Call to order: 3:12 p.m.

I. Preliminary Matters

Roll Call

Board of Regents: Regent Hinds, Regent Olopai-Taitano, Regent Sablan, Regent Orilla, Regent Cabrera, Regent Deleon Guerrero, and Regent Wyatt.

Legal Counsel: Jesus C. Borja, Esq.

NMC: President Tony Guerrero, Raaj Kurapati, Jack Sablan, Geri Willis, Dean Papadopoulos, Kurt Barnes, and Reina Camacho as recorder.

Guests: Personnel from the Office of the Public Auditor, Agnes Donato from Saipan Tribune

Adoption of Meeting Minutes

Minutes for September 11, 2004 was adopted with the following changes:
1. Page 2 - change the word "transfer" to "assign". Legal Counsel said we cannot assign until we pay everything under the agreement.
2. Page 2 - under New Business recruitment requests, insert "budgeted" before the word positions. Also on the same topic, replace practice with "continue."
3. Page 2 - under New Business 2004 Consolidated Budget, it should read "the committee will request the Board for a special meeting....".
4. Page 3 state the meeting was held at the NMC Board of Regents Conference Room.
5. Page 3 - delete President Guerrero’s name in the roll call and add Raaj Kurapati’s name.

Minutes for September 22, 2004 was adopted with the following changes:
1. Page 1 under New Business Supplemental Budget, it should read "Regent Hinds said the request for entertaining the supplemental budget is in response to academic programs having rejected purchase orders. Also, add “additional” before the word supporting documents.
2. Page 2 - should read "The Board wants to ensure that programs that don’t use all the money be allowed to carry over and spend the remaining funds in the next fiscal year.”
3. Page 2 next to last bullet, it should read "We want to give faculty the assurance of spending for their programs."
4. Adopted with above changes. Abstention from Regent Deleon Guerrero.

II. Miscellaneous/Public Input

1. Regent Hinds said there’s a House Bill, number 14-238 to repeal education tax credit. The Board would like NMC to come up with an official position. Should the Board have any input or comments, please email Reina to forward the comments to our Legal Counsel.
2. Legal Counsel Borja said he has already drafted a statement.
3. Regent Hinds asked how much does the college receive from ETC donations?
4. Raaj Kurapati said including the Foundation, we receive between $125,000-$150,000.
5. Regent Deleon Guerrero said the legislators think this would generate additional revenue for the general fund. While there are no facts and figures, the amount of money that does not go to the general fund is minimal compared to the general fund and general revenue. It almost seems political suicide.
6. Regent Hinds said the findings state they want to fund the pressing needs for education, public safety and public utilities.
7. Regent Deleon Guerrero said that ETC is taking a lot of money away from those needed services. But in comparison to the benefit of ETC to all schools to the benefit in the general fund, the schools earn a much larger benefit. He wants to know what are the numbers.
8. Regent Hinds said they just want to have more money to reprogram.
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9. President Guerrero said this year we included ETC as part of our budget revenue.

III. Old Business  
A. La Fiesta  
1) President Guerrero said NMC was reimbursed $128,000 last week for FY 2004.  
2) Regent Hinds asked if we received a confirmation for the remainder of the year.  
3) Raaj Kurapati said no, written confirmation.

