



Adopted on March 06, 2026

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

Regular Meeting of December 02, 2025

3:30p.m Board of Regents Conference Room
As Terlaje, Saipan

Minutes of the regular meeting of December 02, 2025

In compliance with the Commonwealth's Open Government Act, to fulfill this requirement of this regular meeting was provided as follows to all stakeholders:

- a) On November 28, 2025, advance written notice of this regular meeting was posted in the Marianas Variety News and Views.
 - b) On December 01, 2025, a copy of this advance notice of the meeting was uploaded on the college's website at www.marianas.edu.
 - c) On December 01, 2025, advance written notice of this meeting was emailed to the College campus.
 - d) Any individuals who has requested notice of this meeting has been forwarded a copy of the notice of such meeting.
- I. Call to Order
- a. Roll Call

Moment of Silence and Agenda Adoption

After a moment of silence for the late Lieutenant Governor Diego T. Benavente, the meeting commenced with roll call and introductions of the Northern Marianas College team, including President Galvin Deleon Guerrero and senior vice president Frankie Eliptico. The Board then moved to review and adopt the agenda, which included a motion to add a Board of Regents Retreat to the agenda, followed by a vote that passed unanimously.

Board Members Present: Regent Jesse Tudela, EdD, Chairman; Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla, Vice-Chairperson; Regent Michelle Lin Sablan, Treasurer; and Regent Janice Tenorio,

NMC Administration and Staff Present: Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, President; Frankie Eliptico, Senior Vice-President of Administration and Advancement; David J. Attao, Chief Financial Officer; Guadalupe Camacho, Staff Senate President; Daisy Propst, Financial Aid Director; Vilma Reyes, Director of Office of Institutional Effectiveness; Lorraine Maui, Interim Dean of Academic Programs & Services; Polly Masga, HRO Director; and Kevin Bautista, Director for Office of the President.

Via Zoom Present: Becky Sablan, Executive Secretary to the President; Rachel Fusco, CIP Director; Barnaby Lizama, Facilities Manager; Miguel Dandan, OIA, and Ren Buno, OIA.

b. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Regent Sablan motioned to add an item, Board Retreat to VII (c), seconded by Regent Orilla. **All members voted yes, the motion passed with changes.**

- c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
 - i. October 03, 2025 special meeting

Regent Cing motioned to adopt the minutes, seconded by Regent Sablan. **All members voted yes, the motion passed.**

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- a. Individuals may testify on items on this agenda during this period. Written testimony is also accepted. Individuals are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes.

Mr. Ray Quitugua – During public comments, Ray Quitugua shared his experiences as an indigenous student at Northern Marianas College, expressing concerns about perceived discrimination and inadequate support in a Chamorro language class. He indicated plans to report the college to federal authorities for discrimination, while Mr. Quitugua assured that the Board is adhering to policies in addressing such issues.

III. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Finance Committee – None.
- b. Audit Committee – None.
- c. Human Resources Committee – None.
- d. Regent Nominating Committee – The committee met and discussed three applicants for the Board of Regents, emphasizing the need for prompt communication with the governor for timely Senate confirmation.
- e. Program Committee – None.
- f. Facilities Committee – Reported on the recent ribbon cutting event.
- g. AdHoc Committee – None.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Organizational Chart Policy

The proposed organizational chart policy that seeks to grant the president authority over the college's organizational chart to enhance flexibility in response to community and economic needs. While the Faculty Senate generally supports the proposal, staff and administrators expressed concerns about the delegation of authority, its implications for accreditation

standards, and the extent of stakeholder engagement in potential changes. The Board's legal authority to delegate this power was affirmed, but the decision on how much authority to surrender remains with the Board.

Regent Orilla asked about the final recommendation to include a statement that before any changes are made, it'll be brought to the board.

Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Revision Discussion:

Lisa Hasckaylo highlighted the need for stakeholder engagement in policy changes, stating that while there is no formal procedure, efforts are made to involve stakeholders. A revision to policy 2004 was proposed, mandating that the administration provide ample notification to the Board and the college community before any changes. The Board discussed whether to proceed with the proposed revisions or halt the policy change.

Regent Orilla motioned to return the policy to the administration for review with the stakeholders and bring it back to the board for final approval. **All members voted yes, the motion passed.**

b. Honorary Regents

President G explained the background of honorary Regents and the concerns that arose from their previous existence, particularly regarding accreditation issues. The consensus among stakeholders is that there is currently sufficient representation without the need for honorary Regents.

