

with rules and qualifications approved in a referendum by the students;

(h) One Staff Regent representing the full-time permanent research, extension, and professional staff (REPS) and administrative personnel, and chosen by them from their ranks in accordance with the rules and qualifications set by their duly recognized organizations, to serve for a term of two (2) years; and

(i) Three other Regents who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines, considering the recommendation of the Board. At least two (2) of these Regents should be alumni. All these Regents shall each serve for a term of two (2) years: *Provided*, That the Regents holding office as members of the Board at the time of the effectivity of this Act shall continue to serve until the expiration of their appointments as provided in Executive Order No. 204-A, issued by the President of the Philippines on July 15, 1987.

(2) Vacancy – In case of vacancy in the Board, except for the President of the University, such vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as provided for the predecessor, and such appointee shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term. In case of a sectoral Regent, membership in the Board ceases upon suspension, separation, or recall.

(3) Compensation – Members of the Board shall serve without compensation other than reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in attendance to meetings of the Board or other official business authorized by the Board.

(4) Meetings; Quorum – The Board shall convene regularly. The Chairpersons of the Board may call a special meeting whenever necessary: *Provided*, That members are notified in writing at least ten (10) working days prior to the meeting: *Provided, further*, That the notice shall contain a brief description of the agenda items to be discussed.

A majority of all members of the Board holding office at the time the meeting is called shall constitute a quorum for Board meetings.

In no case shall any and all members of the Board appoint representatives to act on their behalf: *Provided*, That the *ex-officio* members of the Board coming from Congress may participate and vote through teleconferencing or equivalent verifiable means of communication.

SEC. 13. *Powers and Duties of the Board of Regents.*
– The administration of the national university and the exercise of its corporate powers are vested in the Board of Regents.

The Board shall exercise the following specific powers and duties:

(a) To define in general terms the thrusts of the national university and adopt broad policy guidelines to ensure their implementation;

(b) To preserve the integrity of the national university;

(c) To approve the institution, merger or abolition of academic programs, upon recommendation of the University Council of the constituent university concerned, through the President of the University;

(d) To approve the graduation of students and grant of honors, as recommended by their respective University Councils through the President of the University;

(e) To confer honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of learning, statesmanship, or eminence in literature, science, or art, upon recommendation of a committee created by the President of the University: *Provided*, That such degrees shall not be conferred in consideration of any payment, gift or other valuable consideration;

(f) To approve the rules on student discipline recommended by the University Councils through the President of the University, with the Board retaining the power to review and pass final judgment on student disciplinary cases;

(g) To create, organize, reorganize, merge or abolish constituent universities, colleges, institutes, and other academic and administrative units of the national university;

(h) To establish professorial chair awards;

(i) To provide fellowships, scholarships and grants, including athletic grants and to award the same to faculty, staff and students having special evidence of merit, especially those who are poor and deserving individuals;

(j) To elect the President of the University for a single term of six (6) years following a process of democratic consultation with the university community based on standards and guidelines set by the Board. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall elect a president who shall serve a full term. A Chancellor chosen by the Board may act as Officer-in-Charge of the national university when the search process is in progress. In no case shall the search and election of the next President be longer than ninety (90) calendar days from the date when the vacancy occurs;

(k) To appoint faculty members and other officials and employees, to draw up a position classification and compensation plan for its faculty and staff, and, any law to the contrary notwithstanding, to fix and adjust salaries and benefits of the faculty members and other employees: *Provided*, That salaries and other benefits of the faculty shall be equivalent to those being received by their counterparts in the private sector; to determine the hours of service of faculty and staff, and such other terms and conditions of employment as it may deem proper; to grant leave of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any other provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding; and to remove them for cause as provided by law after due investigation and proper hearing;

(l) To extend, with their consent, the tenure of faculty members of the national university beyond the compulsory retirement age, any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, on recommendation of the units upon endorsement of the President of the national university, whenever their services are especially needed: *Provided*,

however, That no extension of tenure shall be made beyond the age of seventy (70);

(m) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due and comprehensive consultation with the students concerned. Such fees and charges, including government support and other income generated by the national university, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in an authorized government depository bank. Any and all interest that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the national university.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all incomes generated by the national university or by its subsidiaries shall, upon their collection, be retained by the national university and disbursed at the discretion of the Board for the professional growth and development, health, welfare, and other benefits of the students, faculty members and other personnel; for the acquisition, construction, maintenance and repair of urgently needed instructional and auxiliary facilities, equipment, buildings and other infrastructure; and for expenses necessary for the attainment of its purposes under its approved program of expenditures.

If the national university, for reasons beyond its control, shall not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said fund for any reasonable purpose for which it deems necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives of the national university: *Provided*, That funds collected from students for a specific purpose shall not be reprogrammed to other expenditures;

(n) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided by law for the support of the national university to the ends specified by law, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the national university;

(o) To authorize the construction, maintenance or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities, and

the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;

(p) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal property of all kinds and to administer and dispose the same when necessary for the benefit of the national university and subject to the instructions of the donor, if any;

(q) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, to authorize its faculty and staff to travel abroad to study, deliver papers, attend conferences and disseminate research: *Provided*, That the fellowship, scholarship or grant is authorized by the Board: *Provided, finally*, That research and other activities funded by the national university shall likewise undertake research in fields or topics that have promising commercial applications, and that the faculty and staff involved in said research be allowed to participate in its financial or economic benefits;

(r) To exercise the general powers set out in the Corporation Code;

(s) To delegate any of its powers to the President of the University or other officials or officers as it may deem necessary;

(t) To prescribe rules for its own government and the discipline of the faculty and other personnel and to enact for the government of the national university such general policies, rules and regulations, not contrary to law, as are consistent with its purposes; and

(u) To exercise such powers as may be proper and necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 14. *The President of the University.* – The President of the University is the chief academic officer, head of the university faculty and the chief executive officer of the University. The President of the University shall exercise the powers specifically provided for in this Act, those determined by the Board, those which pertain to the office of the president of a university, and those which are related or necessary to its functions. The Board shall determine the compensation of the President of the University.

The President of the University shall be appointed by the Board and shall serve for a single term of six (6) years.

SEC. 15. *The Secretary of the University and of the Board of Regents.* – There shall be a Secretary of the University appointed by the Board, who shall also be the Secretary of the Board, and who shall keep such records of the University as may be designated by the Board.

SEC. 16. *The University Council.* – There shall be in each constituent university a University Council consisting of the Chancellor as Chairperson, and all faculty members in the constituent university holding the rank of assistant professor and higher as members.

SEC. 17. *Powers of the University Council.* – The University Council shall be the highest academic body of each constituent university and shall exercise the following powers:

(a) Fix the requirements for admission to any college or unit, graduation, and the grant of honors subject to the minimum system-wide requirements;

(b) Prescribe the academic programs including their institution, revision, abolition and merger, subject to the approval of the Board;

(c) Recommend to the Board the graduation of students and the grant of honors;

(d) Exercise disciplinary power over the students, through the Chancellors or their appropriate committees, subject to review by the President of the University according to the limits prescribed by system-wide rules on student discipline;

(e) Undertake the periodic review of academic courses, programs, standards, thrusts and policies; and

(f) Adopt internal rules of procedure consistent with the provisions of this Act.