FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

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SENATE

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 536 RECEIVED BY:

Submitted Jointly by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture and on Finance on ________ 7 2009_____.

Re: House Bill No. 4409, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 1224 and Senate Bill No. 2658

Recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsors: Senators MAR Roxas, Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr., Manny Villar and Edgardo J. Angara

Mr. President:

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The Committees on Education, Arts and Culture and on Finance to which was referred House Bill No. 4409, introduced by Representatives Chungalao, Villar, Lagman, Javier, and Remulla entitled:

"AN ACT

CONVERTING THE IFUGAO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMUT AND ALL ITS EXISTING EXTENSION CAMPUSES LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE IFUGAO STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 1224, introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr., entitled:

"AN ACT

TO ACCELERATE THE SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORDILLERA REGION BY ESTABLISHING A STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO TO BE KNOWN AS THE IFUGAO STATE UNIVERSITY (IFSU), CONVERTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE IFUGAO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY INTO A UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

and Senate Bill No. 2658, introduced by Senator Manny Villar, entitled:

"AN ACT

CONVERTING THE IFUGAO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AND ALL ITS EXISTING EXTENSION CAMPUSES, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE IFUGAO STATE UNIVERSITY (IFSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that it be approved with the followings amendments:

- 1. On Page 1, Line 4, After the word "Lagawe" insert: "the Aguinaldo Campus in the Municipality of Aguinaldo; the Hapao Campus in the Municipality of Hungduan;"
- 2. On Page 2, Line 1, After the word "engineering" insert: "indigenous knowledge"
- 3. On Page 2, Line 10, After the word "agricultural" insert: "technological and scientific"
- 4. On Page 2, Line 12, After the words "allied courses" insert: "PROVIDED, Furthermore, That no degree program shall be offered without the approval of the Commission on Higher Education before the same shall be approved by its Board."
- 5. On Page 10, Delete Lines 17-19, and replace with: "The President of the University shall be assisted by the Vice-President/s, who shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the President."
- 6. On Page 13, Line 21, insert a new section: "SECTION 22. CHED Monitoring and Evaluation. – The Commission on Higher Education shall conduct regular monitoring and evaluation to determine continuing compliance with the requirements on university status. In the event that the Commission finds that the University does not maintain compliance thereof, it shall submit the appropriate recommendation for the revocation of the University status to the Senate Committee on Education, Arts, and Culture, and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education.
- 7. Renumber the subsequent sections accordingly.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

EDGARDO J. ANGARA Chairperson Committee on Finance Member Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

GRIGORIO B. HONASAN II *Vice Chair*, Committee on Finance

MAR ROXAS Chairperson Committee on Education, Arts and Culture Member, Committee on Finance

JOKER P. ARROYO Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

Members

RICHARD J. GORDON Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

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PIA "COMPANERA" S. CAYETANO Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO Committee on Finance



FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO Committee on Education, Arts and Culture



Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

RAMON'B. REVILLA JR. Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

LOREN B. LEGARDA Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

M. LACSON \mathbf{P}_{i} Committee on Finance

M.A. MADRIGAL Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

RODOLFO O. BIAZON

Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

MANNY R Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Committee on Finance

ANTONIO F. TRILLANES IV Committee on Finance

Ex-Officio Members

JINGCOY EJERCITO ESTRADA President Pro-Tempore

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI Majority Leader

Jeladsstand of CHED 7

AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR. Mingrity Leader

HON. JUAN PONCE ENRILE *President* Senate of the Philippines

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4409

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHUNGALAO, VILLAR, LAGMAN, JAVIER AND REMULLA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 747

AN ACT CONVERTING THE IFUGAO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMUT AND ALL ITS EXISTING EXTENSION CAMPUSES LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE IFUGAO STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Conversion. - The Ifugao State College of Agriculture and 1 Forestry (ISCAF) in the Municipality of Lamut, including its existing branches, 2 3 namely: the Potia Campus in the Municipality of Alfonso Lista; the Lagawe Campus in the capital town of Lagawe; and the Tinoc Campus in the 4 Municipality of Tinoc, all located in the Province of Ifugao, is hereby 5 converted into a state university to be known as the Ifugao State University, 6 hereinafter referred to as the University. The main campus of the University 7 8 shall be in Lamut, Ifugao, SEC. 2. General Mandate. - The University shall primarily provide 9 advanced instruction and professional training in education, law, arts and 10

11 sciences, public administration, information technology, accountancy, business

and industry, agriculture and forestry, engineering and other relevant fields of
 study. It shall also undertake research and extension services, and provide
 progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

SEC. 3. Curricular Offerings. - The University shall offer 4 undergraduate, graduate and short-term technical courses within its areas of 5 specialization and according to its capabilities as the Board of Regents may б 7 deem necessary to carry out its objectives in order to meet the needs of the Province of Ifugao and the Cordillera Administrative and the Cagayan Valley 8 9 Regions: Provided, That the University shall retain its original mandate as 10 primarily an agricultural institution: Provided, further, That in the case of graduate courses, the University shall strengthen its masteral and doctorate 11 12 degree programs in agriculture and allied courses.

