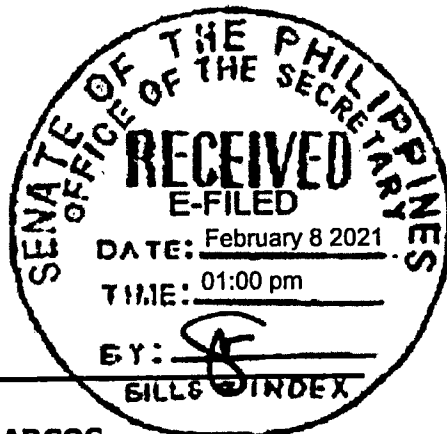


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S. B. No. 2041



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**AN ACT CONVERTING THE OCCIDENTAL MINDORO STATE COLLEGE IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL
MINDORO, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS
THE OCCIDENTAL MINDORO STATE UNIVERSITY, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

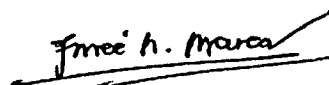
EXPLANATORY NOTE

On June 24, 1983, President Ferdinand E. Marcos approved Batas Pambansa Blg. 531, which converted the San Jose National High School in the municipality of San Jose, Province of Occidental Mindoro, into Occidental Mindoro National College, and which was later on converted into Occidental Mindoro State College (OMSC). It is the lone state college in the Province of Occidental Mindoro that was established as barrio high school in 1996 and from such humble beginning, the state college to date has six (6) campuses, 3 in San Jose, 1 in Sablayan, 1 in Mamburao, and 1 in Lubang, catering more than four thousand (4,000) students from different parts of the island of Mindoro and nearby provinces.

OMSC has proven competence in various degree programs by producing board top-notchers and board passers in government board examinations. Moreover, our constituents respectfully request for its conversion into a state university not just for the advancement of higher education and professional development of students in their chosen field of specialization but also to contribute to the economic stimulus in the province.

This bill therefor seeks to convert the Occidental Mindoro State College including its satellite colleges in the Province of Occidental Mindoro into a State University to be known as the Occidental Mindoro State University (OMSU). This is consistent with the constitutional mandate of the State to establish and maintain a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the goals of national development.

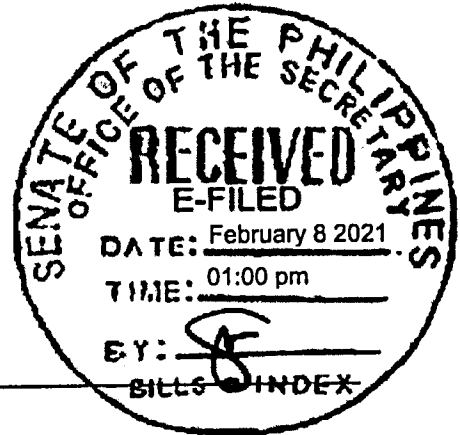
In view of the foregoing, the speedy passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



IMEE R. MARCOS

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE
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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT CONVERTING THE OCCIDENTAL MINDORO STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE OCCIDENTAL MINDORO STATE UNIVERSITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Conversion of the Occidental Mindoro State College into a State*
2 *University.* – The Occidental Mindoro State College (OMSC) located in the municipality
3 of San Jose Province of Occidental Mindoro, otherwise known as the OMSC San Jose
4 Campus, including its campuses in the different municipalities of the Province of
5 Occidental Mindoro, namely: OMSC Labangan Campus in Labangan Poblacion,
6 Municipality of San Jose; OMSC Murtha Campus in Barangay Murtha, Municipality of
7 San Jose; OMSC Sablayan Campus in the Municipality of Sablayan; and OMSC Lubang
8 Campus in the Municipality of Lubang, is hereby converted into a state university, to
9 be known as the Occidental Mindoro State University (OMSU). The main campus of
10 the OMSU shall be located in the Municipality of Rizal.

