Northern Marianas College
BOARD OF REGENTS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
BOR Conference Room
2 June 2000

I. CALL TO ORDER: 3:00 p.m.

II. PRESENT:

A. BOR Members: Acting Chairman Fermin M. Atalig, Regent Kimberlyn King, Regent Manuel A. Sablan, Regent Abelina Cing-Cabrera, and Regent Vince Seman.

B. NMC Faculty, Staff, and Students: President Jack Sablan, Ben Salas, Esq. (Legal Counsel), Alvaro Santos, Ed Camacho, Melody Actouka, Bruce Johnson, Janice Tenorio, Stanley Mar and Vince Merfalen (recorder).

C. Guests: Rene P. Acosta (Variety), and Agnes McPhetres (President Emeritus).

III. Chairman’s Remarks and Preliminary Matters:

A. Proposed agenda was reviewed and approved with the deletion of items VIII.A., VIII.B, & VIII.D.

B. Review of the minutes of the Regular BOR meeting of 8 May 2000 was tabled.

C. The Chair thanked the Regents who participated in the NMC Commencement and the Investment Conference.

D. The Chair announced that he is appointing 3 Regents to the NMC Employee Grievance Committee. He also asked for training to be identified.

IV. Reports:

A. Fiscal-Legislative Committee
1. Last Committee meeting was 5/31/00. Regent Seman presented highlights of the meeting.

a) Regent Seman expressed a desire to be more involved in planning and preparation of the Fiscal and Legislative Committee meetings. The regent feels that most issues the committee has dealt with in the past have been administrative. Although others perceive the Fiscal & Legislative Committee as the most important, Regent Seman indicates that it is a part of the total effort, cannot stand alone, and carries equal weight as the others. He also expressed a need to assess the functions of all BOR sub-committees.

b) Regent Seman introduced a proposed supplemental budget for FY 2000.

(1) **Motion:** to approve the proposed supplemental budget for FY 2000.

(2) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

(3) President Sablan explained the needs and priorities to which the supplemental budget will be applied.

c) Mr. Alvaro Santos introduced a need to change NMC’s per diem policy.

(1) **Motion:** to amend BOR Policy 2120 so it reflects the CNMI approved per diem rates.

(2) **Motion to amend:** to add the word “government” after CNMI in the original question.

(3) **Motion Carried Unanimously** (as amended)

d) Regent Seman reiterates the need for the BOR to conduct a self-assessment and asked for a BOR retreat after next week’s meeting.

(1) Regent Seman wants the opportunity to be more involved especially on important issues.

(2) The retreat will help the Board refocus and set priorities.
(3) Acting Chair, Fermin Atalig agrees with the recommendations. He made a point of clarification that BOR control and involvement shall not inhibit input from staff, faculty and others.

B. Personnel Committee

1. Last committee meeting was 6/1/00. Regent King presented a written report of the meeting.

2. Regent King announced that the freeze on salary increments have been lifted with retroactive payments by the next pay-day.

3. Regent King expressed a concern with the academic advisement in Tinian. President Sablan explained that he is aware of already working on the issue.

C. Program Committee

1. Last committee meeting was 6/1/00. Regent Cing-Cabrera presented a written report of the meeting.

2. Regent Cing-Cabrera introduced a proposal to amend BOR Policy 3003, Administration and Supervision of Classroom Instruction.

   (1) **Motion:** to approve amendments to BOR Policy 3003.

   (2) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

   (3) Changes are necessary to reflect the current organization and other administrative updates.

3. Regent Cing-Cabrera introduced a proposal to amend BOR Policy 3004, Academic Freedom and Responsibility

   (1) **Motion:** to approve amendments to BOR Policy 3004.

   (2) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

   (3) Changes are necessary to reflect the current organization and other administrative updates.

4. Regent Cing-Cabrera introduced a proposal to amend BOR Policy 3005, Office Hours
(1) **Motion:** to approve amendments to BOR Policy 3005.

(2) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

(3) Changes are necessary to reflect the current organization and other administrative updates.

5. Regent Cing-Cabrera gave an update on the Combined Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA) and Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC). Although the Academic Council did not approve of these programs, the regent is interested in seeing other options.

V. NMC President’s Report:

A. President gave highlights of a meeting of government officials on 5/16/00. Purpose of the meeting is to discuss education issues in the CNMI. Present were HEW Committee, Ways & Means (House Committee), BOE, and NMC. The meeting was an eye-opener and resulted in the creation of an ad hoc committee to evaluate CNMI education issues.

B. NMC just graduated 31 new police officers.

C. The Governor proclaimed the month of June as “Small Business Development Month”.

D. Retroactive payment of unfrozen salary increments are processed. A few exceptions are pending due to incomplete performance evaluations. Regent Sablan request a regular update be given to the Board. The next step is the conversion to the new compensation plan.

VI. Faculty Senate Report:

Dr. Hill summarized work done on the Faculty Compensation Plan and Sabbatical Leave Policy. Reports from the ad hoc committees have been submitted to the Management Council and the committees dissolved.

VII. Student Council Report: None

VIII. New Business:

A. Changes in immediate NMC needs caused a shift in CIP priorities. These changes have been reviewed and approved by the Management Council. Acting Chairman Atalig referred the matter to the Fiscal and Legislative Committee.
B. Acting Chairman Atalig assigned the Personnel Committee to begin work on updating and developing the NMC drug-free policy and program.

C. NMC Foundation - History and Intent presented by Agnes McPhetres.
   1. The NMC Foundation and the Foundation Board was created by Public Law 4-34.
   2. The Foundation is private, non-profit, and tax exempt.
   3. The Foundation Board includes (as members) 2 members of the BOR one of which is the BOR Chair.
   4. Initial monies funded by the US Office of Interior Affairs. $3 million was deposited into the Foundation account.
   5. Although not required, management of the fund mirrored the requirements of the Land Grant Act.
   6. Regent Seman requested legal counsel’s review:
      a) of the laws governing the Foundation
      b) constraints on the use of Foundation funds
      c) its current membership and composition of the board
      d) legal process to revive the inactive board
   7. Regent Seman request a meeting between the BOR and the Foundation board.

IX. Miscellaneous:

   A. Signatories at the Bank of Hawaii require BOR resolution.
      1. **Motion:** to approve BOR Resolution designating new signatories at the Bank of Hawaii.
      2. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

   B. Regent Sablan concerned about the lack of a student representative at the BOR meeting. President promised to look into the issue. Dr. Hill reminded the regent that students are currently on summer break.

**Adjourn:** 4:30 p.m.