



## **NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE**

***Special Meeting of February 23, 2024***  
**3:08p.m BOR Conference Room, Saipan**

*Board Members: Regent Charles Cepeda (Chair); Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla (Vice-Chair); Regent Zenie Mafnas (Member); Regent Jesse Tudela (Member); Regent Michelle Sablan; Regent Irene Torres; and Regent William (Bill) Cing (Member).*

### **Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 23, 2024**

**In compliance with the Commonwealth's Open Government Act, to fulfill this requirement of this special meeting was provided as follows to all stakeholders:**

- (a) On February 22, 2024, advance written notice of this regular meeting was posted in the Marianas Variety News and Views.
- (b) On February 22, 2024, a copy of this advance notice of the meeting was uploaded on the college's website at [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu).
- (c) On February 22, 2024, advance written notice of this meeting was emailed to the College campus.
- (d) Any individual who has requested notice of this meeting has been forwarded a copy of the notice of such meeting.

#### **I.Call to Order**

The Board of Regents held a special meeting on February 23, 2024, at 3:08 PM. The meeting started with roll call, confirming the presence of various board members and administrative staff.

Chairman Charles Cepeda called the meeting to order and welcome everyone to the meeting.

#### **(a) Roll Call**

Board Members: Regent Charles Cepeda (Chair); Regent Elaine Orilla (Vice-Chair) attending Viz Zoom; Regent Zenie Mafnas (Member); Regent Jesse Tudela (Member); Regent Michelle Sablan (Member); Regent Irene Torres (Member) attending Via Zoom; Regent William (Bill) Cing (Member).

NMC Attendees: Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D (President); David Attao (Chief Financial Officer/Acting Vice President for Administration & Advancement); Kevin Bautista, Director (President's Office); Charlotte Cepeda, Dean of Student Support Services (Accreditation Liaison)

Officer); Vilma Reyes, Director (Office of Institutional Effectiveness); Polly Masga, Director (Human Resources Office).

Attending Via Zoom: Maria Aguon, Director (Tinian Center); Pedro Deleon Guerrero (Acting Dean of Interim CREES); Daisie Camacho (Information & Technology /Staff Senate Rep); Raymond Muna (CNMI Archivist); Becky Sablan, Executive Secretary (President's Office); and Helen Camacho, Executive Board Secretary (Recorder).

(b) Review and Adoption of Agenda

**BOARD ACTION:**

Regent Michelle Sablan motioned to adopt the agenda, the motion was seconded by Regent Zenie Mafnas. The agenda was adopted with no changes.

**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.

Chairman Cepeda confirmed that no requests for public comments had been received.

**III. OLD BUSINESS** – No old business was discussed.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

NMCs FY2025 Appropriations Budget request

The college presented the budget for the upcoming year, outlining reductions in construction costs and the allocation of funds for various expenses, including personnel, construction, utilities, and matching funds for grants. The board's main discussion focused on the NMC's FY2025 appropriations budget request. The finance committee recommended approval of a budget that closely mirrors the previous year's budget, with some reductions. Notably, construction costs were decreased from \$4.5 million to \$3 million, and the overall budget request is approximately \$1.5 million less than the previous year, and a discussion about the burden of grants on the institution is summarized. The college acknowledged in securing grants and matching funds while maintaining operational efficiency. It was emphasized that while the institution had successfully leveraged federal funds to cover shortfalls in the past, such funding is set to expire this year. The board engaged in a robust conversation, raised some questions but ultimately approved the motion to accept the budget.

Chairman Cepeda and Dr.G thanked the board and the Finance committee for their thorough discussion and commended the team for their efforts in preparing the budget on short notice. Chair Cepeda called for the vote of the budget. The board members took the following action.

**BOARD ACTION:**

Regent Zenie Mafnas motioned to adopt the NMC's FY2025 Appropriations Budget request, the motion was seconded by Regent Michelle Sablan. All members voted yes, the motion passed. The budget is hereby adopted.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

### **BOARD ACTION:**

Regent Zenie Mafnas motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Regent Sablan. All members voted yes, the meeting adjourned at 3:35p.m.