

Before the meeting was called to order, Chairman Neri administered the Oath of Office to Student Regent Shahana Edding Abdulwahid.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Board **APPROVED** the agenda and the addenda items as presented.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1229th MEETING ON 29 FEBRUARY 2008

The Board **APPROVED** the minutes as presented.

III. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

A. 1228th Meeting, 19 December 2007

- 1. Proposed Codification of Amendments to Two Provisions of the University Code on the Manner of Choosing the Department/Division Chair**

Background

Former Faculty Regent Lourdes U. Barcenas initially presented this proposal to the Board of Regents at the latter's 1228th meeting held on 19 December 2007. The Board, then, deferred action on this proposal. The President suggested that she discuss first with Regent Barcenas the comments from the CUs and hopefully reconcile the suggestions before the Board acts on it.

When this proposal was presented anew to the Board at its 1229th meeting on 25 January 2008, Faculty Regent Librero said that this proposal was discussed at length with former Regent Barcnas. He said he expressed to her two concerns. First, having been an administrator himself, he knows the importance of having a team. Second, he agrees that the process is not a popularity contest. It is a fact, he said, that in U.P. Los Baños, there is democratic consultation but no election.

The Faculty Regent pointed out that he is not at all ready to support the idea of submitting only one name. He is for submitting two or three names, all of whom are acceptable to the faculty. There must be a fair indication in the rule that whoever gets appointed as Chair must not make it a professional practice to fight with the Dean. The one appointed must be willing to work with the Dean.

The President underscored the importance of democratic consultation, not only with the Dean, but also with the members of the faculty. The President suggested that this matter be referred for review and restatement by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, taking cognizance of the importance of democratic consultation. Once restated, the proposed amendments shall be discussed by the Vice President with the Faculty Regent before these are brought back to the Board of Regents.

The Restated Proposals

From: Article 102

The Chairman of the department shall be appointed by the Chancellor after consultation with the Dean or Director concerned. The Chairman of the department shall determine the administrative organization and conduct of the work of his department.

To: Article 102

The Dean or Director shall conduct a democratic consultation among the regular faculty members of the department for the nomination of the Chair of the department. The Dean or Director shall submit the names of all the nominees to the Chancellor. The Chancellor, upon consultation with the Dean/Director, shall appoint the Chair from among these nominees.

From: Article 108

The division shall be headed by a Chairman who shall be appointed by the Chancellor after consultation with the dean or director concerned. The term of office of division chairmen shall be three years, without prejudice to reappointment and until their successors shall have been appointed.

To: Article 108

The Dean or Director shall conduct a democratic consultation among the regular faculty members of the Division for the nomination of the Chair of the Division. The Dean or Director shall submit the names of all the nominees to the Chancellor. The Chancellor, upon consultation with the Dean/Director, shall appoint the Chair from among these nominees. The term of office of Division Chair shall be three years, without prejudice to reappointment and until the successor shall have been appointed.

NOTES:

- (1) The choice of the Department/Division Chair shall be guided by the following: (1) merit and competency; (2) acceptability to the faculty; and (3) trust and confidence of higher authorities.

The proposed Articles emphasize the importance of democratic consultation with the members of the faculty as well as the Dean in the choice of Department/Division Chair. After all, the latter are academic leaders of their respective units.

Taking into consideration the merit and competence as well as acceptability of the nominee to the faculty shall ensure a check and balance against the appointing authority's exercise of power, on one hand, and simple popularity, on the other.

On the other hand, the appointed Department/Division Chair must not only be generally acceptable to the faculty but must be someone with whom the Dean and Chancellor must have confidence in, someone they could work with, and who shares the Dean's/Chancellor's vision for the College/University. There could be dissent and disagreements, but consensus will have to be arrived at. After all, they all belong to the same Team.

Adding the phrase "... shall appoint the Chair from among these nominees..." shall ensure that the appointed Chair shall have gone through the prescribed selection process. This will be another measure to serve as a check and balance against the appointing authority's exercise of power.

- (2) By submitting the names of all the nominees to the Chancellor, the following shall be avoided:
- Straw poll or election
 - Shortlisting of nominees
 - Ranking of nominees

Shortlisting or ranking of nominees requires straw poll or election or semblance of these which could result to a popularity contest and could create divisiveness.

Board action: APPROVAL.

2. *9488* **Request of the UPLB Chancellor for Grant of Waiver of all interests and penalties to Fellows Who Pay their Obligations in Full in Centennial Year 2008**

During the 1228th meeting of the Board of Regents on 19 December 2007, the Board approved, among others, the following endorsement of the President:

“5. As an incentive for early settlement, the University should consider granting an amnesty on all interests and penalties during the whole U.P. Centennial Year (2008).”

Pursuant to the afore-quoted approved item, and in order to be able to fully implement the same, the Chancellor of U.P. Los Baños requests Board approval of the following proposal that, henceforth:

“Waiver of all interests and penalties will be considered granted if the full amount of the principal fellowship obligation is paid on or before the last day of December 2008.”

Board action: The Board APPROVED the request of U.P. Los Baños and agreed to the proposal of Regent Tiongco that the same be made applicable to all the Constituent Universities (CUs).