13 The existing high school/s shall be transferred to the jurisdiction and 14 supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd): *Provided*, That the high 15 school/s shall be allowed to remain and operate within the campus of the 16 University until the existing students shall have completed their high school 17 education: *Provided, further*, That the University may operate a reasonably-18 sized laboratory school, if it has a College of Education.

19 SEC. 4. Administration. – The University shall have the general powers 20 of a corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise 21 known as the "Corporation Code of the Philippines". The administration of the 22 University and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively 23 in the Board of Regents and the President of the University.

SEC. 5. The Governing Board. - The governing board of the
University shall be the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board,
which shall be composed of the following:

27 (a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED),28 Chairperson;

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(b) The President of the University, Vice Chairperson;

(c) The Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

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of the Senate, member;

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(d) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technicai 4 5 Education of the House of Representatives, member;

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(e) The Regional Director of the National Economic and Development 6 Authority (NEDA), member; 7

8 (f) The Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture (DA);

9 (g) The President of the federation of faculty associations of the 10 University, member;

(h) The President of the federation of student councils of the 11 12 University, member;

(i) The President of the federation of alumni associations of the 13 University, member; and 14

(j) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have 15 distinguished themselves in their profession or fields of specialization of the 16 17 University, members.

The Board shall appoint the two (2) prominent citizens from among a 18 list of at least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of Ifugao, as 19 recommended by the search committee constituted by the University President, 20 in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and the other members of 21

the Board, based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position. 22

The term of office of the President of the federation of faculty 23

associations, the President of the federation of student councils and the 24

President of the federation of alumni associations shall be coterminous with 25

their respective terms of office, as set forth in their respective constitutions and 26

27 bylaws.

The two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for a term of two (2) years 1 2 from the date of appointment. SEC. 6. Promulgation and Implementation of Policies. ~ The Board 3 shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State 4 policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine 5 Constitution on education, agriculture, science and technology, as well as the 6 policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722, 7 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994". 8 SEC. 7. Powers and Duties of the Board of Regents - The Board shall 9 have the following specific powers and duties, in addition to its general powers 10 of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the board of 11 directors of a corporation under existing laws: 12 (a) To promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry 13 out the purposes and functions of the University; 14 (b) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the 15 support of the University in the manner it may determine, in its discretion, in 16 order to carry out the purposes and functions of the University; 17 (c) To import duty-free economic, technical and cultural books and/or 18 publications, upon certification by the CHED that such imported books and/or 19 publications are for economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, 20 21 historical or cultural purposes, in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff 22 and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended; 23 (d) To receive in trust, legacies, gifts and donations of real properties 24 of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the University and, subject to the limitations, directions and 25 26 instructions of the donor, if any.

27 Such donations shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall 28 be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income in the

computation of the income tax of the donor, in accordance with the provisions
 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended:
 Provided, That such donations shall not be disposed of, transferred or sold;

4 (e) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges such as,
5 but not limited to, matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as
6 the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultations with the
7 involved sectors.

8 Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other 9 income generated by the University, shall constitute special trust funds and 10 shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank, and all 11 interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the 12 use of the University.

Any provision of existing laws, rules and regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the University from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the University, and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension or other programs/projects of the University: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purpose for which these are collected.

If, for reason beyond its control, the University shall not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the atlainment of the objectives and goals of the University;

25 (f) To adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other
26 school fees for greater access to poor but deserving students;

(g) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;

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4 (h) To appoint, upon recommendation of the President of the
5 University, Vice Presidents, deans, directors, heads of departments, faculty
6 members and other officials and employees of the University;

7 (i) To fix and adjust salaries of faculty members and administrative 8 officials and employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised 9 Compensation and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service and such other duties and 10 11 conditions as it may deem proper; to grant them, at its discretion, leaves of 12 absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding; and to remove them for cause in 13 accordance with the requirements of due process of law; 14

(j) To approve the curricula, instructional programs and rules of
 discipline drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils as herein
 provided;

(k) To set policies on admission and graduation of students;

(1) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their
outstanding contribution in the fields of agriculture, public service, arts,
science and technology, education or in any field of specialization within the
academic competence of the University; and to authorize the awarding of
certificate of completion of nondegree and nontraditional courses;