11 **SEC. 2.** *General Mandate.* – The OMSU shall primarily provide advance instruction
12 and professional training in education, engineering, science and technology, arts and
13 humanities, information and communications technology, agriculture, forestry, and
14 other relevant fields of study. It shall also undertake research and extension services
15 and production activities in support of the socio-economic development of the
16 Province of Occidental Mindoro and the Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan
17 (MIMAROPA) region.

18 **SEC. 3.** *Curricular Offerings.* – The OMSU shall offer undergraduate and
19 graduate courses within its competency and areas of specialization in the fields of
20 education, engineering, science and technology, arts and humanities, information and
21 communications technology, agriculture, forestry, and other relevant fields of study,
22 as the Board of Regents, technology, agriculture, forestry, and other relevant fields of

1 study, as the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, may deem
2 necessary for the accomplishment of its objectives, and those which respond to meet
3 the human resource development needs of the Province of Occidental Mindoro and the
4 MIMAROPA Region. The existing reasonably-sized laboratory senior high school and
5 elementary school shall continue to operate under the supervision of the College of
6 Education of the OMSU to serve the in-campus requirements of its students.

7 **SEC. 4. Administration.** – The OMSU shall have the general powers of a
8 corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise known as
9 “The Corporation Code of the Philippines”. The exercise of its corporate powers shall
10 be vested exclusively in the Board and the President of the OMSU.

11 **SEC. 5. The Governing Board.** – The governing bodies of the OMSU shall be the
12 Board, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission
13 on Higher Education (CHED) and the President of the OMSU, respectively, and with
14 the following, as members:

- 15 a. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational
16 Education of the Senate;
- 17 b. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the
18 House of Representatives;
- 19 c. Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority;
- 20 d. Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;
- 21 e. Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture;
- 22 f. President of the federation of faculty associations of the OMSU;
- 23 g. President of the federation of student councils of the OMSU;
- 24 h. President of the federation of alumni associations of the OMSU; and
- 25 i. Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have
26 distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization.

27 The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from a
28 list of at least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of Occidental Mindoro as
29 recommended by a search committee constituted by the President of the OMSU, in
30 consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and other members of the Board, based
31 on the standards and qualifications for the position set by the Board. They shall serve
32 for a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment.

33 The membership of the President of the federation of faculty associations, the

1 President of the federation of student councils, and the President of the federation of
2 alumni associations in the Board shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as
3 provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws.

4 **SEC. 6. Powers and Duties of the Board of Regents.** – In addition to its general
5 powers of administration and the powers granted to the board of directors of a
6 corporation under existing laws, the Board shall have the following specific powers
7 and duties:

- 8 a. Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State
9 policies on education, other pertinent provisions of the Constitution on
10 education, agriculture, science and technology, and the policies, standards
11 and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as
12 the "Higher Education Act of 1994";
- 13 b. Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules of discipline drawn
14 by the Administrative and Academic Councils herein provided;
- 15 c. Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of die OMSU, the vice
16 presidents, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members and
17 other officials and employees of the OMSU;
- 18 d. Fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members, administrative officials and
19 employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and
20 Position Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation
21 laws governing hours of service, and such other duties and conditions as it
22 may deem proper, grant them, at its discretion, leaves of absence under such
23 regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing law to the contrary
24 notwithstanding; and remove them for cause in accordance with the
25 requirements of due process of law;
- 26 e. Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as matriculation
27 fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to
28 impose, after due consultation with the concerned sectors. The fees and
29 charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the
30 OMSU, shall constitute its special trust funds, and shall be deposited in any
31 authorized government depository bank. All interests that shall accrue
32 therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the OMSU;

33 Any provision of existing laws, rules or regulations to the contrary
34 notwithstanding, any income generated by the OMSU from tuition fees and
35 other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land
36 grants, shall be retained by the OMSU and may be disbursed by the Board
37 for instruction, research, extension services or other programs and projects

