

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

SENATE

20 JUL 30 12:57

S. No. 1755

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Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

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**AN ACT**  
**CONVERTING THE BICOL STATE COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND**  
**TECHNOLOGY (BISCAST), IN THE CITY OF NAGA, PROVINCE OF**  
**CAMARINES SUR, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE**  
**SOUTHEAST ASIAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, AND APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert the Bicol State College of Applied Science and Technology (BISCAST) into a state university to be known as the Southeast Asian University of Technology, for the reasons hereunder stated:

Section 1, Article XIV of the Philippine Constitution provides for the rights of all citizens to quality education at all levels and that appropriate steps should be taken by the government to make such education accessible to all.

BISCAST has been in existence for more than one hundred years. It has undergone a series of institutional transformations from a humble trade school, Camarines Sur Trade School in 1911 under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 825 to a college specializing in vocational courses, Bicol College of Arts and Trades in 1967 under R.A. No. 5056 up to its integration as a satellite campus of the Camarines Sur

Polytechnic Colleges (CSPC) in 2000 under R.A. No. 8760. Finally, in October 19, 2012, it formally separated from CSPC and became the Bicol State College of Applied Science and Technology, a premier higher education institution to complement the endeavors of the provincial government for the benefit of the Bicolanos.

From its conversion into a state college, the community of BISCAST united to achieve their common goal of becoming the premier college in the Bicol region specializing in applied sciences and technology.

In a span of less than seven (7) years, the College expanded its total functional floor area by an additional space of almost twenty thousand (20,000) square meters through the construction of several buildings including a four-storey Academic Building, and five-storey Learning and Entrepreneurship Building. It has a three-storey Learning Resource Hub with thousands of books, journals, periodicals and publications available to its students onsite and linked to a number of other libraries around the globe through continuing online subscriptions, which keep both students and members of its faculty up-to-date in the cutting edge knowledge in their respective studies of discipline and professional sectors. Its practicum laboratories include a world class Food Laboratory and Demo Kitchen, which is one of the biggest and well-equipped in the country. In the rooftops of its buildings, the College incorporated eco-friendly structures, such as urban rooftop garden and rain water harvester projects, as well as structures geared towards the health and wellness of its employees and students like a Sports and Wellness Student Center featuring tennis and sepak takraw courts.

The College computerized its systems in the implementation of the Information System Strategic Plan and Program through network upgrades, installment of multimedia and auxiliary facilities, publication of the College website and pages, and the Online Student Registration and Accounts Management System. The faculty members even developed an online procurement management system which is considered to be adopted and implemented in other state colleges and universities, nationwide.

The BISCAST community makes the most of the resources and technologies

available to them by conducting researches as evidenced by many refereed publications, citations, inventions and patents, where several of its papers have been published and presented in international and local fora such as the award-winning research on the E-Cab as an alternative electronic tricycle in small urban communities. In line with these researches, BISCASST launched one of the biggest automated machine shop in the country, the Manufacturing and Fabrication Laboratory which is also a member of the FabLab worldwide network. This high-tech laboratory provides the necessary tools and equipment for the development of marketable products thereby improving the competitive edge of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise in the Bicol Region.

The College encouraged members of its faculty to advance their expertise in their respective areas of specialization by finishing masteral and doctorate degrees, with quite a number of them in highly specialized fields of engineering and information technology. These faculty members have participated in researches and development activities documented in refereed journals and publications, both national and abroad.

As a result of the upgrade in the qualifications of its faculty, BISCASST has produced a steady stream of board passers as well as topnotchers in the fields of Education, Architecture, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Electronics and Communications Engineering, with a consistent double digit difference over the national passing rate.

The College improved and diversified its curriculum offerings as well as the quality of its instruction by collaborating with different state colleges and government offices to formulate and implement an institutional Outcomes Based Education framework and syllabi.

The Accredited Agency of Chartered Colleges and the University of the Philippines has determined that BISCASST's bachelor of sciences programs are of a quality and efficient standard in its implementation in the areas of mission, vision, goals and objectives; faculty, curriculum and instruction; support to students; research; extension and community development; library; physical plant facilities;

laboratories and administration.

In 2018, after an audit conducted by TUV Rheinland on the curriculum development, facilities improvement and dynamic teaching techniques of the College, BISCASST became an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2008 certified institution. In less than six months thereafter, it was awarded the ISO 9001:2015 certification.

