I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Attendance:

**Board of Regents:** Regent Juan T. Lizama, BOR Chairperson; Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla, Vice-Chairperson; Regent Maria (Malua) T. Peter; Regent William S. Torres; Regent Andrew L. Orsini and Regent Frank M. Rabauliman.

**Honorary Members:** John Cook for Dr. John Griffin, Faculty Senate President and Maria Calilong, ASNMC Vice-President.

**College Staff and Faculty:** Lorraine T. Cabrera, Interim President; Frankie Eliptico, OIA Director; Galvin Guerrero, Accreditation Liaison Officer/OIE Director; Rogelio Madriaga, CFAO; Roy Greenland, School of Education Instructor; Joyce Taro, Academic Programs and Services; Maria B. Calilong, ASNMC Vice-President and Helen Camacho, OIA Manager (Recorder).

**Others:** Jesus C. Borja, NMC Legal Counsel; Moneth Deposa, Saipan Tribune News Reporter; Junhan Todeno, Marianas Variety News Reporter.

The Special Meeting of the Board of Regents was called to order on Monday, June 6, 2011 at 3:18 p.m. in the BOR Conference room at the Northern Marianas College, Saipan campus.

a. **Roll Call**

BOR Chairperson Juan T. Lizama called roll call. Six members of the Board of Regents were present.

b. **Review and Adoption of Agenda**

Regent Torres proposed the NMC to conduct a higher education symposium to involve the Pacific region and suggested that public hearings should be conducted to inform the public in Saipan, Rota and Tinian about NMC’s activities.
Following a discussion on standard meeting protocols, Regent Orsini recommended that the other members are asked to submit their own items to the Chair (or to the Board Secretary) for the board meeting in order to include them in the meeting agenda prior to the board meeting.

**Motion:** Chairperson Lizama moved to adopt the agenda.
**Second:** Regent Orilla seconded the motion.
**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

III. OLD BUSINESS – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

   a. Legislative Bill

      1. House Bill 17-93:

Chairperson Lizama referred to H.B. 17-93 (handout provided) and indicated that amendments had been made to the bill. Chairperson Lizama also emphasized that the Board should be unified on their position regarding the H.B. 17-93. He continued to discuss specifically how the bill will greatly affect the autonomy of the Northern Marianas College and what this means to the institution’s accreditation.

Regent Orsini stated that he does not support the bill and believes that this type of legislative action jeopardizes the College’s standing with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Chairperson Lizama then invited Interim President Cabrera to provide a brief synopsis of the events that took place with respect to the passage of H.B. 17-93. She indicated that the College (staff and Board members) were present at one of the hearings held at the House Chamber and were able to express their concerns.

Cabrera and staff reported that the bill seemed to single out the Northern Marianas College because it does not affect any other institution in the government. Cabrera continued to report that she and accompanying staff were steadfast in voicing their concerns over the bill and how it will affect the autonomy and the operations of the College. Cabrera continued to report that it was only recently that the College was advised that the bill passed the Senate and is now with the Governor for his signature.

John Cook representing Dr. John Griffin, Faculty Senate President, expressed that Faculty Senate concurs with Interim President Cabrera’s statement about the College’s willingness to work with the Legislature with “what it needs and what it wishes” and how forcing the College to carry out changes by passing a bill is unnecessary.
Chaiperson Lizama suggested that the College establish a resolution regarding how the bill will affect the College’s autonomy and to ensure that new legislators understand how their actions affect the College.

Regent Rabauliman stated that there have been quite a few revisions made to the bill. Rabauliman also noted that the requirements demanded of NMC from the Legislature are already standard government policy especially with respect to the Educational Tax Credit donations. He indicated that the Board informed the Senate of this at numerous meetings. Rabauliman reiterated Cabrera’s sentiments that the bill singles out NMC and infringes on the autonomy of the College. Rabauliman told the Board that he supports the resolution suggested earlier.

Regent Orilla stated that she remembers the numerous meetings the Board attended with the Legislature and how their concerns fell on deaf ears. Regent Orilla expressed that she wants the Board to pass the resolution to emphasize to the Governor that the bill is detrimental to the College as an institution.

Regent Peter expressed her frustration over the series of meetings they had with the House and Senate. Regent Peter then reported that the author of bill made it clear that the bill was expressly meant for the previous administration of NMC. Regent Peter further discussed this incident and expressed her disappointment that the meetings seemed to be all for naught.

Regent Torres supports the board resolution for the opposition of the H.B. 17-93 in order to preserve the autonomy of the College. Regent Torres then reported that there is a pending legislation that will also greatly affect the College. He then recommended that the Board meet with the legislators and with the governor if it is necessary to protect the College’s autonomy. He also suggested educating the community in a public forum setting about the issue, and expressed concerns that people in the community and in the government do not fully understand what autonomy is.

After Regent Torres brought up a situation similar to NMC’s in the state of California, Chairperson Lizama noted that although the state of California is going through similar problems the legislation will not be passed when such a bill contravenes a statute or constitution.

**Motion:** Regent Torres moved to draft such resolution.
**Second:** Regent Peter seconded the motion.
**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Transition Team**

Chairperson Lizama indicated that because there will be a new President taking over operations of the College, a transition team will be created.
Adopted on June 17, 2011

Interim President Cabrera informed the Board that she discussed with the NMC Management Team that they would make up the Transition Team. They are the deans, directors, as well as the members of the College’s governance councils. These staff members will provide the new President of information and assistance that she will need.

Chairperson Lizama requested that the Interim President provide the Board with a list of the Transition Team members and with the updates on their interaction with the new President. Chairperson Lizama also emphasized the need to have a smooth transition.

Interim President Cabrera reported that she is working with Frankie Eliptico, OIA Director, to provide the Board with a schedule of the new President’s formal introduction to the College and the CNMI, which includes the Governor, Legislature, the NMC Foundation and NMC donors.

Regent Torres expressed that he believes the new President should also have an audience with other important members of the community, such as the business community, the Rotary and the Senate.

Frankie Eliptico, OIA Director, answered Board’s questions about the upcoming NMC Gala in November and the possibility of another event to generate funds before the NMC Gala. He also reported that the College released a report two years ago on the College’s yearly performance and the public was also invited; the event also coincided with NMC announcing the reaffirmation of its accreditation. This was not done last year due to the College going through a transition period.

Galvin Guerrero, OIE Director, also reported that the release of the College’s yearly report is done along with the State of the College Address.

Chairperson Lizama inquired whether a day for the release of the College’s yearly report and the delivery of the State of the College Address would be scheduled soon.

Interim President Cabrera noted that the Address is usually given before the report is presented to the public.

Galvin Guerrero, OIE Director, also noted that the new President might want to learn more about the institution before working on the performance report.

Regent Torres reiterated the importance of having the College’s performance report presented to the public more consistently.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION
(At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
Motion: Regent Peter moved enter into executive session at 4:15 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2011.
Second: Regent Orsini seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion passed.

The executive session ended at 5:15 p.m on Monday, June 6, 2011. Upon reconvening the meeting, the Board did not take any action on any matter discussed during the executive session.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 5:16 p.m.on Monday, June 6, 2011.