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-2964-

July 24, 1995

Agnes M. McPhetres
President
Northern Marianas College
Saipan, MP 96950

Re: Draft of Concon Article III,
Section 16: Civil Service

Dear President McPhetres:

You have asked for comments on the above-referenced draft.

The proposed amendment provides that the civil service shall include all persons who are employed by or whose salary is paid by the Commonwealth. Arguably, that could be everyone who is employed by NMC.

The exceptions are persons holding positions filled by election, appointed by the governor, or designated by law as excepted professional, managerial, educational, overseas and elected officials' personal staff positions. The legislature could decide whether NMC's employees, teachers and/or other staff, would be excepted. The intent of this amendment is to exclude teachers because of accreditation requirements but to include other staff.

All arguments which we have made on behalf of a new constitutional provision strengthening NMC can be made for changing the intent of this amendment which, once again, puts NMC at the mercy of legislative whims and jeopardizes accreditation.

Accreditation is so important that all NMC employees, teachers and staff, must be outside the CNMI civil service. Although the constitution uses high-minded words such as non-partisan and independent, the accreditation commission knows all too well that island civil service systems are far from being independent and non-partisan.

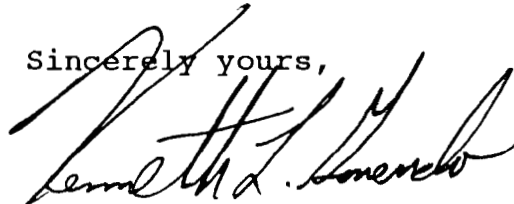
The ideal language for the new amendment should read as follows:

"The civil service shall include all persons who are employed by or whose salary is

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paid by the Commonwealth except persons holding positions filled by election, appointed by the governor under this Constitution, employed by Northern Marianas College, or designated by law as excepted professional, managerial, educational, overseas, and elected officials' personal staff positions".

Sincerely yours,



KENNETH L. GOVENDO