Call to order: 10:25 a.m.

I. Preliminary Matters

   A. Members Present: Regent Fermin Atalig (Chair), Regent Kimberlyn Hinds, Regent Vince Seman, Regent Eloise Fury, Regent Galvin Guerrero, and Regent Maggie Olopai-Taitano. Mr. Vince Merfalen reported that Regent Abby Cabrera was off-island and unable to attend.

   B. Staff and faculty present: Chas Algaier, John Furey, Fe Calixterio, Vince Riley, Kohne Ramon, Stanley Mar, Bruce Johnson, Nester Ablog, David Atalig, and Vince Merfalen

   C. Others Present: Mr. Matt Smith, Esq. (Legal Counsel) and Gemma Casas (Reporter, Marianas Variety).

   D. Agenda was approved with the following amendment:

   1. Minutes of 3/15/02 is added as item I.C.

   2. Item V (Miscellaneous - Public Input) was moved to the top of the agenda as the new item II. All others move down and renumbered accordingly. Purpose of the chance is so the public will not have to wait the entire meeting to give input.

   E. Minutes of 15 March 2002 (Special Meeting) was unanimously approved.

II. Public Input: the Chair opened the floor to the public for input; there was no response.

III. Reports:

   A. Fiscal & Legislative Committee. Regent Seman reports

   1. There are no financial statements at this time due to computer problems.

   2. Regent Seman expressed concern about the situation with the ABT software. NMC has spent a large sum of money and the software is not working.

   B. Program Committee. Items to be reported on are already part on today’s agenda; Regent Guerrero will defer his report until the items are discussed.

   C. Personnel Committee. Regent Hinds reports:

   1. Regent Hinds reported that the President Jack Sablan submitted a letter of intent to retire.

Approved 6/4/02/vm
2. Regent Hinds requested that the BOR meet (in a closed meeting, because of confidentiality) to complete the performance evaluation of the President.

D. President. Dr. Barbara Moir reports:

1. The Governor’s Council on Developmental disabilities has named Mr. Al Johnson the “Professional Advocate of the year”. For his considerable efforts to ensure the full inclusion and participation of students with developmental and other disabilities at NMC, in all three campuses. He worked tirelessly over the past year with contractors, individuals at the college, and members of the government to ensure that we are compliant.

2. Charter Day 2002 was a success.
   a. The students, employees and the public had a good time.
   b. The President’s state of college address was given and it included some history of the college.
   c. Monies raised by six student clubs, was a bit shy of $5000. The clubs use these funds for the following year’s activities. Ten percent of it goes to the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College (ASNMC).
   d. It is estimated, that between 800 and 900 individuals attended this year’s celebration (based solely on the number of lunches sold).
   e. Shing Corporation made a $5,000 donation to NMC. For their donation, they received the educational Tax Credit. To-date, NMC has received a total of $110,377.65 in educational tax credit money. About $60,000 of this amount is in NMC foundation account and about $50,000 of it has been directed to specific programs.
   f. Shing Corporation has expressed a desire to create a scholarship program which could start as early as academic year 2003. The scholarship would be $1,000 to a student enrolled in a Vocational Technical Trade Program and another $1,000 scholarship to a student with disability who is enrolled in any degree program.
   g. The college is hard at work preparing its budget tuition and fees budget. We are forming the analysis committees that will identify and review accomplishments with regards to the strategic master plans. They will identify and prioritize what needs to be accomplished and what can be accomplished in the coming fiscal year. Information and guidance (budget call) would go out to the college community so that individual departments can plan and

Approved 6/4/02/vm
submit their portion of the overall budget. A proposal should be ready for BOR review by the next Board meeting.

E. Faculty Senate President. Vince Riley reports
   1. The Faculty Senate has been meeting monthly.
   2. Professional development days
      a. Spring 2002 professional development was conducted on 28 February and 1 March. “We are reviewing the evaluation of those professional development days.”
      b. Planning has begun for the Fall 2002 professional development.
   3. There are 4 vacant positions on the Faculty Senate that should be filled by the end of this month.

F. Associated Students of NMC (ASNMC): none

IV. New Business
   A. BOR Policy 5027, Conditional Participation in Commencement Exercises.
      1. Regent Guerrero explains the proposed amendment to the policy.
      2. The proposed amendment addresses the unavoidable situations where students are short a couple of classes from meeting the graduation requirement.
      3. These situations occur due to class scheduling problems.
      4. The change will allow students to participate in commencement with their peers without adversely impacting their reputation and pride.
      5. Transcripts and diplomas will not be released to students who have not completed all graduation requirements.
      6. **Motion:** to approve the proposed amendments to BOR Policy 5027.
      7. **Motion unanimously carried.**
   B. G.E.D. Testing Fees
      1. NMC was informed recently that the use of federal funds to pay for G.E.D. testing was not appropriate.
      2. In view of a budget shortfall, and in order for NMC to continue providing a G.E.D. program, an increase in the testing fees is necessary.
      3. The testing fee covers exact costs of administering the test. NMC and the G.E.D. program do not make any profit or monetary gains from the testing.

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4. A estimate of the annual cost of testing, based on historical data, was submitted. 130 examinations per year was forecasted at a cost of approximately $20 per test.

5. **Motion.** to approve the proposal to increase the G.E.D. test fee to $20 per test.

6. **Motion unanimously carried.**

C. FY03 Appropriations (Budget Call)

1. The OMB deadline to submit the budget is tomorrow. The budget call notice was only published last Friday.

2. The Office of the President has worked very hard to prepare the FY02 personnel budget proposal.

3. Regent Seman, Chair of the BOR Fiscal and Legislative Committee reported that the proposal has been reviewed.

4. **Motion.** to approve the proposed FY03 appropriations budget.

5. Discussion:

   a. This proposal differs from last year in that there is an amount proposed to fund BOR and the CNMI Archives activities.

   b. The short time frame from the budget call to the submission is unreasonable. “If we are to do a good job” and identify more options during this period of austerity, then more time is necessary. It was suggested that the Chairman send a letter to the Governor and the Director of OMB to express the Regents’ concern about the short notice. Certain regents disagreed with the suggestion to send letters to the Governor and law-makers. Greater understanding and collaboration is the desired alternative.

   c. The normal budget cycle calls for a submission in December of each year. This cycle is not a normal one in that a new administration just took over.

6. **Motion unanimously carried: per BOR policy, a vote on financial matters must be done by a roll call.**

   a. ------Fermin Atalig  yes
   b. ------Regent Hinds  yes
   c. ------Regent Seman  yes
   d. ------Regent Furey  yes
   e. ------Regent Guerrero yes
   f. ------Regent Olopai-Taitano yes

Approved 6/4/02/vm
V. Old Business

A. Regent Guerrero reports with an update on pending requests for license for post-secondary institutions.

1. American World University International
   a. Attorney Matt Smith presented a legal opinion on the physical presence of AWUI in the CNMI and the need for a license.
   b. AWUI, although licensed as a corporation in the CNMI, does not meet the test of having a physical presence in the Commonwealth.
   c. A copy of the legal opinion was submitted.

2. Joy Pacific International University – tabled until the application packet is complete.

VI. Executive Session. 11:11 a.m.

A. Regular session reconvenes at 12:01 p.m., 4 April 2002.

B. Upon returning to regular session, the Chair announces the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to address issues and complaints about the CREES Department.

Adjourn. 12:10 p.m.