



MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
Special Board Meeting  
**Thursday, October 01, 2015**  
**9:20a.m.**

Call Meeting to Order

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present**

Regent Juan T. Lizama, BOR Chairperson  
Regent Michaela U. Sanchez  
Regent Elizabeth D. Rechebei  
Regent Frank M. Rabauliman  
Regent Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero  
Regent Maria (Malua) T. Peter

**NMC Staff and Faculty**

Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., Executive Secretary to the BOR/NMC President  
Frankie M. Eliptico, External Relations Director  
Tracy M. Guerrero, Chief Financial Officer  
Patty Coleman, Faculty Senate  
Leo Pangelinan, Dean of Student Services  
Lorraine C. Maui, ABE Director  
Charlotte Cepeda, School of Education Director  
Amanda Diaz, School of Education Instructor  
John B. Joyner, Languages Instructor  
Helen B. Camacho, Board Secretary (Recorder)

**BOR Legal Counsel**

Jesus C. Borja

**Others Present**

Rod Klinge, Asian Business Knowledge  
Richelle Cabang, Marianas Variety News Reporter  
William S. Torres  
John Reyes  
Herman Cabrera

**Review and Adoption of Agenda**

**BOARD ACTION:**

Regent Sanchez motioned to adopt the agenda and seconded by Regent Rabauliman. All members voted yes, the motion passed.

**Public Comments**

1. Keisuki Yoshida, ASNMC President was present to speak about the proposed Tuition and Fees Increase, Spring 2016. Yoshida informed the board that the proposed tuition increase has been an ongoing item. The students are fully aware of the impending need to increase tuition at the college to keep up with the current trends. The student body went

out and sought the student's opinion on this issue and the end result was what they had expected. The students are not in favor of the increase, however, the student body also understand that it is inevitable. With that in mind, the ASNMC student officers support the increase but asked the board to consider the implementation of the increase in the summer of 2016. Keisuke concluded his presentation and thanked the board for the opportunity to speak today.

Chairperson Lizama introduced the next speaker, Mr. Felipe Atalig. He gave a brief background of Mr. Atalig and also reminisced about some pastime stories.

2. Mr. Atalig was present to speak to the board about the term of Mr. William S. Torres. He asked for the board to review the matter and give a fair analysis of the situation.

Mr. Atalig concluded his comments. Before Mr. Torres proceeded with his comments, he congratulated the student body president for his comments and eloquent explanation of the position taken on the proposed tuition increase.

3. Mr. Torres encouraged the board to go out and communicate to the greater community on how the proposed tuition increase will benefit the students. He also talked about the issue of his term as a board member and how the issue rests on the board pursuant to the provision in the constitution and pursuant to applicable statutes. He appeals for a decision from the college.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Tuition and Fees Increase, Spring 2016**

Leo Pangelinan, Dean of Student Services shared the proposed fee increase proposal as follows:

**Recommendation 1:** Increase Resident and Tuition Rate by 35%

**Recommendation 2:** Adopt New Fee Schedule

**Recommendation 3:** Establish a Banded Tuition Rate

**Recommendation 4:** Establish a Mechanism to Increase Tuition; Incrementally on an annual basis.

**For the record Regent Peter arrived at 10:12a.m to attend the meeting.**

Here are some highlights from the PowerPoint presentation:

- Combined revenue from CNMI Appropriations & Tuition and Fees is insufficient to support the College's operations.
- For FY2016, the College submitted a \$8.4 million need for personnel and utilities expenses; \$7.1 million need for program operational expenses.
- A graph showing the Trend in CNMI Support vs FTE Enrollment: 45% decline FY2016 as compared to FY2003
- CNMI Support vs NMC Requests
- College plan to inform Key Stakeholders:  
Press conference; Update Tuition and Fee Schedule; Meetings with academic advisors and staff; Deans and CFO host public forums; MT and ASNMC work to measure impact on students and identify respond to extenuating
- Regional Comparison of Resident Tuition per Credit Hour: NMC is the lowest in the region!
- Financial Impact on Students and Affordability: Cost of attendance; Financial Aid; Cash Back

Break was called at 11:12a.m. Break ended at 11:26a.m. Chairperson Lizama called the meeting back to order.

