

UP Open University

Renewal of Appointment of the following Vice Chancellors Effective 29 February 2016 to serve at the pleasure of the Chancellor

- a. Prof. **MELINDA F. LUMANTA** as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- b. Prof. **JEAN A. SALUDADEZ** as Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration

UP Mindanao

Extension of Appointment of the following Incumbent Vice Chancellors to serve on a Holdover Capacity, effective 1 March 2016 until such time that a new Vice Chancellor have been duly appointed:

- a. Prof. **NILO B. OPONDA** as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- b. Prof. **ANTONIO R. OBSIOMA** as Vice Chancellor for Administration

Board Action: APPROVED

ACADEMIC MATTERS

A. UP Sablay Matters:

- 1. Board of Regents Academic Regalia (*Regents' Sablay*)**
- 2. Academic Regalia (*Sablay for Students, Faculty, & Officials*)**

The Chair of the *Sablay* Committee, Prof. Evangeline C. Amor, along with two of the members of the Committee, Prof. Abraham Sakili of the College of Arts and Letters and Prof. Leo Abaya of the College of Fine Arts, presented the recommendations of the Committee.

Highlights of the Discussion

1. According to Prof. Amor, the present academic costume, *Sablay*, was introduced in UP Diliman in the 1990s primarily to adapt to the hot climate. The word *Sablay* means to award or to place in the shoulder. The colors of the *Sablay* follow the University colors of maroon and green while the gold and yellow colors symbolize “wisdom and excellence”. The *Sablay* should be handwoven together with the baybayin-based characters (the characters should not be embroidered) because it represents the Philippine’s cultural narratives and symbolizes the hardwork that goes into its production, similar to earning a degree. The handwoven *Sablay* supports the weaving industry of the Philippines. The *ukkil* design is a curvilinear design that signifies life and the baybayin-based character represents the symbol “UP”. The chevron and diamond patterns in the *Sablay* represent the rice culture in the Philippines. The

patterns are arranged continuously and rhythmically to signify interrelatedness of culture and nature.

2. Prof. Amor presented the recommendations of the Committee for the Regents' academic costume for the approval of the Board. It consists of a *Sablay* plus the Regents' yoke and medallion. The embroidery design of the Regents' yoke, which was inspired by the Lumad patterns of the Tiboli and Mandaya tribes was rendered by Prof Leo Abaya. The Regents will wear the complete academic costume (i.e., *Sablay* + yoke + medallion) during commencement exercises. However, they may wear the yoke and the chain only in other occasions where the *Sablay* need not be worn.
3. Staff Regent Mejia inquired whether a non-UP Regent could wear the *Sablay* because based on the current practice, only UP graduates could wear a *Sablay*. President Pascual explained that one motivation for standardizing the use of a one UP *Sablay* was to enable the Regents to wear the academic costume regardless of their roots.
4. Prof. Amor also presented to the Board the recommendations of the Committee for the academic costumes of students, faculty members, and officials of the University. The main features of their *Sablay* are the evolving *ukkil* design and the increasing width of the fabric as the degree level progresses.
5. The Committee also presented the PhD disc to be used specifically by the PhD graduates. Its design was inspired by the *suga* as a source of light and embodiment of enlightenment. The writings around the disc consist of the baybayin for *Dangal at Husay* and *Unibersidad ng Pilipinas*. It is about four (4) inches in diameter to be pinned on the panel on the shoulder. There is also an option for the College to have its graduates pin their respective College pins on the top patch of the *Sablay* or at the center of the disc.
6. Since the *Sablay* should be handwoven, the Committee would face challenges in the execution of the design to the actual weaving. One weaver can only make one *Sablay* in a day. The Philippine Textile and Research Institute (PTRI) will help the Committee by coming up with technical specifications of the *Sablay* to guide the weavers in the production of the *Sablay*.
7. Due to the difficulty in producing the handwoven *Sablay*, the Committee proposed in the interim to use one base *Sablay* for all degree levels to optimize production. The parmata pins and the colored panels representing the degree level completed and the college, respectively would be used to distinguish the degree levels and the unit. The greater the number of pins on the panels, the higher would be the degree level earned by the graduate.
8. The parmata pin was designed by Prof. Abaya, including the pin for administrators, which is based on the medallion on the Regents' chain.
9. Faculty members can also use the pins to represent the highest degree level they earned. If they have PhD degree, they can use the PHD disc on the *Sablay*.
10. In summary, the following are the academic costumes recommended by the Committee:

