


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
Second Regular Session]



23 JUL 12 A9:07

SENATE
S.B. No. 2295

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY AS A SYSTEM,
PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7665, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT
CONVERTING THE BULACAN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES IN THE
PROVINCE OF BULACAN INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS
THE BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bulacan State University (BulSU) is a state-operated institution of higher learning in Region III (Central Luzon). It was originally run as a secondary school by the Americans in 1904. BulSU was converted from a college into a university in 1993 by virtue of Republic Act No. 7665, otherwise known as “An Act Converting the Bulacan College of Arts and Trades in the Province of Bulacan into a State University to be Known as the Bulacan State University, and Appropriating Funds Therefor”. Since then, BulSU has grown in terms of program offerings, faculty qualification, and student enrolment. BulSU has now progressed into one of the biggest state universities in the region with a total enrollment of 42,384 students in the 2nd semester of Academic Year 2022-2023.

Several statistics provide evidence of the high-quality tertiary education at BulSU. Recently, BulSU received its ISO 9001:2015 Certification and passed the Level II Institutional Accreditation. Fifty (50) academic programs of the different BulSU Colleges are already accredited by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities (AACCU), Inc. Further, in 2022, the university's constituent campuses recorded passing rates higher than the national average in 16 out of 18 rounds of national board examinations administered by the Professional Regulation Commission.¹ Lastly, the labor market's reception of BulSU graduates is also favorable. From 2018 to 2022, its graduates' average annual employment rate was 93%.²

According to a study conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) on the status of higher education titled, "*Philippine Education: Situationer, Challenges, and Ways Forward*",³ the enrollment rate in Philippine higher education is on par with middle-income countries' average. However, PIDS noted that the quality of the higher education sector remains low and uneven. Even if graduates have served in global labor markets for decades (King 2020), only a handful of Philippine universities landed in the top 1000 universities of the world, most of which are in the National Capital Region (NCR).⁴

Inequitable access persists in higher education. In 2019, while 49% of the richest decile attend higher education, only 17% from the poorest decile could do the same. PIDS also reported that our college graduates lack exposure to research culture which may be attributed to a lack of funding and an innovation system that is still in an emergent state.⁵ In addition, another study by the PIDS⁶ found

¹ Professional Regulation Commission and BulSU (2023).

² BulSU (2023).

³ Orbeta, A. & Paqueo, V.B. (2022). Philippine Education: Situationer, Challenges, and Ways Forward. PIDS Discussion Paper.

<https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/document/pidsdps2223.pdf>

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Tutor, M., Orbeta, A., & Miraflor, J.M. (2019). The 4th Philippine Graduate Tracer Study: Examining Higher Education as Pathway to Employment, Citizenship, and Life Satisfaction from the Learner's Perspective. PIDS Discussion Paper. <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps1926.pdf>

that positive college experience contributes to improved employment outcomes, better life satisfaction, and stronger sense of citizenship.

It is important to ensure that universities like BulSU and its constituent campuses have the necessary resources to deliver quality education and address inequities, thereby improving the college experience of its student clientele. In support of these findings and in pursuit of enhanced quality of schooling, improved efficiency, democratization, and increased accountability, BulSU shall be strengthened as a state university system, consisting of the main campus and constituent campuses, in producing accessible quality education, with the capability to engage in conventional and/or unconventional techniques, methodology, and strategies in the Province of Bulacan and the geographically adjacent regions. The BulSU constituent campuses shall exercise education decentralization by allocating budgets and the authority to make important educational and related financial decisions.

In view of the foregoing, this legislation seeks to strengthen BulSU as a university system through the following provisions:

- (1) Support mechanisms for innovation, foster accessible quality education, and fulfill the university goals of continued efficient and effective quality, relevant, and accessible higher education in serving the growing needs of the province of Bulacan, as well as geographically adjacent regions;
- (2) Strengthen the powers of the Board of Regents (Board), in addition to the general powers of a corporation set forth in Republic Act No. 11232, otherwise known as the “Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines”, through the following functions, among others:
 - (a) to adopt modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge for the promotion of greater access to education such as the use of information technology, dual training system, open distance learning, and community laboratory;

