



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Special Meeting of February 27, 2025
3:30p.m BOR Conference Room, Saipan

Board Members: Board Members: Regent Charles Cepeda (Chair); Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla, BOR Vice-Chair (Via Zoom); Regent Dr. Jesse Tudela (Member); and Regent Michelle Lin Sablan (Member).

Excused Absent: Regent Zenie Mafnas (Member); Regent William Cing (Member)

Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 27, 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 February 25, 2025, advance written notice of this regular meeting was posted in the Marianas Variety News and Views.
- (b) On February 25, 2025, a copy of this advance notice of the meeting was uploaded on the college's website at www.marianas.edu.
- (c) On February 25, 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 Meeting to Order

The special meeting of the Board of Regents began with a roll call of board members and staff, followed by the adoption of agenda. Chairman Cepeda called the Board of Regent's regular meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 3:30pm in the BOR conference room of Northern Marinas College, Saipan. Chair Cepeda welcomed everyone to the meeting and called for roll.

a. Roll Call

Board Members: Board Members: Regent Charles Cepeda (Chair); Regent Elaine Hocog Orilla (Vice-Chair) Via Zoom; Regent Dr. Jesse Tudela (Member); Regent Michelle Lin Sablan (Member).

Excused Absent: Regent Zenie Mafnas; Regent William (Bill) Cing

NMC Attendees: Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD (President); Monique Boyer, Director for Community Development Institute /Acting Vice-President (Administration & Advancement); Lorraine Maui (Interim Dean) Academic Programs & Services; Charlotte Cepeda (Dean) Student Support Services; Kevin Bautista (Director of President's Office); David Attao, Chief Financial Officer; Timberley Ngewakl, Finance Office; Polly Masga, HRO Director; and Helen Camacho, Executive Secretary to the Board of Regents (Recorder).

Attending Via Zoom: Lupe Camacho (Staff Senate President); Maria Aguon (Tinian Center Director); Vilma Reyes (OIE Director).

b. Review and Adoption of Agenda

BOARD ACTION:

The February 27, 2025 special meeting agenda was reviewed and adopted with a motion by Regent Michelle Sablan, seconded by Regent Jesse Tudela. The agenda was adopted with no changes.

II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may verbally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. Written testimony is also accepted.

Chairman Cepeda confirmed that no requests for public comments were submitted for this meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS – No items.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. NMC FY 2026 Appropriations Request

The president informed the board that before them is the college's request for its FY2026 Appropriations budget. He provided an overview of the request, which included a need for an additional \$800,000 to cover the rising utility and construction costs while maintaining staffing levels. The institution is also seeking matching funds for the Small Business Development Center Network, emphasizing the importance of these funds due to potential federal funding uncertainties.

The finance team received commendation for their preparation and collaboration across departments. The board expressed its support for the appropriation request, emphasizing the importance of timely submissions for effective review. Additionally, a top off ceremony for the student center was mentioned, noting limited attendance due to safety concerns.

BOARD ACTION: Regent Tudela motioned to approve the FY2026 Appropriations Budget request, seconded by Regent Sablan. All members voted yes, the motion passed. The budget is approved with no changes.

X. Adjournment

BOARD ACTION:

Regents Tudela motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Regent Sablan. Meeting ended at 3:50p.m.