I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Attendance:

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

Honorary Members: Dr. John Griffin, Faculty Senate President; Clarice Dlg. Arriola, Staff Senate President; and Antonio Tiples, ASNMC President.

College Staff and Faculty: Lorraine T. Cabrera, Interim President; John Cook, CNMI Archives; Frankie Eliptico, OIA Director; Maria Aguon, Tinian Campus Administrator; Joyce Taro, Academic Programs & Services; Farah Younis, OIA Marketing Manager; Gerri Willis, President’s Office; Bobbie Hunter, Human Resource Office; Larry Lee, Business Department; Rik Villegas, Business Department; Leo Pangelinan, Dean of Student Services; Bobbie Merfalen, Dean of Academic Programs & Services; Tim Baker, Counseling Department Director; Rogelio Madriaga, CFAO; and Helen B. Camacho, OIA (Recorder).

Others: Jesus C. Borja, NMC Legal Counsel; Junhan Todeno, Marianas Variety News Reporter; Oscar Rasa, Private Citizen; Agnes McPhetres, Private Citizen; Liz Wahl, KSPN News Reporter; and Moneth Deposa, Saipan Tribune News Reporter.

The Special Meeting of the Board of Regents was called to order on Friday, May 20, 2011 at 10:15 a.m. in the BOR Conference Room at the Northern Marianas College, Saipan Campus.

a. Roll Call

BOR Chairperson Juan T. Lizama called roll. Six members of the Board of Regents were present.
b. Review and Adoption of Agenda

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS -

Chairperson Lizama welcomed the audience and encouraged the public to take this opportunity as provided on item two of the agenda for any public comments. He set some ground rules and stated that comments must be related to the agenda. If not, he noted that individuals should notify NMC in writing in advance so that the Board is aware of the topic to be addressed. He then welcomed the first speaker.

1. Agnes McPhetres was present to speak before the board. She stated that there are concerns in the community that were brought to her attention with respect to the delay of hiring an NMC President. She indicated that there was some research that was done on the applicants and noted that the Board should be very concerned with the background of candidates. She hopes that the board takes their responsibility very seriously.

2. Oscar Rasa was present to speak and indicated that he was involved in the initial transition of the college and the termination of Dr. Carmen Fernandez. He stated that the team identified issues that were never made public and after reviewing these matters, the transition team believes that the board should address them. Mr. Rasa outlined some of these issues in great detail in a handout that was provided.

Chairperson Lizama repeated that it would be good practice if the board members were given advanced notice on comments that will be brought forth. He asked Mr. Rasa to submit his written comments to the President, which will then be shared with the board. A committee will review Mr. Rasa’s concerns and this matter will be handled accordingly. Chairperson Lizama welcomed any comments that the board might have about the comments that were shared by Mr. Rasa.

Regent Torres indicated that the board should welcome comments from the public but in all fairness, it is very disconcerting that the college was not given the opportunity to provide a response. He indicated that there are some procedural things that need to be addressed in the future. Regent Torres is concerned about the overall process.

Regent Peter agreed but noted that there are processes in place and all the different constituents are well represented. She welcomes comments from the public and especially from all of the different bodies of the college community.

Dr. Griffin, Faculty Senate President, stated that the concerns brought about by Mr. Rasa were addressed back in 2008 in a desk audit. However, those concerns are still the same today, nothing has been changed. Secondly, executive sessions are limited to the board members and are not open to the other members of the college. Dr. Griffin
recommended that the President and staff be included in executive sessions because they are the people that are familiar with the daily operations of the college.

Chairperson Lizama recommended that Dr. Griffin submit his concerns to the board in the form of an agenda item. He also stated that although comments are welcome from the community, there are also procedures that need to be followed. The Chair emphasized that the Board was not a rubber stamp.

Regent Rabauliman pointed out that comments should be in relation to the board’s agenda and a time limit should be given to the speaker.

**Motion:** Regent Orilla moved to go into executive session.  
**Second:** Regent Peter seconded the motion.  
**Discussion:** Chairperson Lizama requested to skip Old Business and move into New Business.

Regent Orilla indicated that the agenda was adopted earlier and Regent Torres recommended suspending the order of business.

**Motion:** Regent Peter moved to suspend the order of business and move into New Business.  
**Second:** Regent Orilla seconded the motion.  
**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Evaluation Instrument for Interim President

Interim President Cabrera presented the draft Evaluation Instrument (handout provided) to the board members for their review and approval. The ad hoc committee met recently to review the final instrument and is ready to make recommendations for board approval. Regent Orsini also recommended approval with changes to include the “Rubrics” or numerical system for the purposes of a fair rating of the Interim President.

