The Regular Board of Regents’ meeting was called to order at 3:30pm at the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents Conference room in As Terlaje, Saipan.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

The roll was called and the following members were present:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Regent Chair Dr. Hocog Inos</th>
<th>Regent Lizama</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regent Furey</td>
<td>Dr. Carmen F. Fernandez, President</td>
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<td>Regent Orilla</td>
<td>Honorary Regent Lorraine Cabrera</td>
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<td>Regent San Nicolas</td>
<td>Honorary Regent Frank Sobolewski</td>
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<td>Regent Cepeda</td>
<td>BOR Special Assistant Mark Mendiola</td>
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<td>Regent Peter</td>
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Dr. Rita Hocog Inos, Chairperson, presided.

Others present: Jeanette Villagomez Dean of Student Programs and Services, Dr. Debra Cabrera, Barbara C. Hunter Acting Director for Human Resources, Raaj Kurapati Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Danny Wyatt Dean of Academic Programs and Services, Tee Abraham Director of Rehab & Human Services, Robert Churney Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Glenn Keaton Chair of Science & Math Department, and Eric Plinske Director of SBDC.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Regent Furey motioned for adoption of the agenda.
Second: The motion was seconded by Regent Peter. There were no objections and the motion passed.
ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. FEBRUARY 20, 2007 – SPECIAL MEETING

Motion: Regent Cepeda motioned for adoption of the February 20, 2007 minutes.

Second: The motion was seconded by Regent Furey. There were no objections and the motion passed.

Discussion:
Regent Furey indicated that she wasn’t present at the February 20th meeting. Based on reading the minutes, the meeting was recessed for February 23rd and then recessed again for March 12, 2007.

Regent Cepeda confirmed that there was a motion for adjournment. Dr. Inos said that it is a technical error and the motion should not have been a motion for adjournment and instead it should have been a motion to recess.

Mark explained that in the minutes there were two motions for adjournment. There was a motion to adjourn and a motion to exit out of executive session. Basically, the dates indicated by Regent Furey are correct. Regent Furey corrected that the meeting was recessed to February 23rd and recessed again for March 12th and adjourned on March 12, 2007. Regent Furey motioned to make the necessary changes to reflect the recess on the actual date and adjourning on March 12th.

After much discussion, Regent Cepeda motioned to withdraw the motion. The motion was seconded by Regent Furey.

So noted, as indicated by Honorary Regent Frank Sobolewski that on the roll call Regent Cepeda was not present at the February 20th meeting. However, he did come at 3:35p.m, five minutes later. So, his presence needs to somehow be indicated or aligned at the appropriate times.

Vote: Unanimous.

B. APRIL 26, 2007 – REGULAR MEETING

Motion: Regent Cepeda motioned to adopt the minutes of April 26, 2007 meeting. The motion was seconded by Regent Peter. The motion passed.

Discussion:
Honorary Regent Frank Sobolewski indicated the corrections he made to the version that appeared in the board’s packet. One substantive matter he pointed out concerning the Marine Vessel on page 6.

The last paragraph on the Marine Vessel was left out from the version that was emailed to them earlier in the week. It’s the motion by Vice-Chair Cepeda, the motion was not referenced, the seconding was referenced but the actual motion was not. He worded that to indicate what the motion was and if you believe that is correct then that stays and will not need any changes but if you feel that something needs to be added then it needs to be
looked at. Furthermore, the paragraph does appear in the version in the packet but it was not in the electronic version that was sent to the board for review.

Mark’s recollection and according to his notes, Regent San Nicolas seconded for purposes of discussion and then it was withdrawn afterwards.

Dr. Inos indicated that the issue is there was no notation as to when the motion was made. A motion was made early on so the board could proceed with the discussion where Regent Cepeda moved for approval and is not reflected in the most current proceedings and thus, needs to be done appropriately. The addition to the minutes as follows:

On page 4, the second paragraph could be the motion made by Regent Cepeda to approve the purchase of the Marine Vessel and then seconded by Regent Peter for purposes of discussion.

After much discussion, a majority voice vote approved the board minutes with the amendments and additional notation of the motion to approve the purchase of the Marine Vessel and then seconded by Regent Peter for purposes of discussion. There were no objections, the motion passed.

So noted, Regent Furey abstained from the discussions made for the Marine Vessel matter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this point, members of the public were given a slot in the agenda for the opportunity to address the Board on any issues on the agenda and even issues that are not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of Board. The following individuals addressed the board at this time.

Dr. Hocog Inos welcomed the new NMC President, Dr. Carmen F. Fernandez to her very first official meeting of the Board of Regents and thanked her for accepting the call to the challenge of moving forward with the Proa. She stated that Dr. Fernandez’s spirit of excitement and positive attitude to join hands in moving the college forward has been long overdue in achieving for the college.

Dr. Hocog Inos also welcomed back Regent Furey after being away for sometime due to personal matters.

Honorary Regent Frank Sobolewski who was also present at the meeting addressed the board of regents with regard to his follow up to his public comment at the last meeting. He stated that according to a newspaper article this week in the Saipan Tribune, the majority leadership in US Congress and the President have agreed on a Supplemental Bill to provide additional funding for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan for the rest of the fiscal year. And in this Bill is the Federal Minimum Wage increase with separate
provisions applying this minimum wage to the CNMI. This bill may pass this week; they may try to get it passed before the Memorial Day recess. And therefore, it may happen within a week. The Commonwealth comes under the Federal Minimum Wage and this will affect NMC contractors who employ contract employees especially but not only non-resident workers. So, NMC may recall its' contracts to increase the rates in order to meet the minimum wage.

