



**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS
Regular Meeting
Friday, January 17, 2014
1:50p.m**

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chairperson Frank M. Rabauliman called the meeting to order on Friday, January 17, 2014 at 1:50p.m., BOR Conference room.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Frank M. Rabauliman, Chairperson
Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla, Vice-Chairperson
Regent Maria (Malua) T. Peter, Treasurer
Regent Michaela U. Sanchez
Regent William S. Torres
Regent Elizabeth D. Rechebei

Members Excused absent:

Regent Juan T. Lizama

Six (6) members present, there is a quorum. For the record, Regent Lizama is excused absent.

NMC Staff/Faculty Present:

Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D. – Executive Secretary to the Board of Regents/NMC President
Jackie P. Che – Office of Institutional Effectiveness Director
Lisa HacsKaylo – Office of Institutional Effectiveness Researcher
Frankie M. Eliptico – External Relations Director
Amanda Allen – Distance Education/Accreditation Liaison Officer
Leo Pangelinan – Dean of Student Services

Legal Counsel:

Jesus C. Borja – Board of Regents Legal Counsel

Members of the Public:

Junhan Todeno – Marianas Variety News Reporter
Moneth Deposa – Saipan Tribune News Reporter

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Regent Orilla moved to adopt the agenda and seconded by Regent Sanchez; all are in favor, motion carried.

MEETING MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

Regent Peter moved to table the adoption of the meeting minutes and seconded by Regent Torres. Regent Torres made a subsidiary motion to adopt the December 06, 2013 Continued December 16 & 17, 2013 meeting minutes on first reading and seconded by Regent Orilla; all are in favor, motion carried.

October 14, 2013 Continued October 15, 2013 Regular Meeting – Tabled.
December 06, 2013 Continued December 16 & 17, 2013 Regular Meeting – Adopted on First Reading only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There is no public comment.

REPORTS AND ACTION FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Program Committee: Regent Elizabeth D. Rechebei, Program Committee Chairperson provided an update. She informed the board that the committee met on January 17, 2014. The committee covered the College Completion agenda and noted the committee's discussion on Student Achievement and success. Regent Rechebei concluded her report.

Fiscal Committee: Regent William S. Torres, Fiscal Committee Chairperson provided an update. He informed the board that the committee met on January 16, 2014. The committee met on the proposed Board Policy No 4001 – Residency Classification and will be making its recommendation. Secondly, the committee met on board travel and had lengthy discussions. Lastly, the committee also discussed Public Law No. 17-47 that requires that the Northern Marianas College to provide a financial report to the Governor and the Commonwealth Legislature. This report is due 120 days after the end of the fiscal year. The report is in draft form and is still being fine-tuned. He also added that preliminary discussions have already begun on the 2015 NMC Budget. Other discussions included resource allocation, quarterly monitoring, and expectations. Regent Torres concluded his report.

Personnel Committee: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Policy No. 4001 – Residency Classification:

Regent Peter moved to adopt proposed Board Policy No. 4001 – Residency Classification on second reading but not for final pending a fiscal impact report. Regent Torres seconded the motion. All six (6) members voted yes, the motion. This policy is still with the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

College Completion Agenda:

Barbara Merfalen, Dean of Academic Programs and Services presented on the Game Changers document. She noted the graduation rates comparing NMC to National Data. There was a discussion on certain factors and variables that could be affecting the completion rates at NMC. Completion agenda is a national crisis but the college is committed to student success at NMC. The college is moving forward to be able to execute the game changer process. The next item on the completion agenda deals with performance funding. Jackie P. Che, OIE Director articulated the importance of funding to be able to continue these programs. After much discussion, Chairperson Rabauliman echoed the sentiments of the board to be kept informed and this item will remain with the committee until such time the college is ready for the board to take action.

CW Fees Report:

Dave Attao, Administration and Resource Development Dean provided the board with a brief overview (handout provided). The report outlined the activities, actions and future activities of the Northern Marianas College with respect to the use of its share of CW funds. Dave Attao concluded his report. Chairperson Rabauliman assigned this item to the Fiscal Committee.

NMC EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President's Report:

Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., NMC President provided a report (handout provided). She highlighted the following recent external meetings and activities:

1. Registration Comparison Report for Spring 2014.
2. Notification of ACCJC Commission decision on NMC's Show Cause status in approximately one month.
3. Ongoing renovations of Building V for SOE faculty offices, administrative space and classrooms.

Chief Financial Officer Report:

Tracy M. Guerrero, CFO provided an overview of the current financial status of the college and distributed a copy of the FY2013 Consolidated Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and the 2014 1st Quarter Report as well. A breakdown of expenses by function and by source was also provided. Overall, the report is in the positive. A brief discussion about the upcoming 2014 Budget Submission report that is due to the Executive Branch and Commonwealth Legislature. Tracy concluded her report.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Frankie M. Eliptico, External Relations Director provided an update (handout provided). He provided a tracking sheet of all of the legislations that affects the college. Frankie also shared the notice of the public hearing pertaining to House Legislative Initiative No. 18-007. He informed the board about other legislations such as a resolution for Dr. David Longanecker that was passed by both houses and was presented to him; House Bill No. 18-163, to increase the CNMI minimum wage to match the federal minimum wage. This bill is new and the college is still reviewing the applicability of the law. He concluded his report by sharing a copy of a letter by Rep. Ray Tebuteb with respect to providing CIP funds to the Northern Marianas College and reminded them about the upcoming public hearing for H.L. 18-007. There was a suggestion to meet with the House Standing Committee on Education. Dr. Hart also added that recently the students through the President of ANMC has expressed a desire and interest to lead in preparing and pushing legislation that would amend the constitution to give NMC a minimum of 6% of the CNMI budget. Dr. Hart offered some comments and urged the board to consider meeting with the students.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Regent Peter moved to go into executive session for purposes of discussing legal updates, personnel and other matters. Regent Torres seconded the motion; all six (6) members voted yes, the motion passed. Regent Rechebei asked to be excused from discussion dealing with personnel matters.

The Board rose out of executive session at 4:50p.m, no actions were taken. Chairperson Rabauliman assigned the following items to the BOR Committees:

1. Fiscal and Program Committee – WASC Senior Accreditation
2. Proposed Agenda Items: 5-Year Strategic Plan (Full Board)
3. Proposed Committee Meetings – Fiscal Committee: January 27, 2014
Program Committee

UPCOMING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Schedule Next Regular Meeting

Tentative Dates: February 21, 2014

March 28, 2014

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m.