I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Attendance:

Board of Regents: Chairperson Charles Cepeda, Vice-Chairperson Maria (Malua) Peter, Regent Dr. Rita Hocog Inos (via VTC from Honolulu, Hawaii), Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla, Regent Agnes McPhetres, Regent Janet Han King, Honorary Staff Senate Regent Joyce Taro, Honorary Faculty Senate Regent Frank Sobolewski, Honorary Student Regent Ivan Mereb.

College Staff and Faculty: Dr. Carmen Fernandez, NMC President; William Castro, Director Office of Institutional Effectiveness; Leo Pangelinan, Acting Dean of Student Services; Dr. Debra Cabrera, Accreditation Liaison Officer/Dean of Academic Programs; Rogelio Madriaga, CFAO; Frankie Eliptico, Acting OIA Director; Maria H. Aguon, NMC Tinian Administrator; Martin Mendiola, NMC Rota Administrator; Skep Palacios, OIE; Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, SOE Director; Janice Tenorio, Director of Student Support Services; Tee Abraham, Dean of COMPASS; Adrian Atalig, IT Director; and Helen Camacho, Office of Institutional Advancement (Recorder).

Others: Jesse Borja, NMC Legal Counsel; Kristi Eaton, Saipan Tribune; NMC Students: Odin Garces, Alexio King, Sylvester Javier, Juana T. Atalig, NMC Student Ambassador; and Jose Tudela, ASNMC V-President.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents was called to order on December 30, 2008, at 3:44 p.m., in the BOR Conference room, Northern Marianas College.

A. Roll Call
Chairperson Charles Cepeda called roll call. Six members of the Board of Regents were present.

B. Review and Adoption of Agenda
Motion: Regent Dr. Inos moved to adopt the agenda.
Second: Regent Peter seconded the motion.
Vote: Unanimous.

C. Adoption of Minutes – September 25, 2008 Regular Meeting
Motion: Regent Peter moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2008 Regular Meeting.
Second: Regent Orilla seconded the motion.
Vote: Unanimous.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/MISCELLANEOUS

A. No public comments were made from any of the meeting attendees. Regent Orilla took the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Chairman Cepeda also thanked President Fernandez and her staff for all their hard work and dedication in the past year, especially in the last few days during the preparation of the Supplemental Report. He also extended holiday greetings.

III. REPORTS

A. BOR Standing Committee Reports

1. Personnel Committee. Regent Orilla, Personnel Committee Chairperson, informed the Board members that the Committee met on December 1, 2008, to discuss the instrument that will be used for the President’s evaluation. The committee will provide further information when this issue is taken up later in the agenda under New Business.

2. Fiscal Committee. Regent King, Fiscal Committee Chairperson, indicated that she and the new CFAO will set a meeting to get an update briefing. The meeting will also serve to discuss the College’s budget.

3. Legislative Committee. No report.

4. Program Committee. Regent McPhetres, Program Committee Chairperson, indicated that the committee has no report at this time. However, she would like the administration to formulate a policy that addresses student learning outcomes and evaluations. President Fernandez responded that she will handle this request and will report back to the Program Committee once the issue has been addressed through the shared governance process.

B. President’s Report

President Fernandez also extended holiday greetings to the Board members. She lauded the students, staff, and faculty for their hard work, dedication and support. President Fernandez also introduced Mr. Roger Madriaga, who is the new CFAO. She indicated that the vacancy of the CFAO position was one of the major concerns that the Accrediting Commission had with respect to administrative capacity. Her written report was submitted for the record.
C. ASNMC Report

Honorary Regent and ASNMC President Ivan Mereb provided highlights (handout provided) regarding ASNMC’s progress for the Fall Semester.

D. Faculty Senate Report

Honorary Regent and Faculty Senate President Frank Sobolewski discussed the turnover of faculty representations due to recent resignations and retirement.

E. Staff Senate

Staff Senate President Joyce Taro discussed the recent Staff Senate election where nine members were elected to fill the vacant positions. Those newly elected include Sue Palacios (NMC Tinian); Elena Hofschneider; Randall Nelson; John Manalo; Becky Sablan; Jack Kiyoshi; Clarice Deleon Guerrero Arriola; and, James Santos.

F. CFAO Financial Report

CFAO Roger Madriaga provided the Board with a brief synopsis (handout provided) of the College’s current financial position. His report included the following highlights:

1. NMC will operate on continuing resolution of $6.1 million due to the governor’s veto of the proposed FY2009 budget.
2. The Operations Budget for FY2009 is at $3.1 million.
3. The Endowment Fund is showing a decrease of $1.3 million from December 31, 2007 to November 30, 2008.
4. Human Resource (handout provided) – The HR department reports 10 recent resignations for FY09 and recruitments are ongoing for critical positions throughout the College.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. WASC Accreditation Update – Review of Dec. 31 Show Cause Supplemental Report

President Fernandez highlighted the contents of the December 31, 2008 Supplemental Report (draft report provided to Board members), which directly responds to the evaluation report that was prepared by the visiting team that came last November. The Supplemental Report addresses Team Recommendations 1, 2 and 5.

Motion: Regent McPhetres motioned to accept the Dec. 31 Supplemental Report.
Second: Regent King seconded the motion.
Vote: Unanimous

Break was called at 5:06p.m.
Meeting resumed at 5:15p.m.

V. NEW BUSINESS
A. President’s Evaluation
Motion: Regent Orilla motioned to approve the President’s evaluation instrument as recommended by the Personnel Committee.
Second: Regent Peter seconded the motion.
Vote: Unanimous.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was called to discuss the evaluation and assessment of the NMC President’s performance.
Motion: Regent McPhetres motioned to recess until 2pm December 31, 2008 at which time all evaluation forms, after having been filled by each Regent, shall be received by Board Secretary Helen Camacho and transmitted to Chairperson Cepeda.
Second: Regent King seconded the motion.
Vote: Unanimous.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was recessed at approximately 5:30pm and adjourned at 2:00pm on December 31, 2008.