- 1 of the OMSU: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the
2 specific purposes for which these are collected: *Provided, however*, That if,
3 for reasons beyond its control, the OMSU shall not be able to pursue any
4 project for which the funds have been appropriated and allocated under its
5 approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said
6 funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary
7 and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the OMSU;
- 8 f. Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for
9 greater access of poor but deserving students in accordance with Republic
10 Act No. 10931 or the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act";
- 11 g. Establish professorial chairs in the OMSU and provide fellowships for qualified
12 faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students;
- 13 h. Receive and appropriate sums as may be provided by law for the support of
14 the OMSU, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion,
15 determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the OMSU;
- 16 i. Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;
- 17 j. Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding
18 contribution in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and
19 technology, agriculture or any field of specialization within the academic
20 competency of the OMSU, and authorize the awarding of certificates of
21 completion of nondegree and nontraditional courses;
- 22 k. Establish research and extension centers to promote the development of the
23 OMSU;
- 24 l. Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with
25 appropriate institutions and agencies, whether public, private, local and
26 foreign, and appoint experts/specialists as consultants, part-time or
27 visiting/exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;
- 28 m. Adopt modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge for the
29 promotion of greater access to education such as the use of information
30 technology, dual training system, open distance learning, and community
31 laboratory;
- 32 n. Collaborate with the governing bodies of other state universities and colleges
33 within die Province of Occidental Mindoro and the MIMAROPA region, under
34 the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with the Department of
35 Budget and Management (DBM), in restructuring the OMSU to make it more
36 efficient, relevant, productive and competitive;

- 1 o. Absorb nonchartered tertiary institutions within the province of Occidental
2 Mindoro and the MIMAROPA region as branches or extension/external
3 centers, in coordination with the CHED and in consultation with the DBM, and
4 offer therein programs or courses to carry out the constitutional mandate of
5 providing equal access to educational opportunities;
- 6 p. Authorize an external management audit of the OMSU, to be financed by the
7 CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and
8 institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of
9 the audit results and recommendations;
- 10 q. Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local
11 government units (LGUs), as well as public, private, local and foreign
12 institutions and agencies, in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives
13 of the OMSU;
- 14 r. Import economic, technical and cultural books and publications;
- 15 s. Enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable
16 development and management of the economic assets, the proceeds of
17 which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the OMSU;
- 18 t. Receive, in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties
19 of all kinds and administer and dispose of the same, when necessary, for the
20 benefit of the OMSU and subject to the limitations, directions and instructions
21 of the donor, if any;
- 22 u. Extend the term of the President of the OMSU beyond the age of retirement
23 but not beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the guidelines,
24 qualifications and standards set by the Board: *Provided*, That the President's
25 performance has been rated by the Board as outstanding and a unanimous
26 recommendation for such extension has been decided upon by the search
27 committee;
- 28 v. Delegate any of its powers and duties provided to the President and other
29 officials of the OMSU, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the
30 administration of the affairs of the OMSU;
- 31 w. Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative and transparent
32 decision- making within the OMSU;
- 33 x. Where most advantageous to the OMSU, privatize the management of
34 nonacademic services such as health, food, building, grounds or property
35 maintenance, and such other similar activities;

1 y. Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment
2 and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property,
3 including the necessary supplies, materials and equipment; and

4 z. Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the
5 purposes and functions of the OMSU.

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

10 A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all its members holding office
11 at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however*, That the Chairperson of the Board or
12 the President of the OMSU is among those present in the meeting.

13 In case the Chairperson of the CHED. cannot attend a meeting of the Board, a
14 CHED Commissioner duly designated by the 'Chairperson of the CHED as
15 representative to the meeting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular
16 member: *Provided*, That during the meeting, the President of the OMSU as Vice
17 Chairperson, shall be the presiding officer: *Provided, further*, That this provision,
18 notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a
19 CHED Commissioner as the regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case, the said
20 CHED Commissioner, as the regular Chairperson of the Board, shall act as the presiding
21 officer.

22 In case the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and
23 Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education
24 shall not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may designate their respective
25 representatives to attend the meeting, who shall have the same rights and
26 responsibilities as regular members of the Board.

