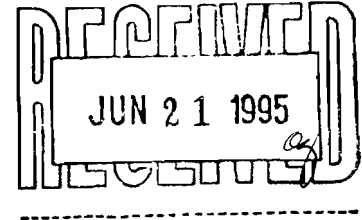


BOARD OF REGENTS

P.O. Box 1250 Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. # (670) 234-5499/98  
Fax.# (670) 234-1270

June 20, 1995



CHAIRMAN  
Karl T. Reyes  
  
VICE-CHAIRMAN  
Vacant  
  
MEMBERS-Saipan  
Vicente N. Santos  
John I. Schwarz  
  
MEMBER-Tinian  
Helen H. Abayare  
  
MEMBER-Rota  
Julian S. Calvo, Sr.

Mr. Herman T. Guerrero, Jr. *HJG*  
President Saipan Delegation  
Third CNMI Constitutional Convention  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Guerrero:

This is being sent to you as a supplement to the letter dated May 31, 1995 from the Chairman of the Board of Regents in which he asked for your support in maintaining and strengthening the place of Northern Marianas College in the Constitution of the Commonwealth. We feel it necessary to write to you and the other delegates once again because of ConCon Delegate Proposals No. 71 and 367 which would repeal the constitutional provision that covers Northern Marianas College. We are deeply worried that such an action would jeopardize the future of higher education in the Commonwealth.

In this regard, we call to your attention that there is sound historical and legal precedent in the United States system of higher education for establishing Northern Marianas College and its Board of Regents by means of our Constitution, and for affirming there the autonomy of both. The following is a list of the twenty-six states in the U.S. that have established public colleges and/or universities under Boards of Regents (or Trustees) by means of their state constitution:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming. [Source: *State Postsecondary Structures Handbook*, 1994 edition, published by the Education Commission of the States, Denver, Colorado.]

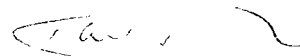
We urge you to read again the May 31st letter from our Chairman. It states in forthright and succinct fashion why it is absolutely essential that the accreditation of the College be protected by mandating the autonomy of the College and its adequate financial support in the Constitution. If

these requirements are not assured, the College's accreditation would certainly be lost. And if that ever happened, student credits earned at NMC would not transfer to other institutions, their federal financial aid would be lost, and the College would lose all its federal programs. In a word, NMC would be as good as dead.

To avert such tragic consequences, we earnestly ask for your firm action to ensure that the section of our Constitution dealing with the College is clarified and strengthened. For that purpose we enclose once again a suggested re-wording of that part of the Constitution for your review and action.

The future of Northern Marianas College is quite literally in your hands. Please protect that future by establishing the College and its Board of Regents in the Constitution, by mandating there adequate financial support for the College along with the autonomy of both the College and its Board.

Thank you!



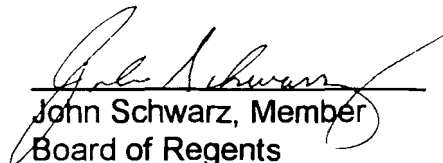
Karl T. Reyes, Chairman  
Board of Regents

Helen H. Abayare, Member  
Board of Regents

Justin S. Manglona, Member  
Board of Regents



Vicente N. Santos, Member  
Board of Regents



John Schwarz, Member  
Board of Regents

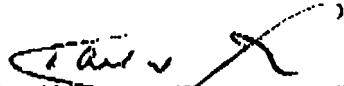
enclosure

these requirements are not assured, the College's accreditation would certainly be lost. And if that ever happened, student credits earned at NMC would not transfer to other institutions, their federal financial aid would be lost, and the College would lose all its federal programs. In a word, NMC would be as good as dead.

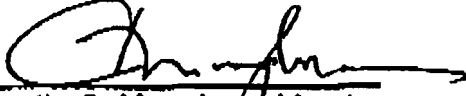
To avert such tragic consequences, we earnestly ask for your firm action to ensure that the section of our Constitution dealing with the College is clarified and strengthened. For that purpose we enclose once again a suggested re-wording of that part of the Constitution for your review and action.


The future of Northern Marianas College is quite literally in your hands. Please protect that future by establishing the College and its Board of Regents in the Constitution, by mandating there adequate financial support for the College along with the autonomy of both the College and its Board.

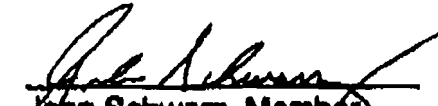
Thank you!

  
Karl T. Reyes, Chairman  
Board of Regents

  
Helen H. Abayara, Member  
Board of Regents

  
Justin S. Mangione, Member  
Board of Regents

  
Vicente N. Santos, Member  
Board of Regents

  
John Schwarz, Member  
Board of Regents


enclosure

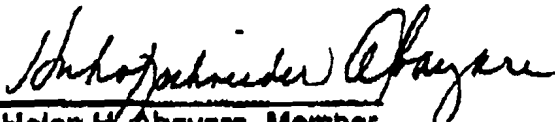
these requirements are not assured, the College's accreditation would certainly be lost. And if that ever happened, student credits earned at NMC would not transfer to other institutions, their federal financial aid would be lost, and the College would lose all its federal programs. In a word, NMC would be as good as dead.

To avert such tragic consequences, we earnestly ask for your firm action to ensure that the section of our Constitution dealing with the College is clarified and strengthened. For that purpose we enclose once again a suggested re-wording of that part of the Constitution for your review and action.


The future of Northern Marianas College is quite literally in your hands. Please protect that future by establishing the College and its Board of Regents in the Constitution, by mandating there adequate financial support for the College along with the autonomy of both the College and its Board.

Thank you!

  
Karl T. Reyes, Chairman  
Board of Regents

  
Helen H. Abayare, Member  
Board of Regents

Justin S. Mangiona, Member  
Board of Regents

  
Vicente N. Santos, Member  
Board of Regents

  
John Schwarz, Member  
Board of Regents

enclosure

## **POSTSECONDARY, ADULT, CONTINUING AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

- a) The Legislature shall establish by law a Northern Marianas College that shall be the public postsecondary educational institution in the Commonwealth and shall not be within any other branch of government. This institution shall be headed by a president and will have autonomy in the administration of its affairs, including personnel, financial and procurement matters.
- b) The College shall be responsible for providing education in the areas of postsecondary, adult, continuing and community service education, adult vocational and technical education, and professional development for the people of the Commonwealth.
- c) The College shall be governed by a representative and autonomous Board of Regents who shall be appointed by the Governor. The composition of the Board of Regents and its operations and duties shall be provided by law.
- d) The College shall be guaranteed an annual budget of not less than six percent (6%) of the general revenues of the Commonwealth, and shall have a fiscal year commensurate with the academic year. The budgetary appropriation may not be reprogrammed for other purposes, and any unencumbered fund balance at the end of a fiscal year shall be available for reappropriation.