

Answers to Some of Your Questions about Recent Events at NMC

1. What action did the Board of Regents take?

In its meeting held on January 12, 2010, the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents acted to suspend Dr. Carmen Fernandez from her post as NMC President.

2. Why was the President suspended?

The Board of Regents did not specify the specific reasons for the suspension, only that there would be an investigation.

3. How long will the suspension last?

No timeline was given for the suspension. The Board of Regents will make a decision once the investigation has concluded.

4. Who is the interim president and what are his/her duties?

The Board of Regents appointed Lorraine T. Cabrera, State Director for the Adult Basic Education Program, as interim president. She assumes all of the president's duties and responsibilities during the interim period.

5. How will NMC's accreditation be affected?

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges has raised concerns before about the turnover of leadership at the College. As such, it is reasonable that some may raise concerns about the suspension of Dr. Fernandez and the appointment of an interim president.

However, it should be noted that Lorraine T. Cabrera comes to the position with 15 years of experience at the College, having served NMC in a variety of roles and capacities. Furthermore, the concern over the turnover of leadership at NMC was just one of almost a dozen other concerns, all of which have been effectively addressed in the past couple of years, leading up to full reaffirmation of accreditation in June of 2009. Lastly, the College continues to move forward with other accreditation initiatives, including a third cycle of program review, substantive change proposals for Rehabilitative Human Services and the School of Education, and continued training and professional development in accreditation.

Above all, Interim President Cabrera and the Board of Regents remain committed to maintaining the College's accreditation by complying with and exceeding all accreditation standards and requirements.

6. Where can I go to get more information?

To get more information about events and other news about the College, please visit www.nmcnet.edu. To receive NMC's electronic newsletter, send an email to pr@nmcnet.edu.

7. Where can I go if I have concerns or issues I want to raise?

Students who have concerns or other feedback can speak to members and officers of the Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College (ASNMC). Students can also send their concerns to the officers of the ASNMC by emailing asnmc@nmcnet.edu. Students may also seek guidance and assistance from their instructors, advisors, and the Counseling Services Office. The interim president will also be attending student assemblies to listen and respond directly to student concerns. To send a message directly to the interim president, email lorrainec@nmcnet.edu.