Regent Torres suggested that the board adopt the form in principle to include the recommendation made by Regent Orsini.

**Motion:** Regent Torres moved to adopt the instrument to include the modification recommended by Regent Orsini to include a rubric.  
**Second:** Regent Peter seconded the motion.  
**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

Regent Torres recommended that the evaluation instrument be made available electronically. The form will be shared with the entire campus community who will be participating in the evaluation process of the Interim President.
B. Office of Management Budget Letter

Interim President requested to discuss the OMB letter in executive session. Instead, a short break was called.

Break called at 11:08 a.m. on Friday, May 20, 2011
Back in session at 11:19 a.m. on Friday, May 20, 2011

Regent Orsini stated that the letter submitted by the Office of Management & Budget is very serious and the community should be made aware of the nature of the financial status of the college.

Regent Peter inquired about the summer session. The Interim President informed the board that the summer session has been shortened from four (4) sessions to one (1) session. Dr. Griffin stated that enrollment for the summer session is very low and that he does not expect the enrollment numbers to fill all of the classes that are being offered.

Regent Torres indicated that this is a matter of supply and demand. The Interim President stated that the summer sessions are not cancelled; they were just shortened.

Regent Orsini stated that the board should be apprised before hand about important financial matters such as these. The President needs to advise the board in person through a committee meeting and not via email. Regent Rabauliman commended the Interim President for acting swiftly when pressed with the issue of shortfall.

Dr. Griffin stated that the Interim President called of her management team to discuss the crisis and to come up with a solution. Interim President Cabrera explained that they were pressed for time and that she needed to come up with a solution immediately.

IV. 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 to go into executive session at 11:38 a.m. on Friday, May 20, 2011.
Second: Regent Orilla seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion passed

For the record, the executive session ended at 4:14 p.m on Friday, May 20, 2011. Upon reconvening the meeting, the board did not take any action on any matter discussed during the executive session.
Motion: Regent Peter moved to recess at 4:14 p.m. on Friday, May 20, 2011 and have the meeting resume on Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 3:00 p.m in the BOR Conference Room. 
Second: Regent Orilla seconded the motion. 
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.
a. Roll Call

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

b. Agenda

Motion: Regent Torres moved to approve the continuation of the May 20, 2011 Special Meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2011.
Second: Regent Orsini seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. Presidential Search

Chairperson Lizama welcomed everyone to the meeting and made a statement that the board has been meeting consistently to address the ongoing Presidential Search. The board is ready to make an announcement and yielded the floor to Regent Orsini, the Presidential Search Committee Chairperson. Regent Orsini requested for a 5 minute break and asked to go into executive session.

Motion: Regent Peter moved to go into executive session on Thursday, May 26, 2011.
Second: Regent Orilla seconded the motion.
Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

For the record, the executive session ended at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2011. Upon reconvening the meeting, the board did not take any action on matters discussed in executive session.

After a brief break, Chairperson Lizama called the meeting to order and acknowledged the presence of Regent Rabauliman who is participating via phone conference. Regent Rabauliman indicated that this meeting marks a milestone in the history of the Northern Marianas College and it is for that reason that he has made a commitment to be available for the meeting.

Chairperson Lizama disclosed that the board is prepared to act on the hiring of a new NMC President. He provided a brief summary of the presidential search activities and
also thanked Interim President Lorraine Cabrera for her leadership and fortitude in managing the daily operations of the College. He also mentioned that the top candidate under consideration possessed an extraordinary resume with many years of academic and executive leadership. He indicated believe that she has the qualifications necessary to lead the College to unprecedented heights in providing high quality post secondary education to NMC students.

NOMINATION OF DR. SHARON Y. HART FOR NMC PRESIDENT:

**Motion:** Regent Peter moved to nominate Dr. Sharon Hart to be the next NMC President.

**Second:** Regent Orilla seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Dr. John Griffin indicated that of the seven names that ACCT sent to NMC, only one had pacific cultural experience. However, Chairperson Lizama noted that Dr. Griffin has a conflict of interest because he was a candidate for the president’s position.

**Vote:** Chairperson Lizama called for the vote and the following is a recording of those votes:

- Yes – Chairperson Lizama
- Regent Peter
- Regent Orilla
- Regent Orsini
- Regent Rabauliman (via phone conference)
- Regent Torres

Regent Rabauliman also recognized the hard work of Interim President Cabrera and thanked her for her commitment and dedication.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Regent Peter moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2011.

**Second:** Regent Orilla seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2011.