- (b) to develop mechanisms for the efficient adoption of income-generating ventures for research, instruction, extension, and in the acquisition of facilities and structures of the university;
 - (c) to establish research and extension centers to promote the development of the BulSU System;
 - (d) to restructure the BulSU System in collaboration with the governing bodies of other state universities and colleges within the province of Bulacan and Region III, under the supervision of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, to make it more efficient, relevant, productive and more competitive;
 - (e) to extend the term of the President of the BulSU System beyond the age of retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70), subject to conditions; and
 - (f) to promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the purposes and functions of the BulSU System.
- (3) Define the functions of the Administrative Council, Academic Council, and the Chancellors of the two (2) clusters of constituent units; and
- (4) Accomplish a 5-year development plan, set up the BulSU organizational, administrative, and academic structure, and undergo a management audit in coordination with the CHED, all within a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act.

It is my fervent hope that this legislation will contribute to the improvement of higher education learning, providing greater access and high-quality education, specifically in Bulacan province and nearby regions, to produce globally competitive students. Thus, I earnestly seek the support of this Congress for its immediate passage.



WIN GATCHALIAN



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

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23 JUL 12 A9:08

SENATE

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AN ACT

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PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7665, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT
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THE BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. This Act shall be known as the "*Revised Bulacan State*
2 *University Charter*".

3

4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall promote, foster, nurture
5 and protect the right of all citizens to accessible quality education. It shall
6 establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated
7 system of education towards globalization that is relevant to the needs of the
8 people and society. As such, the Bulacan State University (BulSU) will be
9 strengthened as a state university system in producing accessible quality
10 education, with the capability to engage in conventional and/or

1 unconventional techniques, methodology, and strategies in the Province of
2 Bulacan and the geographically adjacent regions.

3
4 Sec. 3. *University Campuses and Other Units.* – The BulSU shall be
5 strengthened as a university system (“BulSU System”) and shall consist of the
6 following existing campuses in the Cities of Malolos and San Jose del Monte
7 and in the Municipalities of San Rafael, Bustos, Bulakan, and Hagonoy, as
8 well as its constituent units, regular and extension campuses, colleges,
9 academic or nonacademic units, including all other BulSU campuses that
10 shall be established in the future. The main campus of the BulSU System
11 shall remain in the City of Malolos, Province of Bulacan.

12
13 Sec. 4. *General Mandate.* – The BulSU System shall primarily provide
14 advanced education, higher technological, professional courses and training
15 programs in engineering and technology, arts and sciences, education,
16 agriculture and industrial fields, accountancy, business and public
17 administration, medicine and allied health courses, hotel and restaurant
18 management, tourism, aeronautics, artificial intelligence and robotics, law,
19 non-traditional courses and other relevant fields of study. It shall also
20 undertake research and extension services and production activities, in
21 support of the socio-economic development of the Province of Bulacan and
22 the geographically adjacent regions.

23
24 Sec. 5. *Curricular Offerings.* – The BulSU System shall primarily offer
25 undergraduate and graduate courses, advanced professional and technical
26 instruction and training within its areas of specialization in the fields of
27 environment and natural sciences, accountancy, commerce, business and
28 public administration, agriculture, education, fisheries, forestry, engineering
29 and technology, arts and sciences, law, medicine and allied medicine,
30 architecture, archeology, hotel and tourism, aeronautics, artificial
31 intelligence and robotics, public administration, and other relevant fields of

1 study, as the Board of Regents may deem necessary for the accomplishment
2 of its objectives, and those which respond to the human resource
3 development needs of the Province of Bulacan and the geographically
4 adjacent regions.

5 The BulSU may open new branches or extension campuses in
6 consortium with other academic institutions as it may deem necessary, to
7 improve access to quality education, promote innovation and progress in the
8 academe, and advance its research capabilities, subject to applicable
9 arrangements with other institutions.

10 The existing laboratory of the Junior and Senior High School shall
11 continue to operate under the supervision of the College of Education of the
12 BulSU System to serve the in-campus requirements of its students.

13
14 *Sec. 6. Administration.* – The BulSU System shall have the general
15 powers of a corporation set forth in Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11232, otherwise
16 known as the “Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines”. The exercise of
17 its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents,
18 hereinafter referred to as the Board, and the President of the BulSU System.