IV. New Business  
A. WASC Progress Report  
1) President Guerrero said key reviewers met since 9 am this morning.  
2) Regent Orilla asked what are the changes?  
3) President Guerrero said the changes are more editorial. We are here to receive any individual comments.  
4) Regent Deleon Guerrero asked if this is the same report given to both commissions?  
5) Geri Willis said yes. We incorporated the issues to address the concerns.  
6) President Guerrero said we are the only institution accredited by WASC by both commissions.  
7) Regent Hinds said there’s a program assessment evaluation describing the step on how programs are evaluated.  
8) Regent Olopai-Taitano asked how much did it cost to have Mr. Propst and Mr. Mar assist with the review.  
9) President Guerrero said only for the time that the 2 ALO's used their time.  
10) Jack Sablan said both individuals are part of the review team.  
11) Regent Hinds said the Board has until Thursday to email comments. The review team was picky; going over the report line by line.  
12) Regent Olopai-Taitano said she has a question on the study by SOE on Praxis. On the comparison of results, it states here that it is comparable to Hawaii, California and Oregon. How was the study made?  
13) Geri Willis said we had to get a validation number, which we have been working on for about a year. We had to have a baseline so we used our 110 class to take the Praxis and they scored in the middle.  
14) Regent Hinds asked what do you mean by validation number.  
15) Geri Willis said we need a validation number to administer the test. It is a long and involved process.  
16) Jack Sablan said we need our benchmark data and in order to do that, we need a number.  
17) Geri Willis said it’s a number given to institutions. So our institution will be the only one on island with a number to administer the test.  
18) President Guerrero said others would have to go through NMC's testing service.  
19) Regent Olopai-Taitano asked if is there a certainty that the results are valid.  
20) Geri Willis said there are three Praxis exams. The first is the basic reading, writing and mathematics; the second is more content oriented and the third is broader. We are administering the Praxis I. WASC is glad that we are going to administer this. This shows us that we are teaching what we need to teach. But you are not allowed to use calculators on the test.  
21) President Guerrero said there’s more information on the praxis on pages 35-36.  
22) Regent Hinds said the administration is asking the board to adopt the report in content.  
23) Jack Sablan said we are in the final stage in editorial. The majority of the recommendations are under institutional effectiveness. We created 3 committees per recommendation, they drafted the report submitted it to the ALO’s, then it was forwarded to the reviewers as well as the assessment and accreditation team for review. This morning we are gathering feedback and looking over the report with a fine toothed-comb. We ask ourselves if we can prove the evidence to our statements.
MOTION: Regent Deleon Guerrero moved to adopt the Progress Report and authorize the chair to sign. Regent Cabrera seconded the motion.

Discussion:
1) Regent Cabrera said she read most of the report and it's good.
2) Legal counsel said he has some language suggestions which he hopes to be treated as minor and would like to speak with the college administration regarding the suggestions.
3) President Guerrero said the Commission asked for progress on the three major recommendations as well as more information on our disposition of the gateway project as well as the senior commission's request for the school of education. The table of content lists all the sections of the report.
4) Regent Deleon Guerrero asked if we are being transparent in this report?
5) Regent Hinds said yes.
6) Regent Deleon Guerrero said on the beginning paragraph on page 13, it seems that we are not transparent. He said he would assume there would be some discussion on the challenges based on the hiring freeze.
7) Geri Willis said it does.
8) Jack Sablan said the report itself came from the School of Education.
9) Regent Deleon Guerrero said for example there's no mention of the fear of replacements for the three personnel who have submitted their resignations.
10) Geri Willis said yes, it's included.
11) President Guerrero said it's stated on page 14.
12) Regent Deleon Guerrero said if the evaluation is key to this progress report, there’s no statement that says it is a programmatic problem for the 4 replacements. He has heard at the board level that this is a problem yet there is no statement of that in this report.
13) Regent Cabrera asked will we be getting qualified instructors to replace the current instructors.
14) Jack Sablan said yes, he hopes so when the positions are advertised.
15) Regent Deleon Guerrero said we’ve lost the fear and panic of not replacing personnel. It seems to be void of any desperation and anxiety.
16) Geri Willis said the board has already approved the replacements, we’ve written up the vacancy announcements, so we are calmer about it. Before there was a freeze and so our fears were high then.
17) Regent Deleon Guerrero said he just wants to make sure that we are not hiding any information and giving the Commission what they need.
18) Regent Wyatt said there’s all sort of evidence to back up everything.
19) Raaj Kurapati said there’s a pitch to get our positions filled during the freeze. However, the need has already been addressed; the Board has already provided its approval for replacements.
20) Regent Olopai-Taitano asked why is the lab school status not mentioned.
21) Geri Willis said it’s on page 28, part 4 College Lab School. Geri Willis read a statement from the report. She said we are deleting the inclusion of the informal survey.
22) Regent Hinds said the changes are primarily grammatical. All comments need to be received by Thursday to send to the Commission on Friday. Good job to the review team and all contributors. We've come a long way since the last progress report. Thanks again.

No further discussion. Motion carried.
B. Adoption of Signatories

MOTION: Regent Deleon Guerrero moved to adopt the new signatory, replacing David Atalig with Raajkumar Kurapati as signatoree for all relevant financial documents with our banks and the foundation statements. Regent Orilla seconded the motion.

Discussion:
1) Regent Deleon Guerrero asked if we could specify his position.
2) Regent Hinds said yes, he is the Director of Finance and Procurement.

V. Executive Session

Executive session was entered into at 3:55 p.m. All were asked to leave the room except the Board of Regents, Legal Counsel, President, Raaj Kurapati and Reina Camacho.

Special meeting resumed at 4:35 p.m.
Regent Hinds reported that La Fiesta and legal matters were discussed. No action needed to be taken.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:35p.m.