



**NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE  
BOARD OF REGENTS**  
Regular Meeting of March 01, 2022

**Minutes**

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

a. Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College was held on March 01, 2022 in the NMC Tinian Center in San Jose, Tinian.

Board Members Present in Person:

Regent Charles V. Cepeda, BOR Chairman  
Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla, Vice-Chairperson  
Regent Michaela U. Sanchez, Treasurer  
Regent Michelle Lin Sablan  
Regent Zenie P. Mafnas  
Regent Jesse M. Tudela  
Regent Irene T. Torres

NMC Staff Present in Person:

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, NMC President  
Frankie Eliptico, Vice-President of Administration and Advancement  
Charlotte Cepeda, Dean of Student Services  
Vilma Reyes, Interim Dean of Academic Programs & Services  
Kevin Bautista, Executive Director for the Office of the President  
Helen Camacho, Executive Secretary to the Board of Regents (Recorder)

NMC Staff Present on Zoom:

Geraldine (Geri) Rodgers, Staff Senate President  
Lisa Hacskeylo, Institutional Researcher, Office of Institutional Effectiveness  
Janson Sullivan, SMHA Department  
Rachel Fusco, CIP Director

b. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Regent Charles Cepeda, BOR Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:30pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He called for a roll call and all seven members were present. A quorum was established.

**Action:** Regent Orilla motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Regent Sanchez. All members voted yes, the motion passed.

c. Review and Adoption of Minutes

1. September 24, 2021 as Amended to September 29, 2021 regular meeting

**Action:** Regent Orilla motioned to adopt the September 24, 2021 as amended to September 29, 2021 minutes, seconded by Regent Sanchez. All members voted yes, the motion passed. The minutes were adopted.

**II. Public Comment Period:** Individuals may verbally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. Written testimony is also accepted. – None.

**III. Reports from Standing Committees**

a. Finance Committee

Regent Irene Torres, Finance Committee Chairperson, provided a brief update that at the previous board meeting, the board approved NMCs FY2023 Budget proposal and congratulated NMC for putting together its request in a timely manner.

b. Audit Committee

i. NMCs FY2020 Financial Audit

**Action:** Regent Mafnas motioned to ratify NMCs FY2020 Financial Audit, seconded by Regent Orilla. All members voted yes, the motion passed.

c. Human Resources Committee - No report.

d. Regent Nominating Committee

i. BOR Vacancies

Regent Torres, Regent Nominating Committee informed the board that three members are going to expire on May 29, 2022. The RNC committee will be formed to address these vacancies.

e. Program Committee - None.

i. NMCs Strategic Master Plan

**Action:** Regent Tudela motioned to approve NMCs Strategic Master Plan, seconded by Regent Orilla. Chairman Cepeda indicated that we are in discussion.

President Deleon Guerrero provided a brief overview of the strategic plan which listed the set of priorities for the institution to include:

- 1) Take Care of Our People
- 2) Take Care of Our Resources
- 3) Take Care of Our Community.

There was a discussion and recommendation to revisit the mission statement. All members voted yes, the motion passed.

ii. Free Community College Initiative (Proa Promise)

**Action:** Regent Tudela motioned to adopt the Free Community College Initiative, seconded by Regent Sanchez. Chairman noted that we are in discussion.

President Deleon Guerrero provided an overview about this initiative. He explained that the initiative aims to ensure that any US citizen that pursues an associate's degree at the College will be provided the financial resources to cover the full cost of tuition and fees for that degree. He also shared that while President Joe Biden attempted to offer states and territories up to \$45.5 billion to fund two years of free community college tuition for American students for five years, that attempt was unsuccessful. He added that despite this setback, there are current systems in place at the College and in the CNMI such as the CNMI Scholarships and SHEFA that allow the College to leverage several resources to launch a Free Community College Initiative. The best part about this is that we would be the first in the region.

The College's proposal is to partner with the elected leaders, private donors, and non-profit organizations to leverage current resources and identify new resources to provide targeted financial assistance for US citizens who are pursuing an associate's degree but do not have access to current financial aid and / or scholarships.

In response to Chairman Cepeda's inquiry about the fifteen percent who don't qualify, President Deleon Guerrero said that we'll take a deeper dive into the numbers.

There being no other discussion, Chairman Cepeda called for the vote and all members voted yes, and the motion passed.

- f. Facilities Committee
  - i. NMCs Facilities Masterplan/Updates

Regent Michelle Sablan, Facilities Chairperson provided an update. A handout was shared with the Regents. She shared that the committee met on February 17, 2022 and the committee asked the staff to provide information relating to the Facilities Master Plan and the FMP report was later provided in which incorporated some changes. The committee also discussed the Student Center Building where some changes were made to the A&E design for the building which led to the recommendation to add the Facilities Masterplan as an agenda item for today's regular meeting.

#### **IV. NMC Executive Reports**

##### **a. President's Report**

###### **1. Accreditation Update**

Charlotte Cepeda, Dean of Student Services /Accreditation Liaison Officer provided an update on the ongoing accreditation efforts and status report. The WASC Commission meeting that was held on February 25, 2022 at 7am via Zoom which included President Deleon Guerrero; Frankie Eliptico, Vice-President of Administration and Advancement, Chief Financial Officer David Attao and Vilma Reyes, Interim Dean of Academic Programs & Services. Dean Cepeda also shared that the college is in the process of looking at the substantive change for Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN) and the Associated of Science in Information Technology. Future updates will be provided once it is available.

###### **2. CFO Report**

Frankie Eliptico, Vice-President of Administration and Advancement provided the financial status of the college. A handout was also shared with the board. He noted that to date there are no transfers which is not unusual and the college will continue to communicate with the central government.

###### **3. President's Report**

President Deleon Guerrero underscored the value of the new strategic plan and emphasized the importance of stewardship through scholarship as the College moves forward. He noted the purpose for each of the three pillars of the strategic plan and thanked the Board for their support.

#### **V. Old Business – None.**

#### **VI. New Business**

##### **a. President's Evaluation**

President Deleon Guerrero's evaluation was conducted in executive session.

**VII. Miscellaneous Items – None.**

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

Regent Orilla motioned to move into executive session for personnel matters, seconded by Regent Sanchez. All members voted yes, the motion passed at 4:32p.m.

Executive Session ended at 5:30pm and Chairman Cepeda called the meeting back to order at 5:32p.m. President Deleon Guerrero thanked the board and the leadership team for all the support, time and investment to the college and most especially its students.

**IX. Miscellaneous Items – None.**

**X. Board Meeting Assessment (Electronic) - Done.**

**XI. Adjournment**

**Action:** Regent Orilla motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Regent Sanchez. All members voted yes, the motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:35pm.