Aside from the BS in Engineering and Architecture programs, BS in Information Technology (BSEMC Animation and Game programming) programs, B.S. Health and Wellness, B.S. in Food Science programs and others, BISCASST has also pioneered courses in the Philippines – Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology with varied major fields of specialization. The Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology program is adapted to the Sydney Accord, thus, BISCASST's engineering technology academic programs in Mechanical Technology, Electrical Technology, Electronics Technology and Construction Engineering Technology are at par with international standards. It is worth noting that all programs of BISCASST are CHED recognized. Also all (100%) of accreditable programs of the College are accredited by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and University of the Philippines (AACCCUP).

BISCASST intends to further raise the bar by offering highly specialized doctorate courses such as Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Linguistics, Doctor of Philosophy in Education Major in STEM, Doctor of Philosophy in Development Policy and Management, Doctor of Philosophy in Finance, Management and Economics, and Doctor of Philosophy in Business Management.

To date, the College has multiple active and ongoing linkages and affiliations with educational and commercial institutions in the different parts of the globe to aid in its conduct of research activities. In fact, in less than two years after its establishment as an independent college, it penned its first international linkage with Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for the Integrated Resource Management in Asian Cities: The Urban Nexus Project, where it explored and developed numerous projects. In line with the Climate Change Act, one of its

major projects is the construction and development of a Climate Change Resilient Pilot Housing in participation with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – Southeast Asia Secretariat, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the City of Naga and the City of Sta Rosa. The project was recognized by the Accreditation of Innovative Technologies for Housing Committee; awarded the Certificate of Accreditation by the Office of the President's Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council; and evaluated to have achieved a 90.4 % mark in the eight categories: (i) Energy and Environment; (ii) Sustainable and Responsive Sites; (iii) Materials Sustainability; (iv) Indoor Environmental Quality; (v) Water and Waste Water Management; (vi) Construction Operations and Management; (vii) Building O&M Management; and (viii) Climate Change Resiliency of the Geared for Resiliency and Energy Efficiency for Environment (GREEN) Building Rating System earning the Philippine Green Building Initiative's highest award, the platinum award.

BISCAST intends to establish branches and satellite campuses to expand its current curriculum to offer more specialized courses to the Bicolanos. Ultimately, this conversion into a university will give BISCAST the opportunity to improve and develop in order to contribute to the competitiveness of Bicolanos, as well as our country in the global arena.

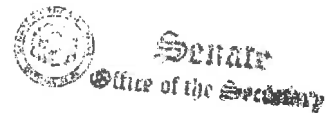
BISCAST has complied with the essential and operational requisites fundamental to its conversion into a university, to wit: (1) BISCAST faculty members possess relevant degrees in their areas of specialization and participate in research and development activities in their respective disciplines; (2) BISCAST has comprehensive range of degree programs in all levels; (3) BISCAST viable research programs are anchored on the Philippine government's Department of Science and Technology varied trusts and agenda; (4) BISCAST has comprehensive learning resources and support structures; (5) BISCAST continues to collaborate with other agencies and universities, both local and abroad, in areas of instruction, research and cultural exchange.

I am pleased to file this bill, which is the Senate counterpart measure of HB No. 6858 principally authored by Hon. Luis Raymund "Lray" F. Villafuerte, Jr., the Representative of the Second District of Camarines Sur.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

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**AN ACT**

**CONVERTING THE BICOL STATE COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY (BISCAST), IN THE CITY OF NAGA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1           Section 1. *Conversion.* – The Bicol State College of Applied Sciences and  
2 Technology (BISCAST) located in the City of Naga, Province of Camarines Sur, is  
3 hereby converted into a state university, to be known as the Southeast Asian  
4 University of Technology. Its main campus shall be in Naga City.

5           Sec. 2. *General Mandate.* – The Southeast Asian University of Technology,  
6 hereinafter referred to as the University, shall primarily provide advance education,  
7 higher technological, professional, technical and vocational instruction and training in  
8 the sciences, arts, education, entrepreneurship, engineering and other related  
9 courses. It shall also undertake research and extension services and provide  
10 progressive leadership in its areas of specification.

1            *Sec. 3. Curricular Offerings.* – The University shall offer undergraduate and  
2 graduate courses, within its area of competency and specialization, in the fields of  
3 engineering, industrial technology, arts and sciences, architecture, non-traditional  
4 courses, and other relevant fields of study, as the Board of Regents may deem  
5 necessary to carry out its objectives, and those which respond to the needs of the  
6 Province of Camarines Sur and the Bicol Region.

7            The University may operate, whether on-site or online, a laboratory school  
8 offering short-term courses.

9            *Sec. 4. Administration.* – The University shall have the general powers of a  
10 corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Bldg. 68, as amended, otherwise known as  
11 the "Corporation Code of the Philippines". The exercise of its corporate powers shall  
12 be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and the President of the University.

