Call to Order; 3:30 p.m.

I. Preliminary Matters

A. Roll

1. **BOR Members:** Vincent Seman, Abolina Cing-Cabrera, Galvin Deleon Guerrero Eloise Furey, Margarita Olopai-Taitano, and Honorary Faculty Member Vince Riley.
2. **Legal Counsel:** Jesus C. Borja
3. **NMC Faculty & Staff:** President Kenneth Wright, Chas Algaier, David Atalig, Kurt Barnes, Jan Heineken, Al Johnson, Larry Lee, Jack Sablan, and Larrisa Savares as recorder.
4. **Community Members & Guests:** Liberty Donnes

B. Agenda: The agenda was adopted with the following changes:

   Add *Item F. GEPDAP Program*

C. Minutes: Minutes of the March 28, 2003 meeting will be available at the next regular meeting of the Board of Regents.

II. Miscellaneous: none.

III. Reports

A. **Fiscal & Legislative Committee - Regent Deleon Guerrero reports.**
   The Fiscal & Legislative Committee met and discussed the Finance Office status report dated 4/24/03. Please see attached. Regent Deleon Guerrero stated that the creation of an education tax credit and fundraising policy has been discussed in the committee. The committee recommends a policy that will require the Board to approve a list of ETC money and where it will be spent. This list will be inspired by the budget priorities of the college budget. The Board will identify key areas and focus on those areas. The President is currently working on ETC policies and procedures.

   **Discussion:**
   a. Chairman Seman asked for an explanation of the recent article in the newspaper regarding a protest filed by Scott Magliari.
   b. President Wright explained that he has responded and explained that the problems with the audit were not a result of the auditing company and its work. The fault lies with NMC.
c. Chairman Seman asked if there is a policy or procedure to address protests or if Board action was needed in this matter.

d. Legal Counsel Borja stated that he had spoken to the President regarding this matter and had recommended that NMC Procurement Office should review the protest and draft a response. Mr. Borja has discussed this matter with Ignacia Villaluz of Procurement. Procedures were followed in the process, however there are no policies or procedures for dealing with the protest of a request for proposal. Mr. Borja also suggested that the committee might want to look into drafting a policy to address protests for RFPs.

e. Regent Deleon Guerrero reported that the NMC portion of the budget has been redirected from the Ways and Means Committee in the Legislature to the Education Committee. Congressman Daniel Quitigua will be meeting with David Atalig regarding the NMC budget submission.

f. Chairman Seman asked about the success of the policy of deregistering students who have failed to pay the entire balance of their tuition prior to the end of the semester.

g. Dave Atalig reported that during a meeting attended by Chas Algaier, Jack Sablan and himself, it was decided not to deregister students. Instead, students could continue with their studies, but NMC would not post the grades. An asterisk would replace the grade on a transcript. As a balance is due on tuition, a financial clearance will not be issued. Without financial clearance, an official transcript cannot be issued.

B. Program Committee – Regent Furey reports.

The program committee met and discussed the following:

1. Hiring of a consultant to review the Saipan University application for post secondary licensure – Regent Olopai Taitano is currently working with Larrisa Savares on preparing the contract and other necessary documents required by procurement to hire Dan Nielsen of REGS to review the Saipan University application.

2. Proposed BOR Policies 1000-1007 – The program committee will refer the revised policies to the NMC legal counsel. Committee Chair Furey will email the revised policies to Legal Counsel Borja for review. It is hoped that the policies will be ready for approval by the next regular meeting of the Board.

3. College Survey – Honorary Regent Riley will be working with Regent Hinds on a college survey of both students and employees. The committee
is ready to implement this survey with the help of NMC personnel.

4. **GEPDAP Training Program** – The Government Employee Professional Devolvement Assistance Program was discussed by the committee and requires board approval. The committee would like to recommend approval to the Board with specific criteria and revision to program description of original proposal. Please see attached for final draft. During discussion with the President during the committee meeting, the President stated that this program could be implemented as early as Summer 2003.

C. **Personnel Committee** — a report was not given as Regent Hinds is currently on maternity leave.

D. **President's Report** - President Kenneth Wright reports.

1. **Anonymous Letter** - An anonymous letter was given to Elaine Apatang of MCV slating that the Governor and his assistant Sonya Artero recruited the President during a trip to California and the Board hired him as a result of that recruitment.

2. **Deliberations Council** - Recently, the Deliberations Council has been working on an academic calendar, which will allow for 10 minutes between classes. There also will be a discussion of a Governance Assembly in a meeting in the near future. It will be comprised of a cross section of employees across the campus to make recommendations to the Board and the President.

**Discussion:**

a. Regent Deleon Guerrero asked whether or not we are bound to follow policy requiring Management Council, especially since the policy has not been changed yet.

b. Legal Counsel Borja stated that NMC is still bound to current policies.

c. President Wright stated that these assemblies will be included in the new set of policies.

d. Vice President Algaier stated that the Management Council procedure lists several positions that do not exist, making it difficult to implement the procedure.

E. **Faculty Senate Report** — Regent Riley reports.

1. **Faculty Senate Elections** — The Faculty Senate recently held a meeting in which nominations were finalized for the upcoming election of officers.

2. **Faculty Concerns** — The faculty have also expressed concerns over contract renewal as they have heard it is being scrutinized. They would
like to learn the process of contract renewal. Questions have been raised regarding work plans and performance evaluation.

