



**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 31, 2014
1:30p.m.**

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Chairperson Frank M. Rabauliman called the meeting to order on Monday, March 31, 2014 at 1:30p.m., BOR Conference room, Saipan Campus.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Regent Frank M. Rabauliman, Chairperson
Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla, Vice-Chairperson
Regent Juan T. Lizama
Regent Elizabeth D. Rechebei
Regent William S. Torres
Regent Michaela U. Sanchez

Members Excused absent:

Regent Maria (Malua) T. Peter

NMC Staff /Faculty Present:

Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., Executive Secretary to the Board of Regents/NMC President
Helen B. Camacho, Board Secretary (Recorder)
Barbara Merfalen, Dean of Academic Programs and Services
Jackie P. Che, OIE Director
Bobbie Hunter, Business Department Instructor
Frankie M. Eliptico, ERO Director
Lisa HacsKaylo, Institutional Researcher
Chavel Green, Business Department Chair
Irene Tudela, Financial Aid Specialist
Amanda Allen, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Zerlyn Taimanao, Criminal Justice Instructor
Richard Waldo, Business Department Instructor
Tracy M. Guerrero, Chief Financial Officer
Leo Pangelinan, Dean of Student Services
Rosa M. Tudela, NMC Nursing Department

NMC Students:

Seung Ho Pak
Geraldine I. Hofschneider
Alexandra C. Villagomez
Inessa V. Diaz
Jatanna P. Cabrera
Kathleen Laurio
Jaelyn Maldangesang
Sheila Vidal
Vanessa Andrea Espinosa
Leonisa Laoyan
Reyel Quezon

Legal Counsel:

Jesus C. Borja – Board of Regents Legal Counsel

Members of the Public Present:

Junhan Todeno – Marianas Variety News Reporter
Moneth Deposa – Saipan Tribune News Reporter
Eric Plinske - Staywell Insurance

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Regent Orilla motioned to adopt the agenda and second by Regent Sanchez. All members voted yes, the motion passed. The agenda is hereby adopted.

Review and Adoption of Minutes:

- 1. October 14, 2013 and Continued on October 15, 2013 Regular Meeting**
Regent Orilla motioned to adopt the minutes and seconded by Regent Sanchez. The motion passed. Regent Rechebei abstained from voting because she was not a member at the time. All six members voted yes, the motion passed.
- 2. December 06, 2013 Continued December 16 & 17, 2013 Regular Meeting**
Regent Orilla motioned to adopt the minutes and seconded by Regent Sanchez. All members voted yes, the motion passed.
- 3. January 17, 2014 Regular Meeting**
Regent Orilla motioned to adopt the minutes and seconded by Regent Sanchez. Regent Torres, Fiscal Committee Chair requested to include the Fiscal Committee meeting minutes by reference. So noted that Regent Lizama was excused absent for this particular meeting. The motion passed.
- 4. February 21, 2014 Regular Meeting**
Regent Orilla motioned to adopt the minutes and seconded by Regent Sanchez. Regent Torres, Fiscal Committee Chair requested to include the committee report of February 20, 2014 be included in the minutes. There was a discussion about

incorporating committee reports to the board meetings minutes. Counsel Borja was tasked to look into this matter. All members voted yes, the motion passed.

5. March 05, 2014 – Special Meeting

Regent Torres motioned to adopt the meeting minutes and seconded by Regent Orilla. All members voted yes, the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

1. Ms. Irene Tudela was present to speak with regard to the proposed 4 Year Bachelor's Degree Program. The item was listed in today's agenda. Ms. Tudela indicated her support of the program and hopes that the board will consider its passage.
2. Mr. Eric Plinske pledged his support of the proposed 4 Year Bachelor's Degree Program. He was a former business instructor at Northern Marianas College. Mr. Plinske believes that if the college could launch this program that it would be a great opportunity for the community as a whole.
3. Ms. Lisa HacsKaylo, Institutional Researcher also pledged her support of the 4 Year Business Degree Program. She talked about how this will benefit the students greatly.
4. Ms. Leonisa Laoyan currently an NMC student and in full support of the program.
5. Mr. Reyel Quezon, an NMC student shared the same sentiments as the rest of his peers. He is excited for a 4-year program in Business. He fully supports this proposal.
6. Ms. Vanessa Espinosa is currently a student at NMC. She also fully pledges her support of the program.

REPORTS AND ACTION FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Program Committee Report** – Regent Rechebei, Program Committee Chair provided an update (handout provided). She highlighted the following:

1. College Completion Agenda

President Hart passed out a letter dated March 06, 2014 signed by Governor Inos and Chairperson Rabauliman requesting to join the Complete College America Alliance of States was provided to the members. The letter was accepted by College America.

2. Board Policy No. 2003 – Institutional Values

Regent Rechebei motioned to adopt this policy in second and final reading and seconded by Regent Orilla. All members voted yes, the motion passed. Board Policy No. 2003 – Institutional Values is hereby adopted.

3. Board Policy No. 3006 – Articulation

Dean Bobbie provided the excerpt from the policy that addresses the changes that were made during the Program Committee meeting held earlier. This policy is tabled pending the changes and it is still with the committee.