Regent Cing motioned to table the discussion or strike this policy indefinitely, seconded by Regent Sablan. **All members voted yes, the motion passed.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget and Finance Committee (BAFC) update on Tuition and Fees

President G provided a summary, and CFO Dave highlighted details of the report. A copy of the report was also shared with the board.

Dr. G discussed the implications of policy 7012, which enables the college administration to introduce new tuition and fees with prior notification to the Board and the college community. He emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement in the budget and finance committee, which includes representatives from students, faculty, and staff. Dr. G commended the committee for effectively gathering feedback from the college community.

* Tuition and Fee Increases

* Budget and Finance Updates

Financial Challenges and Tuition Stability

The report highlights ongoing financial difficulties, noting that operational costs have increased while funding has remained stagnant, resulting in a drop in revenue from \$12 million to approximately \$8.56 million. The institution has not raised tuition fees for several years to alleviate the financial burden on students, despite rising costs in utilities and technology. The goal remains to provide quality education and facilities to students while managing financial expectations.

Proposed Fee Adjustments and Financial Planning

The college emphasized the importance of implementing a phased approach to fee increases, aiming to keep costs manageable for students. The current facility fee is \$100, and the proposed adjustments would result in an additional \$175 for most students by fall 2026. This strategy is designed to avoid sudden spikes in fees and ensure that the college remains financially sustainable.

Stakeholder Feedback and Tuition Adjustments

The college emphasized the need for transparency and communication with students regarding tuition adjustments. Stakeholder feedback highlighted the importance of gradual increases, with a 5% increase planned for non-resident students and additional fees for technology and facilities. The college aims to ensure that any changes are manageable and well-communicated to the community.

Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback

Gradual phased in process for fees (facilities, technology, tuition and fees); looking at Fall 2026 at 5 percent incremental increase; Stakeholder feedback from ASNMC agree with a gradual increase.

The college will ensure that the proposed increases in tuition and fees are published to the college community this month.

Chairman Tudela noted the actions that the college will communicate with the college community and publish the changes prior to the Fall 2026.

VI. COLLEGE EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- a. President's Report
 - i. Facilities Update

Facilities Update

SVP Frankie shared a video highlighting the new PROA Union Building and the completion of the Fina Sisu Lane Project. He also acknowledged the support and partnership of CUC, DPW, and CEDA in bringing the project to completion.

ii. Accreditation Update

The College is currently awaiting a response from the Senior Commission. WASC has received the submitted report, and we are now waiting for confirmation of the review schedule.

iii. Finance Update –

The overall budget remains pending at this time. Further updates will be provided once additional information becomes available.

iv. Legislative Update

The college provided updates on both local and federal legislative matters affecting education.

VII. UPCOMING BOARD ACTIVITIES AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

a. NMC 45th Anniversary Plans Update

An update was provided on the planning and coordination of the following 45th Anniversary events and initiatives:

- Golf Tournament
- Agradesimento Mixer
- NMC Gala
- Proa Perks
- Color Run (with NMC as beneficiary)

b. NMC Charter Day

Discussion was held regarding plans to reinstate NMC Charter Day as part of the College's annual observances and community engagement efforts.

c. Board of Regents Retreat

Discussion was held regarding the Board of Regents Retreat, with a proposed location in Rota during January or February.

d. NMC Strategic Master Plan

An update was provided on the NMC Strategic Master Plan (SMP). CREES will assist with data analysis and provide input to support the development and refinement of the plan.

e. 2026 National Legislative Summit February 9 – 12, 2026

Information was shared regarding the 2026 National Legislative Summit scheduled for February 9–12, 2026.

f. 2026 ACCT Governance Leadership Institute: Strengthening the Leadership Team of the Board, March 18 - 20, 2026

Information was shared regarding the 2026 ACCT Governance Leadership Institute scheduled for March 18-20, 2026.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - At any time during the scheduled meeting, the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

Regent Sablan motioned to enter Executive Session at 5:33 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chair Orilla. The motion carried. At 6:21 p.m., Regent Tenorio motioned to adjourn Executive Session and return to Open Session, seconded by Regent Sablan. The motion carried. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Regent Orilla motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Regent Sablan. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Minutes recorded and Submitted by:

Helen Camacho
Executive Secretary to the Board of Regents

Concurred by:

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD - NMC President

Approved by:

Jesse Tudela, EdD - Chairman, Board of Regents

Mission

The mission of Northern Marianas College is to cultivate stewardship through scholarship. Embracing our agency and cultural identity on the global stage, the College strives to take care of our community, our resources, and our people by cultivating the structural pursuit of knowledge across the Marianas.

Vision

As we sail ahead with a focus on learning, let us lift the tide for everyone.