IV. POLICY MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OF THE BOARD

Matters recommended for approval by the President, the action of the Board being indicated at the end of each item:

A. Conferment of the degree of Doctor of Humanities (honoris causa) on Camilo Jose Cela

The University Committee on Honorary Degrees at its meeting on 21 December 1998 recommended the conferment of an honorary degree, Doctor of Humanities, on Camilo Jose Cela in recognition of his distinguished literary contributions as a great Spanish writer. Cela's body of works demonstrates "the constant renewal of the techniques of the narrative and the skill in the control of language." He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1989 for his "rich and intensive prose, which, with restrained compassion, forms a challenging vision of man's vulnerability."

(Please see **Appendix B, pages 168-176,** for the pertinent documents.)

Discussion

While recognizing that the proposed conferment of honorary degree on Mr. Cela was fully deserved, Regent David nevertheless suggested that henceforth, the criteria applied in the screening process be appended to the recommendation to confer an honorary degree as a precaution against the probability of another Imelda Marcos receiving an honorary degree from the University.

Vice President Caoili assured the regent that the Committee has been so strict in applying the criteria as to have turned down even requests from the Department of Foreign Affairs to honor visiting statesmen/dignitaries with such degrees.

Board action: Approval

B. U.P. Faculty Code of Ethics

NOTE: There were two versions presented for approval. The first was prepared by the President's Committee on Ethics and Values Education constituted in July 1995. This draft, which includes suggestions from the various autonomous universities, was favorably endorsed by all the units except U.P. Diliman.

IV. POLICY MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OF THE BOARD (cont'd)

Matters recommended for approval by the President ... (cont'd)

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C. U.P. Faculty Code of Ethics (cont'd)

The second draft, an abbreviated version written in English and Filipino, was approved by the U.P. Diliman University Council.

The President recommended the adoption of both versions.

(Please see **Appendix C, pages 177-192,** for the documents.)

Discussion

Following the brief background provided by the President, Regent David observed that the U.P. Faculty Code of Ethics is another list of injunctions upon the faculty on top of the other known and unknown rules governing the conduct of the faculty in the University. He wanted to know what purposes such a code was meant to serve, especially since some members of the faculty who were outvoted at the University Council meeting of Diliman where it was taken up perceived the proposed code as no more than a litany of "motherhood statements."

The President explained that the proposed code was a faculty initiative. As a self-governing community of educated, enlightened, and accountable people, the faculty thought it should impose on its members a code of ethics they themselves worked out, as a way of relieving the apprehension among them that some of their colleagues have not been exactly true to their vocation; that some of them have been forgetful or sometimes remiss in their obligation as faculty members and as citizens of the Republic.

Regent David opined that codes of ethics are normally drawn up by professionals or guilds, not by a University faculty already governed by a code of conduct. He did not see the need for another statute to make sure that the members of the faculty do their work beyond the code of conduct governing the performance of government officials.

IV. POLICY MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OF THE BOARD (cont'd)

Matters recommended for approval by the President ... (cont'd)

. . .

B. U.P. Faculty Code of Ethics (cont'd)

Chancellor Llaguno recounted that the idea of a faculty code of ethics came up four years ago during the term of Chancellor Posadas who had in fact initiated it. To his knowledge, some past incidents precipitated the need for a committee to study the possibility of drawing up a faculty code of ethics for Diliman. However, it was only during the present administration, particularly after the matter was taken up in the faculty conference, that a committee was formed to formulate the code.

Vice President Caoili cited the celebrated cases of the late Salvador Carlos and Professor Tapales as a turning point toward this initiative. She recalled that the 1995 Faculty Conference came up with a resolution urging the need for a systemwide faculty code of ethics to remind the faculty of how they should comport themselves. Thus President Javier's creation of a systemwide committee to work it out.

A first draft prepared by U.P. Diliman, the Vice President further recounted, was sent to the university councils of the autonomous campuses for their consideration and inputs. It was returned to the committee thereafter where it went through several processes of refinement. After finding the refined draft acceptable, the President's Advisory Council sent it back to the Councils for approval. Five university councils approved the draft, but U.P. Diliman opted for an abbreviated version based essentially on the contents of the longer version.

In reply to Regent Alfonso, the University General Counsel went on record that this Code of Ethics should not be construed as "another book to throw at the faculty" nor as a threat to them because there is always a presumption of good faith in the actions of members of the academe, particularly of U.P., and in the way they behave.

Atty. Guno added that such a document does not merely relate to the matter of discipline which is just one of the concerns of her office, but in her opinion, also to the grant of promotions and tenure.

IV. POLICY MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OF THE BOARD (cont'd)

Matters recommended for approval by the President ... (cont'd)

. . .

B. U.P. Faculty Code of Ethics (cont'd)

Regent Liban pointed out that since the Code of Ethics is a self-imposed code on the members of the faculty, the Board should only note it with appreciation and convey this action to the university councils. The objective behind the Code of Ethics, in his view, is to ennoble the profession of U.P. faculty members in keeping with the great traditions of the University, its practices, and its mission and vision as the leading institution of higher learning in the country.

Taking the cue from Regent Liban, Regent Alfonso surmised that since the Code is a self-guiding, a self-enlightening, and a self-civilizing autonomous act of each autonomous university, each of them can tailor this Code of Ethics to its own peculiar situation and needs instead of having a common code of ethics approved by the Board. Vice President Caoili pointed out, however, that this Code of Ethics has already been adopted by five autonomous university councils and that in a sense their members are ready to comply with it.

The Chairman upheld the Board's noting the Faculty Code of Ethics with appreciation. Regent David, however, insisted that the notation also convey the proviso that the items in this Code of Ethics should not be treated as another set of rules to be complied with by the faculty. President Javier objected, arguing that such a statement is unnecessary in view of its being a self-imposed code.

Regent David then requested that his dissenting opinion as a faculty regent be put on record on the ground that the faculty does not need anymore rules than those already contained in the code of conduct for government officials.

Board action: Notation with appreciation