4. 4 Year Degree Program in Business

The committee is pleased with the report but will not make a decision until the fiscal committee provides the fiscal impact. This item is tabled.

5. WASC Senior Substantive Change – Tabled.

6. Board Policy No. 2004 – College Surveys

A second draft was presented that included the changes that were made during the Program Committee meeting held earlier. A revised version should include something related to the privacy and confidentiality of data and how they are kept over time. There was a recommendation to strike out the verbiage “Office of Institutional Effectiveness” as listed on the policy. After much discussion, the policy is tabled and remains with committee.

7. Board Policy No. 2005 – Speech: Time, Place, and Manner

The committee recommended to revert this back to the committee and asked the Chairperson to assign the legal counsel for its own review. There was a recommendation to circulate the policy for review by the constituent groups. The committee tables this policy for further review and also legal counsels input.

b. Fiscal Committee Report

Regent William S. Torres, Fiscal Committee Chair provided an updated (handout provided). He also included the committee’s report as follows: February 20, 2014, February 28, 2013, March 04, 2014 and March 28, 2014.

New Degree Program: Bachelor’s Degree in Business

Recommendation: The committee recommends approval of the proposed 4 Year Degree Program.

SUSPENSION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Regent Torres motioned to suspend the order of business and seconded by Regent Orilla. All members voted yes, the motion passed.

New Degree Program: Bachelor’s Degree in Business:

WASC Senior Substantive Change – Baccalaureate Degree Program in Business:

Regent Orilla motioned to go into executive session at 3:16p.m and seconded by Regent Lizama. All members voted yes, the motion passed. Executive Session ended at 3:32p.m. and Chairperson Rabauliman called the meeting back to order at 3:32p.m. Upon convening the meeting, the board did not take any actions in executive session.

Regent Rechebei motioned to endorse the New Degree Program: Bachelor’s Degree in Business and the WASC Senior Substantive Change – Baccalaureate Degree Program in Buisness and seconded by Regent Orilla. Regent Torres made a subsidiary motion to effectuate that the fiscal committee also endorses the Bachelor’s Degree in Business program as well as the WASC Senior Substantive Change and seconded by Regent Sanchez. All members voted yes, the motion passed.

Regent Rechebei provided some comments and thanked the college for all the hard work that went into this proposal. She added that if passed, this would greatly benefit the community as a whole to include the Tinian and Rota students. President Hart also

assured the board that other programs would not be impacted negatively. Regent Lizama displayed some concerns with the proposal. Regent Torres reassured the board that this is ready for action but also added that the marketing aspect of the program will begin upon adequate consultation between the college and the senior commission pending the site visit at the end of April and the subsequent action to approve or disapprove NMC's application by the commission in June or July after the commission meeting by then.

All five members voted yes, the motion passed. The board approved the proposal for a 4 Year Degree Program in Business. President Hart thanked the staff, faculty and students for all the hard work.

Chairperson Rabaulman recognized the Committee Chairs for all its commitment and called for a five minutes break. Break ended at 3:59p.m. Regent Orilla, Vice-Chairperson called the meeting back to order.

Personnel Committee Report:

Regent Juan T. Lizama, Program Committee Chairperson provided an update. He highlighted the following:

1. Board Policy No. 5004 – Drug Free Workplace, Smoking
Recommendation: The committee tabled this item for further review.
2. Board Policy No. 6000 – Compensation
Recommendation: This item is tabled and will remain in committee for further review. There was a discussion about funding availability.
3. Organizational Chart
Recommendation: This item is tabled and will remain in committee. There was a recommendation to look into prior organizational charts.

Board Annual Evaluation:

Chairperson Rabaulman tasked Regent Orilla to assist the college in coordinating a BOR Retreat for this month. The board plans to meet on the BOR Annual Evaluation.

NMC EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President's Report:

Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., NMC President indicated that her monthly report for March 2014 is in the packet.

WASC Accreditation Update:

Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., NMC President indicated that the only update is the recent actions of the board with respect to the New Degree program and the Substantive Change.

Chief Financial Officer Report:

Tracy M. Guerrero, CFO provided an update on the current financial status to date (March 31, 2014). She also noted that the college should start thinking about cost cutting measures due to an anticipation of an 11% to 12 % shortfall in revenues for the

Operations budget for FY2014. She recommends closely monitoring the expenditures. Tracy concluded her report.

Legislative Updates:

Frankie Eliptico, ERO Director provided an update (handout provided). He noted the following:

1. Senate Bill No. 18-33 – This bill aims to allow elected officials who waive their salaries to redirect the funds to a municipal scholarship of their choice. The board chose not to support the bill.
2. House Bill No. 18-172 – This bill aims to create a scholarship to provide financial assistance to persons of Northern Marianas descent (NMD). The bill proposes to create the program using the interest generated from investments made by the Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT). The board took the position not to comment on this bill.
3. House Bill No. 18-178 – This bill aims to provide students who are enrolled in related services programs with financial assistance. The board took the position to support the bill.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 5:23p.m