13            *Sec. 5. The Governing Board.* – The governing body of the University shall be  
14 the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be chaired  
15 and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)  
16 and the President of the University, respectively, and with the following as members:

- 17            a. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational  
18            Education of the Senate;
- 19            b. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of  
20            the House of Representatives;
- 21            c. Regional Director of the National Economic and Development  
22            Authority;
- 23            d. Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;
- 24            e. Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture;
- 25            f. Regional Director of the Technical Education and Skills Development  
26            Authority (TESDA);
- 27            g. President of the federation of the faculty associations of the University;
- 28            h. President of the federation of student councils of the University;



- 1 i. President of the federation of alumni associations of the University;
- 2 and
- 3 j. Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have
- 4 distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization.

5 The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from  
6 a list of at least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of Camarines Sur, as  
7 recommended by a search committee constituted by the University.

8 The Search Committee shall be constituted by the President of the University,  
9 in consultation with the CHED Chairperson and other members of the Board, based  
10 on the standards and qualifications for the position set by the Board.

11 The membership of the President of the federation of faculty associations, the  
12 President of the federation of student councils, and the President of the federation  
13 of alumni associations in the governing board, shall be coterminous with their terms  
14 of office, as provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws.

15 *Sec. 6. Powers and Duties of the Board.* – In addition to its general powers of  
16 administration and the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation  
17 under existing laws, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- 18 a. Promulgate and implement policies in accordance and pertinent
- 19 provisions of the Constitution on education, agriculture, science and
- 20 technology, the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under
- 21 Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act
- 22 of 1994, and the TESDA, under Republic Act No. 7796 or the "TESDA
- 23 Act of 1994";
- 24 b. Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules of discipline
- 25 drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils herein provided;
- 26 c. Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the University,
- 27 the vice presidents, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty
- 28 members, and other officials and employees of the University;

1 d. Fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members, administrative officials  
2 and employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation  
3 and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget and  
4 compensation laws governing the hours of service, and such other  
5 duties and conditions as it may deem proper; grant them, at its  
6 discretion, leaves of absence under such regulations as it may  
7 promulgate, any provision of existing law to the contrary  
8 notwithstanding; and remove them for cause in accordance with the  
9 requirements of due process of law;

10 e. Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as  
11 matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board  
12 may deem proper to impose, after due consultation with the concerned  
13 sectors. The fees and charges, including government subsidies and  
14 other income generated by the University, shall constitute its special  
15 trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government  
16 depository bank. All interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form  
17 part of the same funds for the use of the University.

18 Any provision of existing laws, rules and regulations to the  
19 contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the University from  
20 tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of  
21 auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the University  
22 and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension  
23 services or other programs and projects of the University: *Provided,*  
24 That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for  
25 which these are collected: *Provided, however,* That if, for reasons  
26 beyond its control, the University shall not be able to pursue any  
27 project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated the use  
28 of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may  
29 be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals  
30 of the University.

- 1 f. Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school  
2 fees for greater access of poor but deserving students in accordance  
3 with Republic Act No. 10931 or the "University Access to Quality  
4 Tertiary Education Act"
- 5 g. Establish professorial chairs in the University and provide fellowships  
6 for qualified faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students;
- 7 h. Receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support  
8 of the University in the manner it may determine, in its discretion, to  
9 carry out the purposes and functions of the University;
- 10 i. Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;
- 11 j. Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their  
12 outstanding contribution in the fields of education, public service, arts,  
13 science and technology, agriculture or any field of specialization within  
14 the academic competency of the University, and authorize the  
15 awarding of certificates of completion of non-degree and non-  
16 traditional courses;
- 17 k. Establish research and extension centers to promote the development  
18 of the University;
- 19 l. Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability-building  
20 with appropriate institutions and agencies, whether public, private,  
21 local or foreign, and appoint experts/specialists as consultants, part-  
22 time or visiting/exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the  
23 case may be;
- 24 m. Adopt modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge for the  
25 promotion of greater access to education such as the use of  
26 information technology, dual training system, open distance learning,  
27 and community laboratory;
- 28 n. Collaborate with the governing boards of other colleges within the  
29 province of Camarines Sur and the Bicol Region, under the supervision  
30 of the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and

1 Management (DBM, and offer therein programs or courses to carry out  
2 the Constitutional mandate of providing equal access to educational  
3 opportunities;

4 o. Absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the province of  
5 Camarines Sur and the Bicol region as branches and extension/external  
6 centers, in coordination with the CHED and in consultation with the  
7 DBM, and offer therein programs or courses to carry out the  
8 Constitutional mandate of providing equal access to educational  
9 opportunities;

