Northern Marianas College  
BOARD OF REGENTS

Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
BOR Conference Room  
20 July 2000

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

II. PRESENT:

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

B. NMC Faculty, Staff, and Students: President Jack Sablan, Jesse Borja, Esq. (Legal Counsel), Alvaro Santos, Dave Atalig, Melody Actouka, and Vince Merfalen (recorder).

C. Guests: Rene P. Acosta (Marianas Variety), Marian Maraya-Acosta (Saipan Tribune), and Ivan Probst (Consultant).

III. Chairman’s Remarks and Preliminary Matters:

A. Proposed agenda was reviewed and approved.

B. Minutes of the Regular BOR meeting of 8 May 2000 were reviewed.

1. **Motion:** to approve the minutes of 8 May 2000.

2. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

C. Minutes of the Regular BOR Meeting of 2 June 2000 were reviewed.

1. **Motion:** to approve the minutes of 2 June 2000 with minor amendments on pages 2 and 4.

2. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

D. Minutes of the BOR Special Meeting of 15 June 2000 were reviewed.

1. **Motion:** to approve the minutes of 15 June 2000 with the correction to reflect the approval of the new NMC Compensation Plan except for the portions pertaining to part-time, Adjunct, and Associate degree faculty salaries.

2. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
E. The Chair thanked the Regents who participated in the BOR Retreat. During the retreat, the Regents began a self-evaluation of the Board. The evaluation is not complete and shall continue at the next scheduled retreat (25 Aug 00, Rota).

F. The Chair made note of a suggestion to have the next BOR meeting on the island of Rota. With no objections from the Regents, the next meeting is set for Rota on 26 August 2000.

G. The Chair announced that he is appointing 3 Regents to the NMC Employee Grievance Committee. He also asked for training for the committee members.

H. The Chair presented information on a meeting of the Board of Regents, the Board of Education, and Mr. Dan Nielson of the Governor’s Office. The meeting was held on 12 July 00 and covered CNMI education issues. The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Legislature.

IV. Reports:

A. Personnel Committee

1. Last Committee meeting was 7/19/00. Regent King reported highlights of the meeting.

2. Regent King gave a progress report on the Drug Free Policy. H/R and the Management Council will continue work on developing policy and review other existing policies in the CNMI.

B. Program Committee

1. Last committee meeting was 7/20/00. Regent King reported highlights of the meeting.

2. Regent King presented the draft Self-Study Report.

   a. President Sablan explained the contents of the report.

   b. It is a product of a total college input and participation.

   c. The report addresses 10 standards and 26 recommendations from the last accreditation review.

   d. The report will be submitted to the Accreditation Committee next week.

   e. Inclusion of a 4-year accreditation moves the current accreditation cycle up by 2 years.
f. Regent Sablan inquired about the accreditation standards for the library. Mr. Probst explained that the standards for the 4-year accreditation are higher than a 2-year accreditation.

g. An accreditation validation team will arrive in Nov 2000. Their decision to grant accreditation is expected by January 2001.

h. Regent Sablan expressed concern about committing adequate resources to support expansion to a 4-year program. The President assured him that all plans for the future include the expansion.

i. **Motion:** for the BOR to endorse the Self-Study Report.

j. **Motion unanimously approved.**

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. Fiscal and Legislative Committee

1. Last committee meeting was 7/18/00. Regent Seman reported highlights of the meeting.

2. Regent Seman reported highlights of a meeting with the NMC Foundation Board. CIP priorities and fund raising were discussed.

3. Regent Seman presented a proposed amendment to NMC’s CIP priorities and plan. The proposed amendment was designed to align NMC priorities with the Governor’s CIP plan for the CNMI.

   (1) **Motion:** to approve the amended CIP priorities.

   (2) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

4. Regent Seman presented the proposal to amend the NMC budget for FY 2001. The amendment incorporates the new Compensation Plan and new needs of NMC.

   (1) **Motion:** to approve amendments to the NMC budget for FY 2001.

   (2) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

5. Regent Seman emphasizes the need to have financial stability in order to earn accreditation. Actual annual appropriations to NMC is short of the approximately 90% authorized by PL 10-66. Regent Seman wants to know if
there is legal action that the college can take to increase the annual appropriation and allotment.

6. Regent Seman praises the Comptroller and the staff of the Business Office for improvements made. Noted are minimal backlogs in accounts payable, in comparison to previous years. It is also reported that final payment on the debt to UOG will be made by next month.

V. **NMC President’s Report:**

A. New Rota Campus Administrator is Ms. Severina Ogo.

B. Visitors from the US Dept. of Agriculture will be on NMC on 1 August 2000. Their itinerary includes a visit with the BOR and the Governor.

C. The vacant Tinian Campus Administrator position was announced. None of the applicants meet the minimum qualifications. The next announcement will be made off-island.

D. President expressed his satisfaction with the Self-Study Report. He is confident that NMC will renew accreditation in the AA/2-year programs. He is anxious to see the results of the 4-year program review.

E. NMC will be submitting the amended CIP priorities and plan to the Governor’s Office. NMC have not been part of the CNMI CIP plan for funding. The President is hopeful that at least the top 2 NMC priorities will be funded.

F. The revised NMC budget for FY 2001 includes increases for the new Compensation Plan and “All Others” category. Regent Sablan wants the college to consider reducing tuition. The Regents asked the Management Council to continuously evaluate and forecast tuition revenues. Next fiscal year’s budget cycle has started and ongoing.

G. Work on the NMC Annual Report continues; estimated completion is approximately 2 weeks. The “State of the College Address” was presented at the last College Month and Charter Day.

H. PPEC meeting will be on 25 and 26 July 2000 in Palau. Regent Cing-Cabrera will be attending as the BOR representative.

VI. **Faculty Senate Report:** None

VII. **Student Council Report:** None

1. Student Council representatives are paid yet they are not present at BOR meetings.
2. The Chair directs the Program Committee to evaluate the situation.

VIII. Executive Session:

Upon return to the regular session, from the executive session, the President enters the following:

1. update on the Cathy George case;
2. update on the Oden case;
3. miscellaneous personnel matters.

IX. Adjourn 4:40 p.m.