#### **Tuition and Fees Increase, Spring 2016 (Con't)**

**BOARD ACTION:** Regent Rabauliman motioned to adopt the Tuition and Fee increase of 35% as well as the Banded Tuition and seconded by Regent Rechebei. Discussion: Chairperson Lizama clarified that the motion is to adopt the increase and the Banded tuition. Furthermore, the question is whether to incorporate the gradual increase over a period of time. Regent Rechebei clarified that it was agreed that the board will discuss the gradual increase at a another time.

Regent Rabauliman reiterated that his earlier statement was a motion to adopt the increase in tuition and fees (35%) as well as the Banded Tuition. Chairperson Lizama acknowledged the motion but also motioned that the board consider Dean Leo's request to incorporate the gradual increase. Regent Rabauliman indicated that if it pleases the board, he was hoping that the board could review this matter further at the committee level. Chairperson Lizama agreed and withdrew his motion.

Regent Peter requested for a few minutes break. All members agreed and break was called at 11:32a.m. The meeting was called back to order at 11:39a.m.

After coming back from the break, Regent Rechebei said the matter before them is whether to defer the implementation for November when the board receives additional information from the college.

Chairperson Lizama reiterated that the motion is to approve the recommendation of A&B, C will come later after further consideration by the committee to address Dean Leo's request to consider the gradual increase in tuition. President Hart emphasized that the board needs to make a decision on the proposed tuition increase as well as the date of implementation. She added that the timeline is absolutely critical. This way the college can plan ahead and the students can also do the same. Regent Peter inquired about the facilities fee and how it will be spent. Tracy Guerrero, CFO indicated that the scholarship and SHEFA monies covers anything associated with Tuition and Fees. Dean Leo added that the monies doesn't come directly to the college, it goes to the students. Dean Leo provided an analysis.

After much discussion, Chairperson Lizama called for the vote. All members voted yes, the motion passed. Regent Deleon Guerrero abstained.

#### **Implementation Timeline**

Chairperson Lizama called for any motion on the timeline.

**BOARD ACTION:** Regent Peter motioned that the increase will be implemented in the Fall 2016 and seconded by Regent Sanchez. Discussion: President Hart provided some comments where she indicated that the college has given the board the information to be able to move forward in implementing the increase in the Spring 2016. After much discussion, Chairperson Lizama called for the vote that the implantation will be in the Fall 2016. All members voted yes, the motion passed. Regent Deleon Guerrero abstained.

#### **Board Policy No. 1004 – Compensation of Board Members**

**BOARD ACTION:** Regent Rabauliman motioned to adopt the revised policy and seconded by Regent Rechebei. All members voted yes, the motion passed. This policy is adopted as amended.

**FY2016 Operations Budget**

Tracy M. Guerrero, CFO presented the proposed FY2016 Operations Budget for the boards review and consideration.

**BOARD ACTION:** Regent Rabauliman motioned to adopt the FY2016 Operations Budget and seconded by Regent Rechebei. All members voted yes, the motion passed. For the record, Regent Deleon Guerrero abstained.

The board members took the time to welcome Regent Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero to the board. Regent Rabauliman suggested that the Chair look at revisiting the committee structure. Regent Peter informed the board that due to personal matters, she is requesting that Regent Deleon Guerrero be appointed to chair the Personnel committee. Regent Rabauliman mentioned that when considering the structure of the committee to prioritize the facilities and audit committees. Regent Rechebei made a suggestion for the board to look at all of the WASC recommendations.

**BOR Personnel Committee**

Regent Deleon Guerrero is the new Personnel Committee Chair. All agreed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**BOARD ACTION:** Regent Sanchez motioned to move into executive session at 12:25p.m. and seconded by Regent Rechebei. All members voted yes, the motion passed. Executive Session ended at 1:17p.m. Chairperson Lizama called the meeting back to order. No actions were taken in executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**BOARD ACTION:** Chairperson Lizama motioned to adjourn and seconded by Regent Sanchez. All members voted yes, the meeting ended at 1:18p.m.