



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

BOX 1250, SAIPAN, CM 96950
Phone: 7642/7642

July 2, 1985

Delegate Juan T. Lizama
Chairman
Committee on Governmental Institutions
Second Northern Marianas Constitutional
Convention
Saipan, CM 96950

Dear Mr. Lizama:

Although the Northern Marianas College has grown and prospered to the point where it is now accredited and is providing relevant postsecondary education programs, the present Constitution has not adequately provided the necessary framework to facilitate the College's effective functioning. A Constitutional amendment is desirable in order to guarantee quality postsecondary education to the people of the Commonwealth.

The Department of Education and Northern Marianas College should be addressed in separate articles of the Constitution. Their missions, purposes, students, and idiosyncratic characteristics demand separate administrations and governance. While DOE is committed toward free and public compulsory education for children ages 6-16, NMC will serve more selected adult audiences, have shifting priorities according to economic needs and use different fiscal and administrative policies.

All of the states and territories have and support their public institutions of higher education. Local appropriation is usually only a part of the total resources available to the College. Autonomy is necessary for a college to operate effectively. For that reason, I believe the College should have its own constitutional article, guaranteeing it full autonomy. Perhaps our mission statement could be included in the Constitution as its stated purpose.

Accredited

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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NMC has performed quite well under a Governor-appointed Board. We may or may not be so fortunate under an elected Board. Since the College has shown itself to be so successful thus far, I see no reason to experiment with another type of governance at this time.

I am suggesting that Article XV under the present Constitutional provisions could be strengthened by adding the mission of the College, the fiscal and personnel autonomy, and a minimum fiscal guarantee.

Sincerely,



Agnes M. McPhetres
President