19
20 *Sec. 7. The Governing Board (Board).* – The Board of the BulSU System
21 shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on
22 Higher Education (CHED) and the President of the BulSU System,
23 respectively, and with the following as members:

- 24 a. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational
25 Education of the Senate;
- 26 b. Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education
27 of the House of Representatives;
- 28 c. Regional Director of the National Economic and Development
29 Authority;
- 30 d. Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture;
- 31 e. Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;

- 1 f. President of the federation of faculty associations of the BulSU
2 System;
- 3 g. President of the federation of student councils of the BulSU System;
- 4 h. President of the federation of alumni associations of the BulSU
5 System;
- 6 i. President of the non-teaching personnel association of the BulSU
7 System; and
- 8 j. Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have
9 distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of
10 specialization.

11 The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be
12 selected from a list of at least five (5) qualified persons from the Province of
13 Bulacan as recommended by a search committee constituted by the President
14 of the BulSU System, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and
15 other members of the Board, based on the guidelines on standard
16 qualifications for the position set by the Board. They shall serve for a term of
17 two (2) years from the date of appointment.

18 The president of the federation of faculty associations, the president of
19 the federation of student councils, the president of the federation of alumni
20 associations, and the president of the non-teaching personnel association of
21 the BulSU System shall be co-terminous with their terms of office, as provided
22 under their respective constitutions and by-laws.

23

24 *Sec. 8. Powers and Duties of the Board.* – The administration of the
25 BulSU System and the exercise of its corporate powers are vested in the
26 Board. In addition to the general powers of administration and the exercise of
27 all the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under Section
28 35 of R.A. No. 11232, the Board shall have the following specific powers and
29 duties:

- 30 a. Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared
31 State policies on education, other pertinent provisions of the

1 Constitution on education, agriculture, science and technology, and
2 the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under R.A. No. 7722,
3 otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”;

4 b. Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules on student
5 discipline drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils as
6 herein provided;

7 c. Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the BulSU
8 System, the vice presidents, deans, directors, heads of the campuses,
9 faculty members, and other officials and employees of the BulSU
10 System;

11 d. Fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members, administrative officials
12 and employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation
13 and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget and
14 compensation laws governing hours of service, and such other duties
15 and conditions as it may deem proper; grant, at its discretion, leaves
16 of absence of its personnel under such regulations as it may
17 promulgate, any provision of existing law to the contrary
18 notwithstanding; and remove any personnel for cause in accordance
19 with the requirements of the civil service rules and regulations and due
20 process of law;

21 e. Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as
22 matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board
23 may deem proper to impose, after due consultation with the concerned
24 sectors. The fees and charges, including government subsidies and
25 other income generated by the BulSU System, shall constitute its
26 special trust funds, and shall be deposited in any authorized
27 government depository bank. All interests that shall accrue therefrom
28 shall form part of the same funds for the use of the BulSU System.

29 Any provision of existing law, rule or regulation to the contrary
30 notwithstanding, any income generated by the BulSU System from
31 tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary

1 services and land grants, shall be retained by the BulSU System and
2 may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension
3 services or other programs and projects of the BulSU System: *Provided,*
4 That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for
5 which these are collected: *Provided, however,* That if, for reasons
6 beyond its control, the BulSU System shall not be able to pursue any
7 project for which the funds have been appropriated and allocated
8 under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize
9 the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its
10 discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the
11 objectives and goals of the BulSU System;

- 12 f. Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school
13 fees for greater access to poor but deserving students in accordance
14 with R.A. No. 10931, or the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary
15 Education Act”;
- 16 g. Establish professorial chairs in the BulSU System and provide
17 fellowships for qualified faculty members, and scholarships to
18 deserving students;
- 19 h. Receive and appropriate sums as may be provided by law for the
20 support of the BulSU System, and all other sums in the manner it may,
21 in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of
22 the BulSU System;
- 23 i. Set the policies on admission and graduation of students;
- 24 j. Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their
25 outstanding contributions in the fields of education, public service,
26 arts, science and technology, sports and human kinetics or any field of
27 specialization within the academic competency of the BulSU System,
28 and authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of non-degree
29 and non-traditional courses;
- 30 k. Establish research and extension centers to promote the development
31 of the BulSU System;