10 p. Authorize an external management audit of the University, to be  
11 financed by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the  
12 Commission on Audit, and institute reforms, including academic and  
13 structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and  
14 recommendations;

15 q. Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local  
16 government units (LGUs), as well as public, private, local and foreign  
17 institutions and agencies, in furtherance of the purposes and objectives  
18 of the University;

19 r. Important economic, technical and cultural books and publications;

20 s. Enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable  
21 development and management of the economic assets, the proceeds  
22 of which, shall be used for the development and strengthening of the  
23 University;

24 t. Receive, in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal  
25 properties of all kinds and administer and dispose of the same, when  
26 necessary, for the benefit of the University and subject to the  
27 limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any;

28 u. Extend the term of the President of the University beyond the age of  
29 retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the  
30 guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board: *Provided,*

1 That the President's performance has been rated by the Board as  
2 outstanding and a unanimous recommendation has been decided by  
3 the search committee;

4 v. Delegate any of its powers and duties provided to the President and  
5 other officials of the University, as it may deem appropriate, so as to  
6 expedite the administration of the affairs of the University;

7 w. Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision-  
8 making and transparency within the University;

9 x. Where most advantageous to the University, privatize the management  
10 of nonacademic services such as health, food, building grounds or  
11 property maintenance, and such other similar activities;

12 y. Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery,  
13 equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real  
14 properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment; and

15 z. Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out  
16 the purposes and functions of the University.

17 *Sec. 7. Meetings of the Board.* – The Board shall regularly convene once  
18 every three (3) months. The Chairperson of the Board may, however, call a special  
19 meeting whenever necessary: *Provided*, That members are notified in writing at  
20 least three (3) days prior to the conduct of said meeting.

21 A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all its members holding  
22 office at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however*, That the Chairperson of the  
23 Board or the President of the University is among those present in the meeting.

24 In case the CHED Chairperson cannot attend a meeting of the Board, a CHED  
25 Commissioner duly designated by the CHED Chairperson as representative to the  
26 meeting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided*,  
27 That during the meeting, the President of the University, as Vice Chairperson, shall  
28 be the presiding officer: *Provided, further*, That this provision, notwithstanding, the  
29 Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner as

1 the regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case, the said CHED Commissioner,  
2 shall act as the presiding officer.

3 In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and  
4 Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education  
5 will not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may designate their respective  
6 representatives to attend the meeting, who shall have the same rights and  
7 responsibilities as a regular member of the Board.

8 The members of the Board shall not receive any salary, but shall be entitled  
9 to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either for their  
10 attendance to the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business  
11 authorized by resolution of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

12 *Sec. 8. The University President.* – The University shall be headed by a  
13 President who shall render full-time service and shall be appointed by the Board,  
14 subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board, upon the  
15 recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. The University President  
16 shall have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for  
17 another term: *Provided,* That in order to effect the smooth transition of the state  
18 college to a state university, the incumbent President of the BISCAS shall serve as  
19 the first president of the University for a transition period of two (2) years, but he is  
20 entitled to be re-appointed for one (1) full term of four (4) years.

21 Within five (5) months before the expiration of the term of office of the  
22 incumbent President of the University, the Board shall constitute the Search  
23 Committee for the Presidency.

24 The Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the University in case of  
25 vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement,  
26 resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the President to perform the  
27 functions of the office, pending the appointment of a new President: *Provided,* That  
28 the Officer-in-Charge shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term.

1 The powers and duties of the President of the University, in addition to those  
2 specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the  
3 President of universities and those delegated by the Board.

4 The salary of the President of the University shall be in accordance with  
5 Republic Act No. 11466, otherwise known as the "Salary Standardization Law of  
6 2019", and such other laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted,  
7 and shall be comparable to that being received by the presidents of similar  
8 educational institutions.

9 The President of the University shall be assisted by a Vice President for  
10 Academic Affairs, a Vice President for Administration, and a Vice President for  
11 Research, Development and Extension, who shall all be appointed by the Board upon  
12 the recommendation of the President of the University.

13 *Sec. 9. The Secretary of the University.* – The Board shall appoint a Secretary  
14 who shall serve as such for both the Board and the University and shall keep all  
15 records and proceedings of the Board. The Secretary of the University shall serve  
16 upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of the Board meetings.

17 *Sec. 10. The Treasurer of the University.* – The Treasurer of the Philippines  
18 shall be the *ex officio* Treasurer of the University.

19 *Sec. 11. The Administrative Council.* – There shall be an Administrative  
20 Council consisting of the President of the University as Chairperson, and the vice  
21 presidents, deans, directors and other officials of equal rank as members, whose  
22 duties shall be to review and recommend to the Board the policies that shall govern  
23 the administration, management and development planning of the University.