At this time, Dr. Hocog Inos recognized Regent Vice-Chair Cepeda where he indicated that Honorary Regent Frank Sobolewski mentioned this at the last meeting and he recalls that Dr. Inos asked him to reserve his comments for discussion on the Faculty Senate matters. The Vice-Chair also extended this matter to the President in addressing this matter.

So noted, Dr. Hocog Inos asked the President to note this matter and to convene a task force to take a look at this together with Honorary Regent Frank Sobolewski and the Fiscal Chairperson Committee.

The President indicated that she is reviewing this issue and is keeping in close contact with the governor’s office on the potential outcome of this bill.

Dr. Inos reiterated that this issue is very important and should be followed through.

This concludes public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Marine Vessel
Dr. Hocog Inos recognized Regent Cepeda who is the Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson of the Fiscal Committee. He indicated that at its earlier meeting they met to discuss the Marine Vessel agenda item. Regent Cepeda explained that at the previous Board of Regents meeting, it was suggested that the board be given more time to review the packet.

However, with the President on board and her first committee meeting, she requested to be given time to review and update herself with the Marine Vessel project with respect to the procuring and maintenance throughout the years. Therefore, the fiscal committee recommended to give the President more time to work with the department heads in preparing for the marine vessel and will be resubmitting their findings for other means of funding for the vessel.

Dr. Hocog Inos reiterated by saying that the Board of Regents is going to allow the new President to be on board with the items that are before them. She also understands the urgency of this matter due to the numerous times that it has been on the board’s agenda and it needs to be put to rest as soon as possible. Dr. Hocog Inos also requested that the President make this an important part of her agenda for a timely review and disposal because this matter has been going on for too long.
The President indicated that she tried her very best to be prepared to make a recommendation to the board; however, in order accomplish this it requires an extensive review of a number of important components of the project. As an example, a tour of the marine center, classroom visits, and extensive discussions with a number of people. Furthermore, there were some issues that have risen during these reviews that required revisions and one of the things that she shared with Mr. Furey is that she really needs a plan that is set and solid before she can make a recommendation to the board.

Secondly, there’s an issue that the budget amount under the federal program is under budget and now the account is short. The President emphasized the need to work with the federal program to see whether they’ll approve a reprogramming of the funds. The account is presently sitting at $85,000. Whenever we decide to make a change on those federal documents, we do need to ask for a reprogramming and it would not be appropriate for her to bring that matter to the board until such time as those issues have been resolved.

The President is concerned with various components of the Marine Vessel such as having a solid funding source to be able to finance the boat for the long term. In her analysis, she found that the board is appropriate for this particular project most especially the ability to travel to the northern islands. Lastly, the President expressed the need for more time to review this issue before it is even brought to the board for action.

Dr. Inos was thankful for the update and the board is looking forward to potential partnerships that will be part of this project. The board is also in agreement with the President on the financing aspect of the project for all the different reasons such as maintenance, liability and the use of the vessel on a routine and regular basis to ensure that it is successful for its programmatic use.

After much discussion, the board deferred this matter until such time as the President has made her review and will be brought back to the board for its final action.

**B. Personnel Contracts**

Regent Orilla motioned to move this agenda item to be moved down under executive session. Regent Vice-Chairperson Cepeda seconded the motion. The motion passed by a majority voice vote to move this item under executive session.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Bank Account Signatories**

The President submitted to the Board of Regents, a request to change the Bank Account Signatories at the various banks.

Regent Vice-Chairperson Cepeda indicated that the fiscal committee has deliberated on the issue of the amendment requests for the college bank accounts and at the same time is submitting the following motion for the board’s consideration.
Motion: Regent Vice-Chairperson Cepeda motioned that the bank account signatories be amended to include the authorized signatories as follows:

Dr. Carmen F. Fernandez – President
Mr. Raaj Kurapati – Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Rita Hocog Inos – BOR Chairperson
Regent Vice-Chairperson Charles V. Cepeda – Fiscal Committee Chairperson

Second: After much discussion, by a majority voice vote, the board approved the request to amend the bank signatories for the NMC accounts with the changes indicated above. There were no objections and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Executive Session called at 4:45p.m
Back at 5:15p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel Contracts

Motion: Regent Vice-Chairperson Cepeda motioned to approve the personnel contracts that were discussed during executive session.

Second: Regent San Nicolas seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Discussion:
Dr. Hocog Inos indicated that the contract stated an effective date of May 07, 2007 and will take effect until May 06, 2009 as required by law of the Northern Marianas College.

In addition, for the record a recommendation to be submitted to the Legislature to see to it that they trust the Board of Regents to enable the Board of Regents to have the latitude of the contractual period for it’s only staff and only employee of NMC for greater than two years. Furthermore, the board would like to also say that there are no changes from any of the previous contracts with previous presidents except that there is a ten percent cut that the president will be signing to accept the annual salary of $72,000 dollars instead of $80,000 dollars from May 07, 2007 to October 01, 2007.

Dr. Hocog Inos was appreciative of the President’s understanding and consideration and for allowing NMC to work with her within the constraints of the stress of the economic times in the CNMI particularly with NMC. Dr. Hocog Inos also indicated that for Chief State School Officers or Higher Education Presidents, the salary does not begin to compare because simply we can’t afford the competitiveness of other institutions.

After much discussion, individual votes were taken as follows for approval or disapproval of the President’s contract:

Regent Linsa F. Lizama – Yes
Regent Maria T. Peter – Hunggan
Regent Vice-Chairperson Charles V. Cepeda – Yes
ADJOURNMENT

At 5:30pm, any items remaining on the agenda that require immediate attention will be moved to this time. All other items will be tabled until the next meeting, or the following Board meeting, in order to make fair and attentive decisions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30p.m.