Northern Marianas College  
Board of Regents  

Minutes of the Special Meeting  
NMC-Saipan Campus  

15 March 2002  

Call to order: 9:15 a.m.  

I. Preliminary matters  

A. Present  

1. BOR Members: Fermin Atalig, Margarita Olopai-Taitano, Kimberlyn Hinds, Vince Seman, Eloise Furey, Galvin Di Guerrero.  

2. NMC Staff and Faculty: Jack M. Sablan, Rose Igitol, Kohne Ramon, Bruce Johnson, Janice Tenorio, P. Vincent Riley, Melody Actouka, David Dlg Atalig, Stanley Mar, and Vince Merfalen.  

3. Other Guests: Cindy Ye, Becky Feng, Ellen Qian, Christian Wei, Amber Fei, Lois Goge, Jaime R. Vergara, and Marian A. Maraya,  

B. Agenda was reviewed and unanimously approved.  

II. EUCON – Complaint  

A. Chairman Atalig instructs the parties of the order of presentations and the process for this portion of the BOR meeting.  

1. The Program Committee Chair will present his report, findings, and recommendations.  

2. Complainants will have an opportunity to make a statement.  

3. Dr. Wei, or a representative of EIC will get an opportunity to make a statement.  

4. Finally, the community will have an opportunity to make comments.  

5. Debates will not be entertained during this meeting.  

6. After all statements are made, the Board will deliberate in Executive Session.  

B. Program Committee Report - Regent Guerrero submits a written report and gave an oral summary.  

1. Regent Guerrero gave a history of the case and explained the review process.  

2. The Program Committee reviewed the report and recommendations of the Review Team and adopted it in its entirety.  

C. Complainants:  

D. EUCON International College - Dr. Christian Wei representing the EIC
1. The provisional license granted by the board is in accordance with BOR rules and policies. It affords new institution with the time needed to prepare. It is because of the nature of a provisional license that, we feel that we have been mistreated.

   a. We understand that the library is small. We want to include that also.

   b. Yes, we want to get more qualified teachers. We are involved in this and we want to improve the quality of our teachers.

   c. Before a provisional license was issued, EUCON issued everything to the Board. It was from those documents that a nine-month provisional license was granted. From that EUCON was given time to make improvements. EUCON has done their best and has made improvements. There is evidence to prove that we are trying our best.

   d. Soon after the provisional license was granted (August 30, 2001) the 9-11 incident happened. Because of 9-11, we had new teachers who wanted to come but did not. We have a lot of reasons why things has changed.

   e. On October 1st we told all the students that if they are not satisfied with our situation we are willing to refund their money and send them back to Shanghai. We are willing to give them all the help they will need to get them started again They didn’t say anything. They stayed.

   f. On October 1st, we stopped have the board of courses, but meanwhile we were trying to ship all the books so that we can get ready to submit the final documents to the board. During this time in November, the students complained to the board.

   g. EUCON gave the students (complainants) options. One, go to NMC. Two, go back to Shanghai with a refund of their money. Third, stay with EUCON College.

   h. If they choose to stay with EUCON they will have to follow the rules and regulations of the school. They (complainants) were aware that they have violated a lot of rules and regulations an that there was consequences due. They choose none of these. Instead, they went to the immigration office and asked for help. On November 22, they sent me a letter I told them that they have to withdraw from the college. We had no way to stop this because it is what they want.

2. Second, I feel that when there’s a student complaint we need to see solidarity and morale. These students (complainants) have been disciplined or were placed on disciplinary status.

   a. Now my advice to the board is that if we have this kind of complaint the board should get all the parties together and attempt to reach a resolution. I feel that this is a lesson. In this case, we have not heard from the board about meeting with the students and I in order to find a solution.

   b. We are willing to do whatever it takes to stop the problem. Although we have signed contracts, we are responsible to try our best to provide a quality institution.

   c. The students chose to file a report against EUCON. It's for this reason we feel the students’ actions have cause us to be mistreated.

E. Community comments – Mr. Vince Riley

   1. I’m concern about a lot of rumors going on within the Chinese Community on Saipan.
2. I don’t know to what extent you have investigated the matter. I feel that there should be further investigation.

3. I think that Dr. Wei made a good point about morality and morale. So I think it’s important that it have a good clear picture to the college. Chairman Atalig asked Mr. Riley to clarify who he is refereeing to when he said “college”. Mr. Riley said “NMC.”

4. Chairman Atalig explained that a thorough investigation has been conducted under the direction of the Board of Regents.

III. Executive Session: (9:35 a.m.)

A. All except Mr. Jess Borja, Legal Counsel, were asked to leave the room.

B. At 10:17 a.m. the Regents conclude the executive session.

C. Upon returning to an open meeting, Chairman Atalig announced that the Board has made a decision on the EUCON case. The decision will be announced within 5 working days or not later than March 22nd. A notice of decision along with the justification will be sent by mail to the parties. A public notice will follow the official notice to the parties.

Adjourn: 10: 25 a.m.