- 1 1. Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building
2 with appropriate institutions and agencies, whether public, private,
3 local or foreign, and appoint experts or specialists as consultants, part-
4 time, visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the
5 case may be;
- 6 m. Adopt modern and innovative modes of knowledge transfer for the
7 promotion of greater access to education such as the use of information
8 technology, the dual training system, open distance learning, and
9 community laboratory;
- 10 n. Collaborate with the governing bodies of other state universities and
11 colleges within the Province of Bulacan and the geographically adjacent
12 regions, under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with
13 the Department Budget and Management (DBM), in restructuring the
14 BulSU System to make it more efficient, relevant, productive and
15 competitive;
- 16 o. Absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the Province of
17 Bulacan and the geographically adjacent regions as branches,
18 extension or external centers, in coordination with the CHED and in
19 consultation with the DBM, and offer therein programs or courses to
20 carry out the constitutional mandate of providing equal access of
21 students to educational opportunities;
- 22 p. Authorize an external management audit of the BulSU System, to be
23 financed by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the
24 Commission on Audit, and institute reforms, including academic and
25 structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and
26 recommendations;
- 27 q. Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local
28 government units as well as public, private, local or foreign institutions
29 and agencies for the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the
30 BulSU System;
- 31 r. Import economic, technical and cultural books and publications;

- 1 s. Enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable
2 development and management of economic assets, the proceeds of
3 which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the
4 BulSU System;
- 5 t. Receive, in trust, all legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal
6 properties of all kinds and administer and dispose of the same, when
7 necessary, for the benefit of the BulSU System and subject to the
8 limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any;
- 9 u. Extend the term of the President of the BulSU System beyond the age
10 of retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the
11 guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board: *Provided,*
12 That the President's performance has been rated by the Board as
13 outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for such extension has
14 been decided upon by the search committee;
- 15 v. Delegate any of its powers and duties provided to the President and
16 other officials of the BulSU System, as it may deem appropriate, so as
17 to efficiently and effectively administer the affairs of the BulSU System;
- 18 w. Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative and
19 transparent decision-making within the BulSU System;
- 20 x. Where most advantageous to the BulSU System, privatize the
21 management of non-academic services such as health, food, building
22 or grounds or property maintenance, and such other similar activities;
- 23 y. Authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery,
24 equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real
25 property, including the necessary supplies, materials, and equipment;
26 and
- 27 z. Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out
28 the purposes and functions of the BulSU System.
- 29

30 Sec. 9. *Meetings of the Board.* – The Board shall regularly convene once
31 every three (3) months. The Chairperson of the Board may, however, call a

1 special meeting whenever necessary: *Provided*, That members are notified in
2 writing at least three (3) days prior to the conduct of said meeting.

3 A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of all its members
4 holding office at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however*, That the
5 Chairperson of the Board or the President of the BulSU System is among those
6 present in the meeting.

7 In case the Chairperson of the CHED cannot attend a meeting of the
8 Board, a CHED Commissioner, duly designated by the Chairperson of the
9 CHED as representative to the meeting, shall have all the rights and
10 responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided*, That during the meeting, the
11 President of the BulSU System, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the presiding
12 officer: *Provided*, further, That this provision notwithstanding, the
13 Chairperson of the CHED may designate a CHED Commissioner as the
14 regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case, the said CHED
15 Commissioner shall act as the presiding officer.

16 In case the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical
17 and Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical
18 Education shall not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may designate
19 their respective representatives, who shall have the same rights and
20 responsibilities as regular members of the Board.

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

26
27 *Sec. 10. The University President.* – The BulSU System shall be headed
28 by a President who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines
29 on qualification standards, and based on the recommendation of a search
30 committee duly constituted for the purpose of selecting the President.

1 The President shall render full-time service and shall have a term of four
2 (4) years and may be reappointed to another term: *Provided*, That upon the
3 effectivity of this Act, the incumbent President of the BulSU System shall serve
4 a term of four (4) years without reappointment.

5 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the
6 President of the BulSU System, the Board shall constitute the Search
7 Committee for the Presidency.

8 The powers and duties of the President of the BulSU System, in addition
9 to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall include those usually
10 pertaining to the Office of the President of similar state universities and
11 colleges and those delegated by the Board.