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

31 **SEC. 8. The University President.** – The OMSU shall be headed by a President,
32 who shall render full-time service and is appointed by the Board, subject to the
33 guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board, based on the
34 recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. The OMSU President shall
35 have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment to another term:
36 *Provided*, That in order to effect the smooth transition of the college to a state

1 university, the incumbent President of the OMSC, if qualified, shall serve as the first
2 President of the OMSU.

3 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the
4 incumbent President of the OMSU, the Board shall constitute the search committee for
5 the Presidency.

6 The Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the OMSU in case of a vacancy
7 in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation,
8 removal for cause, or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of the office,
9 pending the appointment of a new President: *Provided*, That the Officer-in-Charge
10 shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term.

11 The powers and duties of the President of the OMSU, in addition to those
12 specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the
13 President of similar universities and those delegated by the Board.

14 The salary of the President of the OMSU shall be in accordance with Republic
15 Act No. 11466 or the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and by such other laws
16 amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to
17 that being received by the presidents of similar educational institutions.

18 The President of the OMSU shall be assisted by a Vice President for Academic
19 Affairs, a Vice President for Administration, and a Vice President for Research,
20 Development and Extension, who shall all be appointed by the Board upon the
21 recommendation of the President of the OMSU.

22 **SEC. 9. *The Secretary of the University.*** – The Board shall appoint a Secretary
23 who shall serve as such for both the Board and the OMSU and shall keep all records
24 and proceedings of meetings of the Board. The Secretary of the OMSU shall serve
25 upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of board meetings.

26 **SEC. 10. *The Treasurer of the University.*** – The Treasurer of the Philippines
27 shall-be the ex officio Treasurer of the OMSU.

28 **SEC. 11. *The Administrative Council.*** – There shall be an Administrative Council
29 consisting of the President of the OMSU as chairperson, and the vice presidents, deans,
30 directors and other officials of equal rank as members, that shall review and
31 recommend to the Board the policies that shall govern the administration,
32 management and development planning of the OMSU.

33 **SEC. 12. *The Academic Council.*** – There shall be an Academic Council, which
34 shall formulate academic policies. It shall be composed of the President of the OMSU,
35 who shall act as chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an
36 assistant professor, as members. The Academic Council shall have the power to review

1 and recommend the curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the OMSU, subject to
2 the approval of the Board. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of students,
3 as well as for their graduation and conferment of degrees, subject to the review and
4 approval of the Board through the President of the OMSU. It shall exercise disciplinary
5 power over the students of the OMSU and shall formulate rules and regulations on
6 student discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

7 **SEC. 13. Heads of University Campuses.** – The Campus Directors shall
8 respectively serve as heads or administrators of the OMSU's campuses and render full-
9 time service.

10 They shall be appointed or designated by the Board, upon recommendation of
11 the search committee and the President, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and
12 standards set by the Board: *Provided, That*, upon the effectivity of this Act, the
13 incumbent Campus Directors of the existing campuses of the OMSC shall continue to
14 serve as such.

15 **SEC. 14. The Faculty.** – No political belief, gender preference, cultural or
16 community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a
17 matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the OMSU: *Provided, That*
18 said appointment shall be subject to the guideline, qualifications and standards set by
19 the Board: *Provided, further,* That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against
20 any particular church or religious sect.

21 **SEC. 15. Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.** – The OMSU shall
22 enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to paragraph 2, Section
23 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution.

24 **SEC. 16. Scholarship Programs/Admission.** – The OMSU shall provide
25 scholarship and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students
26 who qualify for admission to the OMSU. No student shall be denied admission to the
27 OMSU by reason of gender, religion, cultural or community affiliation, physical disability
28 or ethnic origin.

29 **SEC. 17. Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment, Supplies and**
30 **Detail of Personnel.** – The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government
31 are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the President of the
32 OMSU, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the OMSU, and
33 detail employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of bureau or
34 office, such apparatus, equipment, supplies or service of such employees can be
35 spared without serious detriment to public service.

