MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 30, 2009
2:13pm

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Attendance:

Board of Regents: Chairperson Charles Cepeda, Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla, Vice-Chairperson Maria (Malua) T. Peter, Honorary Faculty Senate Regent Rep. Larry Lee, Honorary Student Regent Ivan Mereb, Honorary Staff Senate Regent Joyce Taro, Regent Janet Han King, Regent Dr. Rita Hocog Inos (via VTC in Honolulu).

College Staff and Faculty: Dr. Carmen Fernandez, NMC President; Frankie Eliptico, OIA Director; and Helen Camacho, Office of Institutional Advancement (Recorder).

Others: Jesse Borja, NMC Legal Counsel; Mark Scoggins, NMC Legal Counsel.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents was called to order on March 30, 2009, at 2:13p.m., in the BOR Conference room, Northern Marianas College.

A. Roll Call

Chairperson Cepeda called roll call. Five members of the Board of Regents were present.

B. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Regent Orilla motioned to adopt the agenda.
Second: Regent King seconded the motion.
Vote: Unanimous.

C. Review and Adoption of Minutes – January 28, 2009 Regular Meeting

Motion: Regent Dr. Inos motioned to approve the January 28, 2009 Regular Meeting minutes.
Second: Regent Orilla seconded the motion.
Vote: Unanimous.

Review and Adoption of Minutes - March 13, 2009 Special Meeting

Motion: Tabled.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/MISCELLANEOUS

No public comments.

III. REPORTS
A. ASNMC Report

Honorary Regent and ASNMC President Ivan Mereb highlighted some events and made some announcements (handout provided).

B. Staff Senate

Honorary Regent and Staff Senate President, Joyce Taro provided the Board with a listing of the newly elected staff senate members (handout provided).

C. Faculty Senate Report

Honorary Regent and Faculty Senate Rep. Larry Lee informed the Board that the Faculty Senate is pleased to report that they have a full membership with the exception of a representative from the Division of Community Programs & Services (handout provided). He also mentioned that specific Faculty Senate members were appointed to serve on the various governance bodies. Larry Lee outlined and highlighted some of the outcomes from a recent Faculty Senate assembly. He talked about the presentation conducted by the Human Resources office on procedures for filing grievances and he mentioned that several Faculty senate members are inquiring from the Board on the process, timeline and contract renewal in evaluating the President.

Chairperson Cepeda assured the group that the Board is currently working on the procedures and timeline (Board Policy#1017 Periodic Review and Evaluation of the President) to be followed for the upcoming evaluation of the President.

D. President’s Report – WASC Accreditation Update

President Fernandez shared some good news with the Board of Regents. She highlighted the following:

- American Recovery Act (ARA) of 2009 – funding source of $6.9million in the coming three years (1.5million will cover shortfalls in personnel for 3 years, 2.4million for critical priorities of the College to include (accreditation requirements, training and development, requirements for facilities and improvements that are based on safety and security). This will allow the College to accelerate the projects that have to do with the Show Cause status. The Budget and Finance committee approved three projects that will directly benefit the institution through helping with our Show Cause Status. Funding were approved for training to be provided by Ms. Mary Allen and Amy Driscoll who were the lead presenters at the Honolulu training on Student Learning Outcomes & Assessment on May 1&2, 2009, purchased upgrades for power campus and purchased Track Dat (a tracking system for program review and linking program review Planning & Budgeting). The college will be seeking assistance for consultation in developing manuals for Budget & Accounting and Planning and Program review manual which will articulate the procedures in detail.

E. CFAO Financial Report (President Fernandez) -

President Fernandez outlined (handout provided) the College’s current financial position. Her report included the following highlights:

1. P.L. 16-32 (FY09 Budget) was approved by the Legislature
2. Surplus of $560,000 for Personnel from the general fund
3. Surplus of $35,000 for Vocational Education to fill FTEs for FY09
4. $1.5 Million Stimulus fund to support the college in the next few years.
5. FTE Faculty positions were included in Budget FY2010.
6. OPS Budget (Tuition & Fees) has $600,000 of unexpended budgeted items.
7. Recruitment Status Report –
   • Entomologist position – selected and filled (pending background check)
   • Media Specialist position – selected and filled
   • Personnel Specialist position - selected and filled
8. NMC Foundation – Smith Barney Investment presentation
   • Reported a decline since January of $287,134.00
   • Investment managers advised that the Foundation board revisit its investment portfolio policy once the market stabilizes.

F. BOR Standing Committees

1. Fiscal Committee – No report.
2. Personnel Committee – No report.
3. Legislative Committee – No report.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. WASC Accreditation Update
   President Fernandez informed the Board that the Management Team are still working on finalizing the April 01 Show Cause report. The April 01 report should be able to make the case that the work is done and are worthy of reaffirmation. The visiting team will arrive on April 20 – 22, 2009 for a Show Cause visit. A May 30 Supplemental report is also due.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

Recess called at 3:55pm on March 30, 2009

Continuation on Wednesday, April 01, 2009 at 3:50pm

VI. Adoption of Minutes – March 13, 2009

Motion: Regent Orilla moved to approve the March 13, 2009 Special meeting minutes.
Second: Regent King seconded the motion.
Vote: Unanimous.

Discussion: Regent Dr. Inos inquired on the definition of “Public meeting” (explain the difference between public meeting and meeting for the public) indicated at the March 13, 2009 Special meeting minutes. Counsel Borja explained that the meetings of the Board are public which means that the public are welcome to attend the meeting, provided that they abide by the agenda for that particular meeting. The other meaning would be that you specifically designate a meeting where the public is invited to come in and talk about anything they wish to say.
VII. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Review April 01 Show Cause Report

President Fernandez presented the April 01 Show Cause Report to the Board of Regents. The report was unanimously accepted by the College Council (shared governance group) during an earlier meeting. President Fernandez took the opportunity to thank various NMC staff, faculty and students for their participation, dedication, and contribution during this period when they’re contribution was most needed.

President Fernandez provided a brief synopsis noted that in coming up on how to write the report, she consulted with key leaders, Alan Belcher from Key Trio and Dr. Wilson President CMI.

- Consulted with key leaders (Alan Belcher Key Trio, Dr. Wilson Hess, President CMI voluntarily reviewed the report.
- Factors derived from discussions with Dr. Beno, thorough review and consideration of the visiting team’s report, December 31 Supplemental report, and various analyses from other reports.

Regent Dr. Inos congratulated the team for all the hardwork and for a very well written report.

After much discussion, Regent Orilla made the following motion:

**Motion:** Regent Orilla motioned to accept the April 01, 2009 Show Cause report.
**Second:** Regent King seconded the motion.
**Vote:** Regent Peter – Yes
         Regent Orilla – Yes
         Regent King – Yes
         Regent Dr. Inos – Yes

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:37pm on April 01, 2009.