12 The salary of the President of the BulSU System shall be in accordance
13 with R.A. No. 11466, or the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019", and such
14 other laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and on the
15 joint circular for state universities and colleges' leveling instruments, and
16 guidelines of the CHED and the DBM.

17 In case of a vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death,
18 compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity to
19 perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-
20 Charge (OIC) of the BulSU System, pending the appointment of a new
21 President; *Provided*, That the OIC shall serve only during the unexpired
22 portion of the term.

23 The President of the BulSU System shall be assisted by the following
24 officials: Executive Vice President; Vice President for Academic Affairs; Vice
25 President for Administration, Planning, and Finance; Vice President for
26 Research, Development, and Extension; Vice President for Linkages,
27 Production, and Research Generation; and the Vice President for Quality
28 Assurance. They shall all be appointed by the Board upon the
29 recommendation of the President of the BulSU System.

30

1 Sec. 11. *The Secretary of the BulSU System.* – The Board shall appoint
2 a Secretary who shall serve as such for both the Board and the BulSU System
3 and shall keep all records and proceedings of meetings of the Board. The
4 Secretary of the BulSU System shall serve upon each member of the Board
5 the appropriate notice of board meetings.

6
7 Sec. 12. *The Treasurer of the BulSU System.* – The Treasurer of the
8 Philippines shall be the *ex officio* Treasurer of the BulSU System.

9
10 Sec. 13. *The Administrative Council.* – There shall be an Administrative
11 Council consisting of the President of the BulSU System as chairperson, and
12 the vice presidents, deans, directors, and other officials of equal rank, as
13 members. The Administrative Council shall review and recommend to the
14 Board the policies that shall govern the administration, management, and
15 development planning of the BulSU System.

16
17 Sec. 14. *The Academic Council.* – There shall be an Academic Council
18 which shall formulate academic policies. It shall be composed of the President
19 of the BulSU System, who shall act as chairperson, and all academic staff
20 with the rank of at least an assistant professor, as members.

21 The Academic Council shall have the power to review and recommend
22 the curricular offerings and rules on student discipline, subject to the
23 approval of the Board. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of
24 students, as well as for their graduation and conferment of degrees, subject
25 to the review and approval of the Board through the President of the BulSU
26 System.

27 It shall exercise disciplinary power over the students of the BulSU
28 System and shall formulate rules and regulations on student discipline,
29 subject to the approval of the Board.

30

1 Sec. 15. *Heads of Constituent Units.* – The constituent units of the
2 BulSU System shall be clustered into two (2). Each cluster shall be headed by
3 a Chancellor who shall have a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed
4 for another term. The Chancellor shall be appointed by the Board upon the
5 recommendation of the Search Committee and the BulSU System President,
6 subject to the guidelines on qualification standards set by the Board.

7 The campuses under the constituent units of the BulSU System shall
8 each be headed by a Campus Director who shall serve as head or
9 administrator of each of the campuses and shall render full-time service for a
10 term of two (2) years and may be reappointed to another term.

11 The Campus Director shall be appointed or designated by the Board,
12 upon the recommendation of the Search Committee and the BulSU System
13 President, subject to the guidelines on qualification standards set by the
14 Board: *Provided*, That upon the effectivity of this Act, the incumbent Campus
15 Directors of the existing campuses of the BulSU System shall continue to
16 serve as such.

17
18 Sec. 16. *The Faculty.* – No political belief, gender preference, cultural or
19 community affiliation or ethnic origin, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall
20 be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the BulSU
21 System: *Provided*, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines on
22 qualification standards set by the Board: *Provided*, further, That no member
23 of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.
24

25 Sec. 17. *Faculty Sabbatical Leave.* – The BulSU System may grant
26 sabbatical leave to deserving and qualified faculty for purposes of research or
27 community engagement ranging from three (3) months to one (1) year, subject
28 to the recommendation of the Chancellor and the BulSU System President
29 and upon approval of the Board.

30 Faculty engaged in long-term sabbatical leave shall be temporarily
31 relieved from their teaching duties to conduct research, write, and engage in

1 scholarly or professional activity and are required to submit a research output
2 published in a reputable journal.

3
4 Sec. 18. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* – The BulSU
5 System shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant
6 to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution.