**Discussion:**

a. President Wright stated that the work plans will be used to set goals by which people will be measured in evaluation. In addition, there will be shorter-term evaluations based upon the commendations an employee receives and work plans.

b. Chairman Seman stated that in previous meetings, President Wright had stated that until formal work plan evaluation process is created, the current process will not be done away with.

c. President Wright added that faculty do not require a work plan as they have a syllabus for each of their classes.

d. Vice President Algaier stated that his understanding was that a workbook summary was to be done and faculty did not have to create a work plan.

e. Chairman Seman tasked the President to clear up the misconception, now that everyone is aware of this issue.

f. Regent Riley stated that another concern of the faculty was the need for the calendar to be revised. A meeting was held which should address the faculty and student concerns about the calendar.

g. Regent Riley stated that another concern that the faculty is also concerned about salary increases.

h. Regent Deleon Guerrero stated that Representative Daniel Quitigua shares the concern that NMC's faculty are adequately paid. The whole CNMI lacks resources right now and the Board just discovered that the budget might be cut some more.

i. Regent Riley stated that the Public School System has managed to get more money in these tough economic times, Regent Deleon Guerrero stated that PSS is more political and affect more votes in the CNMI in terms of parents.

j. Regent Cing-Cabrera stated that in the Constitution, education is a basic requirement, while post-secondary education is more of an option.

k. Regent Deleon Guerrero stated that NMC is preparing to lobby for the Pacific Gateway project, which in the long run will address that problem. If the Board went up to the Legislature and lobbied for higher salaries, the Board might lose the battle for the Gateway project. The Board needs to pick its battles.

l. President Wright stated that both he and the Board are committed to increasing salaries and it is a high priority.

m. Regent Deleon Guerrero stated that this topic is on the Fiscal & Legislative Committee Agenda every meeting.
F. ASNMC Report — Chairman Seman reports.

Honorary Student Representative Jack Kiyoshi was unable to attend the meeting as he was off island. A written report was submitted (please see attached).

IV. Old Business

A. Pacific Gateway Project — Regent Deleon Guerrero reports.

After much work and with more work ahead, the fiscal and legislative committee feels prepared to recommend adoption of the Pacific Gateway Project with changes and revisions in document.

Motion: To adopt the Pacific Gateway Project with changes and revisions in the document.

Action: A motion was made. There was a second to the motion for purposes of discussion.

Discussion:

a. President Wright asked that Regent Deleon Guerrero clarify whether the proposed changes and revisions were to be made to the concept or to the document.

b. Regent Deleon Guerrero stated that the changes and revisions are for the document and not the concept. See attached for all changes and revisions required.

c. Regent Deleon Guerrero stated that the committee had discussed the hiring of a consultant or the Small Business Development Center to conduct market research. Research would focus on questions that would give the Board a clear idea of what students are looking for if NMC opens up to international students. Research would be conducted but not included in document, but will be conducted anyway.

d. Regent Furey stated that even as the plan to the Legislature, there is a lot of work remaining to be done.

e. Regent Deleon Guerrero stated that the motion is to adopt and promote the proposal. The actual project and implementation is another issue.

f. Legal Counsel Borja stated that during a meeting of the Bar Association a week ago, the Attorney General's Office sent two attorneys (assigned to DOI) to talk about proposed changes to regulations. Someone asked if the changes included students. The response was no. Mr. Borja asked if the government had any plans to revamp laws and regulations. The response was that a
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Motion: To adopt and promote the Pacific Gateway Project as modified.

Action: A motion was made. There was a second to the motion and it was carried by unanimous vote.

Chairman Seman asked for special recognition of Regent Deleon Guerrero, President Wright, Dave Atalig, Chas Algaier, and the other people who have worked on the project so far.

Discussion (cont.)
1. Regent Deleon Guerrero stated that there should be a trial presentation with the Regents acting as Legislators and the staff being questioned by them in order to prepare for the actual presentation.

m. After discussion it was agreed to hold the trial presentation on April 30 at 3 p.m.

n. Chairman Seman tasked Regent Deleon Guerrero with setting up the practice.

B. ETC Policy & Procedure Development – As this item on the agenda was discussed in the committee report, no further discussion is necessary at this time.

C. Review of Policies 1000-1007 – As this item on the agenda was discussed in the committee report, no further discussion is necessary at this time.

D. Board Evaluation – Regent Furey reports.
There is a need to formally adopt the survey for students and employees of NMC.
Motion: To adopt the survey.
Action: A motion was made. There was a second to the motion and it was carried by unanimous vote.

E. Policy #4017 Classification and Compensation — Regent Deleon Guerrero reports.

This policy remains a work in progress. It will be reported on at a later date.

F. Government Employee Professional Development Assistance Program (GEPDAP) — Regent Deleon Guerrero reports.

There is a need to formally adopt this assistance program.

Motion: To adopt the Government Employee Professional Development Assistance Program (GEPDAP) as amended.

Action: A motion was made. There was a second to the notion and it was carried by unanimous vote.

V. New Business — none.

VI. Executive Session – all except President Kenneth Wright, Legal Counsel Jesus Borja and Larrisa Savares were asked to leave the room.

A. At 5:00 p.m., the Regents entered into Executive Session.
B. Upon returning to the open meeting at 5:05 p.m., Chairman Seman stated that confidential matters related to personnel and court cases were discussed. As official action was not needed during the session, official action did not need to be taken at the time.

VII. Adjournment – A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.