- i) For the Board of Regents: *Sablay* + Yoke + Medallion
 - ii) For University officials: *Sablay* + pin
 - iii) For faculty: with panel according to college/discipline color
 - iv) For students: one base + use of pins to distinguish the degree levels attained
11. Chair Licuanan inquired on the price of the *Sablay* because it seemed expensive if it takes one weaver to make one *Sablay*. She also asked whether all graduates will have to buy their own *Sablay* or rental is an option for them.
 12. Prof. Amor said that graduates either buy their own *Sablay* or borrow from relatives or friends. She was not aware of an existing rental facility for the *Sablay* but the Committee suggested that the University consider a rental facility for the *Sablay*.
 13. President Pascual said that when the Committee presented the recommendation to him, he thought that production could be a big challenge, and even marketing because the merchants will have to keep several sets of inventory, which will make the *Sablay* more expensive. He added that to save on cost, some constituent units of the university use machine-made fabric with printed, instead of embroidered or woven, lettering.
 14. The Committee is in close coordination with the PTRI to estimate the cost of the *Sablay*. Meanwhile, Prof Amor reported that the Technology Transfer and Business Development Office (TTBDO) has suggested involving people from Industrial Engineering to make the *Sablay* more efficient and decrease its production cost.
 15. The Committee through the PTRI is now in the process of producing a *Sablay* prototype.
 16. President Pascual clarified that the Board is approving the use of one base *Sablay* and the use of pins and PhD discs to distinguish the degree level completed by the graduates. However, the recommended designs of the *Sablay* for students may not be fully implemented in time for the June 2016 graduation because of time limitation in production.
 17. The Committee could produce the Regents' *Sablay* and yoke, and 500 pieces of University officials' *Sablay* for the upcoming graduation in June 2016. Chair Licuanan clarified that due to practical limitations the *sablay* for the students will be produced for the commencement exercises in 2017.
 18. President Pascual added that the faculty members who are not UP graduates are now authorized to wear the *Sablay*. The use of *Sablay* during UP's commencement exercises will now be mandatory for all faculty members.
 19. Student Regent Pangalangan sought clarification on whether the subject pertaining to the economic aspect of the *Sablay* will still be discussed in the Board later on. He suggested having an oversight committee to ensure that the *Sablay* will be affordable to the students.
 20. Chair Licuanan advised the Committee to do an analysis of the cost per piece of the *Sablay* then return to the Board for approval. The Committee will make sure that the

price of the Sablay is reasonable for the students and rental options will also be considered.

21. President Pascual assured the Board that there will be a transition period for the implementation of the *One UP Sablay* for students. Students may continue to use what they currently have.
22. Student Regent Pangalangan inquired whether the cost of P900 for a *Sablay* was already the market price for the students or will the University still put some mark-up on the P900. Prof. Amor clarified that it is not UP that sells the *Sablay*. The licensees for the production of *Sablay* have distribution centers in the University.
23. In the long term, President Pascual would like the University to pursue the promotion of the *Sablay* for adoption by the other State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) initially, and eventually by the other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). They can adopt their own design.

Board Action: The Board APPROVED the following academic costumes recommended by the Sablay Committee:

1. **Board of Regents (*Sablay + Yoke + Medallion*)**
2. **Officials (*Sablay + pin*)**
3. **Faculty (*with panel according to college/discipline color*)**
4. **Students (*Sablay + use of pins to distinguish the degree levels attained*)**

B. Graduation of Students Who Completed all the Requirements for their Respective Degrees/Titles as of the End of First Semester/First Trimester AY2015-2016, or as of the End of the Term Specified, as Recommended by their Respective University Councils, Except Those with Pending Disciplinary Cases

- **UP Diliman** (Approved by the UP Diliman University Council at its 138th meeting held on 15 February 2016)
- **UP Manila** (Approved by the UP Manila University Council at its 98th meeting held on 9 February 2016)
- **UP Visayas** (Approved by the UP Visayas University Council at its 109th meeting held on 17 February 2016)

Board Action: APPROVED

NOTE: The Board gave an omnibus approval for the Item No. B under ACADEMIC MATTERS.