24 *Sec. 12. The Academic Council.* – There shall be an Academic Council to be  
25 composed of the President of the University, who shall act as Chairperson, and all  
26 academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant professor, as members, which  
27 shall formulate academic policies.

1           The Academic Council shall also have the power to review and recommend  
2 the curricular offerings and rules of disciplines of the University, subject to the  
3 approval of the Board. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of students, as  
4 well as for their graduation and conferment of degrees, subject to review and  
5 approval of the Board through the President of the University.

6           It shall exercise disciplinary power over the students of the University and  
7 shall issues rules and regulations on student discipline, subject to the approval of the  
8 Board.

9           Sec. 13. *The Faculty.* – No political belief, gender preference, cultural or  
10 community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a  
11 matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the University: *Provided,*  
12 That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and  
13 standards set by the Board: *Provided, further,* That no member of the faculty shall  
14 teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

15          Sec. 14. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* – The University  
16 shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy, pursuant to Paragraph 2,  
17 Sec. 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution.

18          Sec. 15. *Scholarship Programs/Admission.* – The University shall provide  
19 scholarship and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving  
20 students who qualify for admission to the University.

21          No student shall be denied admission to the University by reason of gender,  
22 religion, cultural or community affiliation, physical disability or ethnic origin.

23          Sec. 16. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment, Supplies and*  
24 *Detail of Personnel.* – The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national  
25 government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the  
26 President of the University, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be  
27 needed by the University, and detail employees for duty therein when, in the  
28 judgment of the head of bureau or office, such apparatus, equipment, supplies or  
29 service of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to public service.



1           The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by  
2 the President of the University and the time thus served shall be counted as part of  
3 their regular service.

4           *Sec. 17. Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.* – All assets, real and personal,  
5 personnel, and records of the BISCAS, as well as liabilities or obligations, are  
6 hereby transferred to the University: *Provided*, That the positions, rights and security  
7 of tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws  
8 prior to the conversion into a state college shall be respected: *Provided, further*,  
9 That the incumbents of the positions shall remain in the same status until otherwise  
10 provided for by the Board: *Provided, finally*, That the University shall also  
11 accordingly upgrade or increase its human resource component as may be deemed  
12 appropriate by the Board.

13           All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the BISCAS are  
14 hereby declared to be the property of the University and shall be titled under its  
15 name: *Provided*, That should the University cease to exist or be abolished or should  
16 such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the University, the  
17 same shall revert to the concerned LGU or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the  
18 case may be.

19           *Sec. 18. Tax Exemption on Importation and Donations.* – The importation by  
20 the University of economic, technical and cultural books or publications, which are  
21 for economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical or cultural  
22 purposes shall, upon certification by the CHED, be exempt from customs duties in  
23 accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the  
24 "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)".

25           All grants, bequests, endowments, donations and contributions made to and  
26 used actually, directly and exclusively by the University, shall be exempt from the  
27 donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross  
28 income of the donor for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in  
29 accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as  
30 amended.

1           Sec. 19. *Development Plan, Management Audit, and*  
2 *Organization/Administrative/Academic Structure.* == Within a period of one hundred  
3 twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the University shall accomplish the  
4 following:

- 5           a. Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its program budget  
6           to the CHED for corresponding recommendation to the DBM;
- 7           b. Set up its organizational, administrative, as well as academic structure,  
8           including the appointment of key officials of the University; and
- 9           c. Undergo a management audit in coordination with the CHED.

10           Sec. 20. *Filing of Report.* – On or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the second  
11 (2<sup>nd</sup>) month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the Board shall file,  
12 with the Office of the President of the Philippines, through the CHED Chairperson,  
13 and with both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the progress, condition, and  
14 needs of the University.

15           Sec. 21. *Supplementary Application.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292,  
16 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall form an  
17 integral part of this Act and shall serve as part of the governing charter of the  
18 University.

19           Sec. 22. *Parity Clause.* – All other powers, functions, privileges,  
20 responsibilities, and limitations under existing laws shall be deemed granted to or  
21 imposed upon the University and its officials, whenever appropriate.

22           Sec. 23. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions  
23 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the BISCASAT.  
24 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and  
25 maintenance of the Southeast Asian University of Technology shall be included in the  
26 annual General Appropriations Act.

27           Sec. 24. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from  
28 the effectivity of this Act, the Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall formulate  
29 the rule and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

1           Sec. 25. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this  
2 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not  
3 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

4           Sec. 26. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
5 and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
6 are repealed or modified accordingly.

7           Sec. 27. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
8 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.