reporters with camera crew from Saipan Cable TV. Allen Cameron was present as recorder.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

At 9:50 a.m. Chairman Santos called the meeting to order in the Board of Regents conference room on the As Terlaje campus of the College, and asked the President to call the roll. As all members of the Board named above answered “Present,” the President noted that a quorum was present for the conduct of business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda as presented by the President was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS (TAB 1)
It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the following meetings:
1. The regular BOR meeting held on December 12 & 13, 1996,
2. the special meeting of January 20, 1997, and
3. the special BOR meeting of February 26, 1997.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD’S REPORT

Chairman Santos announced that it was necessary to revisit the sensitive issue of (PSS) concerns. Neither has the College heard from PSS directly on the matter. President McPhetres said she plans to set up a meeting with the Health, Education the Legislative Initiative. He said he would appreciate input from the Regents. The Initiative as introduced by the Legislature addresses only the Public School System, and Welfare committee of the House.

Regent Sablan gave his reasons in support of the 10%, as opposed to a 5%, allocation for the College.

CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE’S REPORT (Tab 2)

Committee Chairman Schwarz presented the minutes of the Finance Committee’s meeting of March 31, 1997, which considered two questions, (1) P L. 5-32 funds, and (2) the NMC Board of Regents being the responsible party for reclassification of NMC employees. President McPhetres stated that she planned to set up a meeting with Senator Eusebio A. Hocog and with Senator Paul M. Manglona to seek support from the Senate.

Action Taken: After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Tab 3)

Comptroller Harris Lawrence presented the NMC Financial Statement. He indicated that Audit Reports for FY 95 and FY 96 would be ready at the end of this month.

CHAIRMAN OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE’S REPORT (Tab 3)

Committee Chairman Justin S. Manglona presented the minutes of the Program Committee’s meeting of March 27, 1997. He emphasized the College of Education proposal which would grant baccalaureate degrees in the field.

Action Taken: After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: A. Program Presentations

4.97.V.A.
1. Adult School:

Ed Klingsberg, Dean of Adult, Continuing and Technical Education, presented his report on the Adult School which was begun in February, 1997. The Adult School responds to an expressed need of the community, of the Public School System and of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce has already contributed $18,500 to the operations of the Adult School.

2. Marine Technology:

Abner Weed, Chair of Marine Technology, distributed a complete description of the program, which covers subject areas of Recreational Diving, Seamanship and Small Boat Operation, Diving Safety, Public Safety Diving Rescue, Scientific Diving and Commercial Diving.

3. Vocational Education Program:

Jack Angello, Director of Apprentice-ship/Trades program, presented the traditional Vocational Education college program in four disciplines, Construction Trades, Electrical Installation, Electronics Technology and Air Conditioning/Refrigeration. He said the planned Apprenticeship Training Program would be implemented by January, 1998.

Regent Sablan emphasized the importance of linking the educational program with the real world of CNMI employment. He recommended highly a certification program in the trades which would assure local students of employment at an adequate wage.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT  A. Program Presentations (Continued) (Tab 5)  4.97.V.B.

B. Faculty Evaluation:

Ivan Propst, Assistant to the Academic Vice President, presented a status report on the plans to reform the faculty evaluation system. The plan is the result of faculty committee work over the past two years. Ivan expressed the hope that the final draft would be ready for the May 22 meeting of the BOR Program Committee.

C. Pending Legislation:  4.97.V.C.

President McPhetres referred the members to three pieces of legislation before the Legislature, namely, H.B. 10-326, H.B. 10-327, and H.B. 10-330.

D. American Community College Trustees (ACCT) Conference: (Tab 6)  4.97.V.D.
President McPhetres introduced the question of two Regents attending the ACC Training Conference planned for June 25-28, 1997 to be held in Keystone, (near Boulder) Colorado.

E. Summer Semester Schedule (Tab 7)  
F. College Month Activities (Tab 8)  
G. Monthly Reports (Tab 9)  
H. Travel Performed (Tab 10)  
I. Charter Day (Tab 11)

President McPhetres indicated that F and I were upcoming events as part of the current Community College Month. E, G and H contain information of recent activities of interest to the Board.

VI. Old Business

Chairman Manglona of the Program Committee reported that his committee had reviewed the following items and now proposed them for the final approval of the Board:

A. Curriculum Changes (Tab 12)  
B. Course/Instructor Evaluations (Tab 13)  
C. Class Attendance (Tab 14)  
D. Class Meetings (Tab 15)  
E. Facilities Problems (Tab 16)  
F. Criteria for Grading and for a Grade of “Incomplete” (Tab 17)

Action Taken: After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE at their meeting of March 27, 1997.

VII. New Business

A. FY 97 Supplemental Request: (Tab 18)

Chairman Schwarz of the Finance Committee explained the $107,000 supplemental budget request.

Action Taken: After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to APPROVE THE ABOVE FY 97 SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST CONSIDERED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE at their meeting of March 31, 1997.

B. College of Education Proposal (Tab 19)
Chairman Manglona of the Program Committee and President McPhetres explained the Mission and Program Description, the Budget and the proposed NMC Organizational Chart creating the position of Provost of the College of Education. The President said that NMC will start its self-study in preparation for its application for accreditation of its four-year program.

At present there are 300 students in the School of Education. The College of Education would fulfill an urgent CNMI need, since 80% of the current teachers are from off-island. The two entities, the present NMC Community College and the planned College of Education (COE) would enter into a memorandum of agreement (MOA). The latter College would be dedicated to preparing and certifying students as teachers in early childhood, elementary and eventually secondary education.

Regent Sablan suggested that we include an increased budget for the Library of the College of Education to meet the demands of courses at the baccalaureate level.

The President said that enabling legislation for the College of Education would be proposed to the members of the Legislature with whom the Program Committee would soon meet.

**Action Taken:** After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to **APPROVE THE ABOVE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AS PROPOSED BY THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE** at its meeting of March 27, 1997.

**C. Policies**

1. Hardware and Software Standardization
2. Outside Employment
3. Exemption from Tuition
4. No-Smoking

**Action Taken:** After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to **REFER THE ABOVE PROPOSED POLICIES TO THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE**.

**D. Legal Representation**

Legal Counsel Ken Govendo proposed two possible plans for meeting the College’s needs for legal representation. One alternative would be to engage a full-time attorney. A second alternative would be, at the College’s option, to rely on the Attorney General to represent the College especially in civil rights and employment cases, as is done in some States. The NMC Legal Counsel would represent the College in other cases.

**Action Taken:** After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to **APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**.
VIII. Miscellaneous Matters

Vice President Tee Abraham spoke of the FY 97 Consolidated Budget Package. She distributed copies to the members at the meeting. She said that, beginning April 23, the College would be holding its own budget hearings at which Deans would be asked to provide justification for their units’ budgets.

Finally, Vice President Abraham spoke of Charter Day, April 26, which would feature an open-air farmers’ and fishermen’s market which would be open for business at 7:30 a.m.

Adjournment: 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Cameron