

Highlights of the Discussion

1. Student Regent Manuel reported that the UP Diliman University Student Council decided against the use of the Student Academic Information System (SAIS). He inquired about the plan of the UP System administration on that specific component of eUP.
2. President Pascual said that he was not aware of that decision. His office has not received any official communication regarding the matter.
3. Chair Licuanan said that the UP President will address the point of inquiry once he receives the official communication from the UP Diliman Chancellor.

Board Action: NOTED

D. Report of the Staff Regent

*(A copy of the report is attached as **Annex D**, pages 66-67.)*

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL BY THE BOARD

The President endorsed the following:

GENERAL GOVERNANCE

A. Elevation of UP Cebu into a Constituent University

Acting Chancellor Atty. Liza Corro presented to the Board the salient points of the proposal for the elevation of UP Cebu into a constituent university (CU). With her were the members of the UP Cebu core team, namely: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Ritchelita Galapate; College Secretary Prof. May Christina Bugash; and Budget Officer Dr. Jane Matero.

A copy of the full proposal is on file at the OSU.

Highlights of the Discussion

1. Staff Regent Mejia noticed that there was no provision for administrative support in the proposal. Faculty Regent Padilla confirmed the need not only for administrative support services but also for laboratory technicians and IT personnel. He asked the Chancellor about the projection for personal services for the offices that would be created, including the budget needed.
2. Chancellor Corro explained that UP Cebu patterned its elevation process after UP Baguio. The immediate action that is needed is the creation of the Office of the College Secretary and the designation of a Chair for some offices instead of Coordinators, including the corresponding budgetary difference in the honoraria. With respect to the administrative support services, she said that UP Cebu will manage with the existing staff complement.

3. Regent Albarracin said that having a three-year projection might be useful because it would show the needs of UP Cebu. While in principle he is in favor of higher salaries, he agreed with the Chancellor in trying to be more efficient in the use of people by having around 75 staff and 101 faculty members. Other units have around 6,000 staff and 3,000 faculty members.
4. Regent Encanto sought information on the current faculty profile of UP Cebu because she heard the Chancellor say that, from the time UP Cebu was made into a constituent college up to the present, it has concentrated on tightening its faculty profile. Likewise, Faculty Regent Padilla wanted to know the faculty profile from the transition period of 2010 to 2016 to see how many PhDs were produced and whether these PhDs have taken specialization based on the niches of UP Cebu which are IT and fine arts.
5. Chancellor Corro said that UP Cebu currently has 21 PhD degree holders. Even with the retirement of faculty members with PhD degrees from 2010-2016, UP Cebu was able to retain the existing and replenish those who retired within the timeframe. As far as the faculty in the fine arts and in the arts and humanities are concerned, UP Cebu is strengthening its faculty profile by sending faculty members to different universities abroad to pursue courses like creative design, literature, and fine arts.
6. Faculty Regent Padilla noted the low graduation rate for the MS Computer Science (MS CS) and MS Environmental Science (MS ES) courses. The report indicated 32 graduates for the MS ES but there was no reference to the total number of students enrolled in the program. Dr. Galapate said that the MS ES has the lowest number of enrollees among the programs. It started with five students, and it was only in the last two years that it got a high enrolment rate -- about 35 students last year and more than 20 students this year.
7. Chair Licuanan asked about the total number of students in UP Cebu from the time the Board approved its autonomous status. Chancellor Corro said UP Cebu currently has about 1,460 undergraduate students, 250 graduate students, and about 200 high school students.
8. Chair Licuanan said that this is still a relatively small number considering that Cebu is such a huge metropolis with a large population. She asked about UP Cebu's plan in terms of increasing its enrolment rate if it is planning to be a UP constituent unit in Cebu.
9. Chancellor Corro said that UP Cebu has its limitations insofar as facilities are concerned. She hopes that with the increase in admission quota and additional facilities that could be the result of the elevation into a constituent university, they would be able to increase the enrollment rate, especially for the graduate programs.
10. Chair Licuanan said that UP Cebu should start considering its value-added role as a constituent university because there are already many higher education institutions in that region. It can perhaps develop its niche to be in graduate education. President Pascual said that the University has adopted the policy of growing enrollment through the graduate programs instead of the undergraduate programs. Part of the UP System's strategic thrust is to transform UP into a research intensive university and a graduate university, and to perform its role as a leader in the higher education sector by providing the opportunities for advance studies for teachers from other higher education institutions.

11. Chancellor Corro informed the Board the UP Cebu is currently hosting the MS in Mathematics of UP Los Baños. UP Cebu only provides the facilities but the curriculum and the faculty will be brought in by UPLB. Furthermore, when students graduate from the program, the diploma will bear the name of UPLB.

