



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.