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

4 **SEC. 18. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.*** – All assets, real and personal,
5 personnel, and records of the OMSC as well as its liabilities or obligations, are hereby
6 transferred to the OMSU: *Provided*, That the positions, rights and security of tenure of
7 faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the
8 conversion into a university shall be respected: *Provided, further*, That the incumbents
9 occupying the positions shall remain in the same status until otherwise provided for by
10 the Board: *Provided, finally*, That the OMSU shall also accordingly upgrade or increase
11 its human resource component as may be deemed appropriate by the Board.

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

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

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

28 **SEC. 20. *Compliance with CHED Requirements.*** – The provisions of this Act
29 notwithstanding, the conversion of the OMSC to a state university shall become
30 effective only upon the determination and declaration by the CHED, based on the
31 recommendation of a panel of experts constituted for the purpose, that the institution
32 has complied with the requirements for a university status based on CHED
33 Memorandum Order No. 46, series of 2012 (Policy-Standard to Enhance Quality
34 Assurance (QA) in Philippine Higher Education Through an Outcomes-Based and
35 Typology-Based QA): *Provided*, That the panel may issue such recommendation when
36 the OMSC has substantially complied with the requirements for the grant of university
37 status.

1 The following operational requirements for a university, as established by the
2 CHED, shall be complied with:

- 3 a. Employment of full-time, permanent faculty members who possess relevant
4 degrees in their areas of specialization, as required by the CHED, and shall have
5 participated in research and development activities in their respective
6 disciplines, as evidenced by refereed publications and other scholarly outputs;
- 7 b. Offering of a comprehensive range of degree programs in all levels, from basic
8 post- secondary to doctoral programs;
- 9 c. Conduct of viable research programs in specific disciplinal and multidisciplinary
10 areas of study that produce new knowledge, as evidenced by refereed
11 publications, citations, inventions, and patents, among others;
- 12 d. Establishment of comprehensive learning resources and support structures, to
13 include libraries, practicum laboratories, relevant educational resources, and
14 linkages with relevant disciplinal and professional sectors, so as to allow
15 students to explore basic, advance, and even cutting-edge knowledge in a wide
16 range of disciplines or professions;
- 17 e. Maintenance of linkage and affiliation with other research institutions in various
18 parts of the world to ensure that the research activities of the OMSU are
19 functioning at current global standards; and
- 20 f. Conduct of outreach activities to allow the students, faculty, and research staff
21 to apply the new knowledge they generate to address specific social
22 development problems.

23 The CHED, through its regional office, shall regularly provide technical assistance
24 to the OMSU and monitor its compliance with the requirements of the Commission.

25 The OMSC shall retain its status prior to the effectivity of this Act until it is able to
26 comply with the requirements provided herein.

27 **SEC. 21. *Development Plan, Management Audit, and Organizational/***
28 ***Administrative/Academic Structure.*** – Within a period of one hundred twenty (120)
29 days after the approval of this Act, the OMSU shall accomplish the following:

- 30 a. Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its program budget to the
31 CHED for recommendation to the DBM;
- 32 b. Set up its organizational, administrative, and academic structure, including the
33 appointment of key officials of the OMSU; and
- 34 c. Undergo a management audit in coordination with the CHED.

1

2 **SEC. 22. *Filing of Report.*** – On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second
3 (2nd) month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the Board shall file
4 with the Office of the President of the Philippines, through the Chairperson of the
5 CHED, and with both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the progress, conditions,
6 and needs of the OMSU.

7 **SEC. 23. *Suppletory Application.*** – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292,
8 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall form part
9 of this Act and serve as part of the Governing Charter of the OMSU.

10 **SEC. 24. *Parity Clause.*** – All other powers, functions, privileges, responsibilities,
11 and limitations under existing laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the
12 OMSU and its officials, whenever appropriate.

13 **SEC. 25. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
14 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the OMSC.
15 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and
16 maintenance of the OMSU shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

17 **SEC. 26. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
18 the effectivity of this Act, the Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall formulate the
19 rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

20 **SEC. 27. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this
21 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not
22 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

23 **SEC. 28. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
24 and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
25 repealed or modified accordingly.

26 **SEC. 29. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,