She added that there is a plan for UP Cebu to host the Master of Arts in Applied Arts and Design program of Shu-Te University, Taiwan. Effectively, students will be graduating from an international university but the expenses would be that of a local education. This plan when implemented will expose the UP Cebu faculty members to the program of an international university and will produce graduate students with a degree from a foreign university but at the cost of studying locally.

12. Regent Gonzalez-Montinola suggested having joint degrees with other leading universities just like Hong Kong universities that are offering joint degrees with some US universities. As an alternative to merely hosting programs of Shu-Te University, UP Cebu can explore having a joint degree program.
13. Chancellor Corro said that the suggestion will be the way forward for UP Cebu. However, given the current faculty profile of UP Cebu, the initial strategy is for the other universities to come to UP Cebu and produce qualified faculty members from among the graduates of the hosted graduate programs.
14. Another concern raised by Regent Gonzalez-Montinola was the integration between the undergraduate and the graduate programs because she noticed that there is a Master's program in Education but there is no undergraduate program in education. She recognized the need for focusing on graduate programs but a basic program like education should also be encouraged in the country. Faculty Regent Padilla inquired whether UP Cebu is equipped to handle a master's program in Education.
15. Regent Albarracin concurred with Chair Licuanan that UP Cebu should focus more on their niches in the IT, computer science, arts, and design. He suggested that the Vice President for Academic Affairs should develop good guidelines for increasing the population of students, especially at the graduate level.
16. President Pascual said that there is a historical context for UP Cebu's Master's program in Education and the absence of an undergraduate program in education. UP Cebu would like to maintain the status quo in order to sustain its high school program. This stems from the fact that the main justification for keeping the high school is due to the Master's program in Education.
17. Chair Licuanan said that there is actually a law stating that there should be no secondary schools within higher education institutions, unless they are laboratory schools of the Education department. Based on her experience with other SUCs, the main resistance against the abolition of secondary schools from SUCs comes from the faculty whose children enjoy the benefits of a free tuition.
18. Regent Encanto inquired whether UP Cebu is working closely with the other colleges involved in the arts and humanities, such as the College of Fine Arts and the College of Arts and Letters in UP Diliman, in order to gain ideas on what programs to offer. Chancellor Corro answered affirmatively and told the Board about UP Cebu's long-standing plan of hosting UP Diliman's MA in Fine Arts program which never materialized. The opportunity came when Shu-Te University got interested in the hosting idea and immediately pursued it.

19. Student Regent Manuel expressed appreciation that UP Cebu has finally come to the process of transforming itself into a full-fledged CU of the UP System. However, he asked clarification on how UP Cebu could generate its own resources as a separate CU. It was mentioned in the proposal that one way to generate income is to market the facilities of the unit for rent. He inquired whether the renting of the facilities covers student organizations and student councils.
20. Chancellor Corro explained that academic-based organizations are not being charged any rental fee; only the non-academic student organizations are charged with rental fees. However, these non-academic organizations are given discounts or support through other committees. Student Regent Manuel thanked the Chancellor for clarifying. He asserts that the elevation of UP Cebu into a CU would not entail any negative repercussion on the side of the students with respect to the collection of different kinds of fees.
21. Regent Encanto expressed concern about establishing constituent universities because this will cost a lot. The Board should be more deliberate in deciding to establish and support new constituent universities. Niches have to be established and defined so that there would be no duplication of courses offered. Also, it should be ensured that the CU possesses a distinctive strength different from the others.
22. Regent Albarracin suggested that the Office of the President should designate an official or create a committee to review and formulate the guidelines on what characteristics a constituent university should have. These guidelines will guide the Board in deciding in the future.

Board action: APPROVED. The Board requested UP Cebu to submit its response to the concerns raised during the meeting.

B. Proposed establishment of the University of the Philippines Professional School for Agriculture and the Environment (UP PSAE)

The UP Los Baños extension campus to be known as the University of the Philippines Professional School for Agriculture and the Environment (UP PSAE) aims to be the catalyst for development in Mindanao by accelerating the necessary human capital formation in the region. In line with the vision of Anflo City (Panabo City, Davao del Norte) as a flagship project that would continue to pave the way for regional growth, the presence of UP PSAE in the institutional component of this mixed-use development further capitalizes on the agricultural heritage of the area by providing an accessible hub for knowledge sharing in agriculture and related disciplines.

As a progressive response, UP PSAE will develop in phases, starting with the off-campus offering of existing postgraduate programs administered by the different colleges of UPLB, as well as short courses and training modules based on industry requirements (Years 1-5). Residential postgraduate programs (Years 6-9) and baccalaureate programs that are not readily available in Mindanao and for which UPLB enjoys stronger relative proficiency (starting in Year 9) will then be established with affiliate faculty from UP Mindanao.

A copy of the full proposal is on file at the OSU.