7
8 Sec. 19. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.* – The BulSU System
9 shall provide scholarship programs and other affirmative action programs to
10 assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the BulSU
11 System.

12 No student shall be denied admission to the BulSU System by reason of
13 gender, religion, cultural or community affiliation, or ethnic origin.

14
15 Sec. 20. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment or Supplies,*
16 *and Detail of Personnel.* – Upon the request of the President of the BulSU
17 System, the heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government may
18 loan or transfer to the BulSU System such apparatus, equipment or supplies,
19 as may be needed, and detail employees for duty therein when, in the
20 judgment of the head of bureau or office, the apparatus, equipment, supplies
21 or service of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to
22 public service.

23 The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them
24 by the President of the BulSU System and the time so served shall be counted
25 as part of their regular service.

26
27 Sec. 21. *Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel.* – All assets, both real and
28 personal, personnel and records of the BulSU System, as well as its liabilities
29 or obligations, shall remain under the name of the BulSU System: *Provided,*
30 That the positions, rights, and security of tenure of faculty members and
31 personnel therein employed under existing laws shall be respected: *Provided,*

1 further, That the incumbents occupying the positions shall remain in the
2 same status until otherwise provided for by the Board; *Provided*, finally, That
3 the BulSU System shall also accordingly upgrade or increase its human
4 resource component as may be deemed appropriate by the Board.

5 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the BulSU
6 System and all its campuses are hereby declared as property of the BulSU
7 System and shall be titled under its name: *Provided*, That should the BulSU
8 System cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels
9 of land be no longer needed by the BulSU System, the same shall revert to the
10 concerned local government units or to the Province of Bulacan or to the
11 Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

12
13 *Sec. 22. Duty and Tax Exemptions.* – The importation of books or
14 publications which are for economic, technical-vocational, scientific,
15 philosophical, historical, legal or cultural purposes made by the BulSU
16 System, upon certification by the CHED, shall be exempt from customs duties
17 in accordance with the provisions of R.A. No. 10863, otherwise known as the
18 “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act”.

19 All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to
20 and used actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes by the
21 BulSU System, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be
22 considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes of
23 computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions
24 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

25
26 *Sec. 23. Development Plan, Management Audit, and Organizational,*
27 *Administrative, and Academic Structure.* – Within a period of one hundred
28 twenty (120) days after the effectivity of this Act, the BulSU System shall
29 accomplish the following:

- 30 a. Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its program budget
31 to the CHED for recommendation to the DBM;

- 1 b. Set up its organizational, administrative, and academic structure,
2 including the appointment of key officials of the BulSU System; and
3 c. Undergo a management audit in coordination with the CHED.
4

5 Sec. 24. *Filing of Report.* – On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the
6 second (2nd) month after the opening of regular classes each year, the Board
7 shall file a detailed report on the progress, condition, and needs of the BulSU
8 System with the Office of the President of the Philippines and both Houses of
9 Congress, through the Chairperson of the CHED.
10

11 Sec. 25. *Suppletory Application.* – The provisions of R.A. No. 8292,
12 otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall
13 form part of this Act.
14

15 Sec. 26. *Parity Clause.* – All other powers, functions, privileges,
16 responsibilities, and limitations under existing laws shall be deemed granted
17 to or imposed upon the BulSU System and its officials, whenever appropriate.
18

19 Sec. 27. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the initial
20 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s
21 appropriation of the BulSU System. Thereafter, such sums as may be
22 necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in
23 the annual General Appropriations Act.
24

25 Sec. 28. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within ninety (90)
26 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board, in consultation with the CHED,
27 shall issue the rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this
28 Act. The IRR issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days
29 after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.
30

1 Sec. 29. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act
2 is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall
3 remain in full force and effect.

4
5 Sec. 30. *Repealing Clause.* – R.A. No. 7665, otherwise known as “An Act
6 Converting the Bulacan College of Arts and Trades in the Province of Bulacan
7 into a State University to be Known as the Bulacan State University, and
8 Appropriating Funds Therefor”, and other laws, presidential decrees,
9 executive orders, and rules and regulations thereof contrary to or inconsistent
10 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

11
12 Sec. 31. *Effectivity Clause.* – Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the
13 IRR, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
14 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

15
Approved,