Northern Marianas College
BOARD OF REGENTS

Minutes of the Special Meeting
NMC Saipan Campus
30 January 2001

I. Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

II. Chairman's Remarks and Preliminary Matters

A. PRESENT

1. BOR Members: Chairman Fermin M. Atalig, Kimberlyn King, Abelina Cing-Cabrera, Teresa Taitano and Vince Seman.

2. NMC Administrators, Faculty and Staff: President Joaquin Sablan, Alvaro Santos, David Atalig, Al Johnson, Barbara Moir, Kohne Ramon, Brenda Blobaum, Jesse Borja (Legal Counsel) and Vince Merfalen (recorder).

B. Proposed agenda was approved

III. FY2002 Personnel Budget

A. Regent Seman presented a summary of the proposed budget.

B. Motion: to adopt the proposed personnel budget for FY2002; as is.

C. Discussion

1. Regent Seman expressed his preference to pass the budget, which includes the BOR approved compensation plan but without increases to the 3 ungraded positions (specifically the position of Director of Finance and Administration).

   a. Regent Atalig explained that, through a desk audit, changes to the approved compensation plan may be made.

   b. Regent Seman asked who is responsible for desk audits… answer Kohne Ramon. The regent asked Mr. Ramon who his supervisor is… Mr. Ramon responded with: “Mr. Alvaro Santos.” Mr. Ramon explained that audits are submitted to the President for approval.

   c. Regent Seman expressed his support of the President, however, is cautious when dealing with salaries. He believes that there must be a balance between the organizational needs and the CNMI needs. “Public perception is NMC is highly paid. We are not the favorite on the hill.”
d. Regent King expressed concern about morale if a salary increase is not granted. She is comfortable with the desk audit process.

e. The advertised Vice-President position is valued at $70K per annum. The proposed budget shows $70K per annum for the Director of Finance and Administration. Mr. Ramon explained that titles differ from one institution to another. Duties and responsibilities of the position determine the value or worth of the job. Mr. Ramon expressed his support of the proposed budget.

2. Unspent budgeted items (termed “lapses”) become available for other needs.

D. **Motion carries: majority vote 4 in favor of the motion, 1 opposes.**

IV. Miscellaneous

A. Letter to BOR Chair from the Pacific Rim Academy

1. Regent Seman asked for copies of other correspondence with the Pacific Rim Academy.

2. Chair refers the issue to the Program Committee.

B. Accreditation. The President reported that NMC was reaffirmed for 6 years. A committee is already working on the new recommendations.

C. Public Hearing on H.B. 12-92 scheduled for 13 Feb 01, 10:00 am. The Chair will attend and give testimony.

D. Open actions: Frozen salaries (ungraded positions) and the supplemental budget to purchase a new finance software… referred to the Fiscal and Legislative Committee for funding review and recommendation.


F. Dr. Moir reported that Carolinian Language Instruction is now provided at NMC. 12 students currently enrolled.

G. HR is gathering information on training for the BOR. Mr. Ramon will be giving Mr. Santos and the President an update. Foundation members will be attending training in Apr on ‘Fiduciary Matters.”

**Adjourned 5:22 p.m.**