



**NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
Special Meeting of September 20, 2023  
3:36p.m., BOR Conference Room, Saipan**

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

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2023**

In compliance with the Commonwealth's Open Government Act, adequate notice of this regular meeting was provided as follows:

- (a) On September 15, 2023, advance written notice of this regular meeting was posted in the Marianas Variety News and Views.
- (b) On September 15, 2023, 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 September 19, 2023, 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:**

Chair Cepeda called the Board of Regent's regular meeting to order on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 3:36 p.m. in the Board Conference Room of Northern Marianas College, Saipan. Chair Cepeda welcomed everyone to the meeting.

a) Roll Call:

Members: Regent Charles Cepeda (Chair); Regent Elaine Hocog-Orilla (Vice Chair); Regent Irene Torres (Treasurer); Jeannie Mafnas (Member); Regent Dr. Jesse Tudela (Member); Regent Michele Sablan (Member); and via zoom Regent Bill Cing (Member). All the members were present.

NMC attendees: Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD (President); Frankie Eliptico (Vice-President of Administration and Advancement); Bobbie Hunter (Interim Director for the School of Business); Nadine Deleon Guerrero (SBDC Network Director); Polly Masga (HRO Director); Lorraine Maui (Interim Dean of Academic Programs & Services); Monique Sablan (Community Development Institute Director); Charlotte Cepeda, Dean of Student Support Services; Kevin Bautista (Executive Director, President's Office); Andrew Mendiola (Nursing Department) and Helen Camacho, Board Secretary (Recorder).

Attending Via Zoom: Alzira Protsishin (Contracted A&E Firm EXP); Geraldine (Geri) Rodgers (Staff Senate President); Maria Aguon (Executive Director Tinian Center); Becky Sablan, (Executive Secretary to the Office of the President); Patricia (Patty) Coleman (Interim Dean of CREES); Vilma Reyes (Office of Institutional Effectiveness Director); Rachel Fusco (CIP Coordinator); Ray Muna (CNMI Archivist); Rosa Tudela (Nursing);

b) Review and Adoption of Agenda:

**BOARD ACTION:** Regent Elaine Orilla motioned to adopt the agenda for September 20, 2023, seconded by Regent Dr. Jesse Tudela. Chairman Cepeda called for discussion and there was none. All members voted yes, the motion passed.

## **II. Old Business:**

None.

## **III. New Business**

### a) Workforce Development Training Center Building (30% A&E Design)

Regent Tudela, Facilities Committee Chairperson informed the board that the committee met earlier today and discussed the workforce development training center building. The committee's recommendation is to bring this agenda to the full board for discussion. Chairman Cepeda opened the floor for a presentation by the president. President G asked the board for its approval of the 30% A&E Design for the workforce development training center building. He explained that the team understands that there are some questions and concerns but asked the board to have faith that they will be able to address those questions and concerns in a collaborative manner that ensures that we don't fall behind on the grant as it will expire in 2025.

VP Frankie introduced the A&E Design team (Horea, Alzira and Jeff) from EXP who are attending on zoom and also the various program leaders of the college who are present today. VP Frankie explained that although we are on a timeline crunch, there are programs that are being run out of tents. We want to be aggressive not only because of the timeline but because programs took a lot of energy and commitment to get the building design done. The building will incorporate future principles such as adaptability, flexibility and other modern features of space strategies.

Regent Cing asked for clarification on the reason for only approving 30 percent of the A&E design. VP Frankie and Regent Tudela explained the process and shared that the 30 percent is when we are still able to make changes without significant expenses. Regent Mafnas and Regent Orilla both shared the same sentiments that they are not experts in architecture design and trusts that the team is doing everything to ensure that the design meets the college's needs. In response to Regent Mafnas's question if whether there is a board policy that requires the board to approve A&E designs. President G confirmed that policy number 8001 does require board approval for all A&E designs. Regent Mafnas added that the board should revisit its policy because something like this would impede on the processes and furthermore in her experience what goes before the board are things like expenditures related to the projects. Regent Cing also concurs with regent Mafnas's sentiments about revisiting the policy.

Regent Dr. Tudela expressed that the facilities committee was created because of the facilities masterplan and the main reason primarily is to keep the board apprised and the community informed on the status of the ongoing building projects of the college.

Chairman Cepeda stated that we are all stakeholders including the board and understands that there is a deadline that the college needs to meet. The board is working with the college and not trying to delay this from moving forward. Chairman Cepeda concluded discussion and asked for the question.

**BOARD ACTION:** Regent Dr. Tudela motioned to approve the 30% A&E Design with the condition to provide the board the information requested from the committee, for example, size, footage, height of the building structure, seconded by Regent Orilla. All members voted yes, the motion passed with conditions. Congratulations NMC!!

**b) FY 2024 OPS Budget: Continuing Resolution**

Regent Mafnas, finance committee chairperson informed the board that the team met earlier and discussed the FY2024 OPS budget. Overall, after great deliberation, discussion and a great presentation by the team, the committee is ready to makes its recommendation to the full board.

**BOARD ACTION:** Regent Mafnas motioned to approve the FY2024 OPS Budget: Continuing Resolution, seconded by Regent Sablan. Chairman Cepeda asked if anyone has any question or anything to add to the discussion. Regent Cing indicated that with the current financial situation that the commonwealth is facing, a continuing resolution is necessary to continue its operation. He supports the request. President G thanked the board and also said that this will put the institution in a better position to respond to the current fiscal crisis that we are all facing. All members voted yes, the motion passed.

**IV. Adjournment**

**BOARD ACTION:** Regent Elaine Orilla motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Regent Michelle Sablan. Meeting ended at 4:22pm.