(m) To establish and absorb nonchartered tertiary institutions within
the Province of Ifugao as branches and extension centers of the University in
coordination with the CHED, and in consultation with the Department of
Budget and Management (DBM), and to offer therein programs or courses to

1 promote and carry out equal and greater access to educational opportunities as

2 mandated by the Constitution;

3 (n) To establish research and extension centers of the University where
4 such will promote the development of the latter;

5 (o) To establish professorial chairs in the University and to provide 6 fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving 7 students;

8 (p) To delegate any of its powers and duties provided for hereinabove 9 to the President or Officer-in-Charge and/or other officials of the University as 10 it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of 11 the University;

(q) To authorize an external management audit of the University, to be
financed by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission
on Audit (COA); and to institute reforms, including academic and structural
changes, on the basis of audit results and recommendations;

(r) To collaborate with other governing boards of state universities and
colleges within the Province of Ifugao or the Cordillera Administrative
Region, under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with the DBM,
and work towards the restructuring of the University to become more efficient,
relevant, productive and competitive;

(s) To enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the
profitable development and management of the economic assets of the
University, the proceeds from which shall be used for the development and
strengthening of the same;

(t) To develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with
local government units (LGUs), institutions and agencies, both public and
private, local and foreign, in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of
the University;

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1 (u) To develop academic arrangements for institutional capability 2 building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public and private, local 3 and foreign, and to appoint experts/specialists as consultants, part-time or 4 visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;

5 (v) To set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of 6 transmitting knowledge such as the use of information technology, the dual 7 learning system, open learning or distance education and community 8 laboratory for the promotion of greater access to higher education and 9 graduate studies, as the case may be;

(w) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative
decision-making and transparency within the University;

12 (x) To privatize, where most advantageous to the University, the
13 management of nonacademic services such as health, food, building, grounds
14 or property maintenance and such other similar activities; and

15 (y) To extend the term of the President of the University beyond the 16 age of retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70), whose performance 17 has been unanimously rated by the Board as outstanding based on the 18 guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board, after unanimous 19 recommendation by the search committee.

SEC. 8. Meetings of the Board. – The Board shall regularly convene at least once every quarter. However, the Chairperson of the Board may, upon three (3) days' prior written notice, call a maximum of two (2) special meetings whenever necessary.

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

In the absence of the Chairperson of the CHED, a Commissioner of the 1 CHED, duly designated by him/her, shall represent him/her in the meeting with 2 all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: Provided, however, 3 That during this meeting, the President of the University as Vice Chairperson 4 shall be the Presiding Officer: Provided, further, That this proviso 5 notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to б 7 designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chair of the Board, in which case said CHED Commissioner shall act as the Presiding Officer. 8

9 In case the Chairpersons of the Congressional Committees on Education 10 shall not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may duly designate their 11 respective representatives to attend the said meeting, who shall have the same 12 rights and responsibilities as a regular member of the Board.

13 The members of the Board shall not receive any salary but shall be 14 entitled to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either 15 in their attendance to meetings of the Board or in connection with other 16 official business authorized by resolution of the Board, subject to existing laws 17 and regulations.

SEC. 9. The University President - The University shall be headed by 18 19 a President, who shall render full-time service. He/She shall be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the 20 board, upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. He/She 21 shall have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for 22 23 another term: Provided, That in order to effect a smooth transition to a state university, the incumbent President of the Ifugao State College of Agriculture 24 and Forestry, if qualified, shall serve as the first President of the University. 25 26 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the

incumbent President of the University, the Board shall constitute the SearchCommittee for the Presidency (SCP).

In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, 1 2 compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of his/her office, the Board shall designate 3 an Officer-in-Charge of the University within six (6) months from the date of 4 5 vacancy, pending the appointment of a new President. In case of vacancy in the Office of the President as mentioned in the 6 7 immediately preceding paragraph, his/her successor or the Officer-in-Charge 8 shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term. 9 The powers and duties of the President of the University, in addition to 10 those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of similar universities, and those delegated by the 11 12 Board. 13 The salary of the President of the University shall be in accordance with 14 the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System and shall be comparable to that being received by the Presidents of similar educational 15 institutions. 16 17 The President of the University shall be assisted by a Vice President for Academic Affairs and a Vice President for Administration, who shall be 18 19 appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the President. SEC, 10. Heads of University Campuses. - Campus Directors shall 20 21 head the University campuses and they shall render full-time service. They shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the search 22 23 committee and the University President, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board: Provided, That the incumbent 24 college administrators of the extension campuses shall serve as Campus 25 Directors of their respective campuses. 26 SEC. 11. The Administrative Council. 27 There shall be an

28 Administrative Council consisting of the President of the University as

1 Chairperson, Vice Presidents, deans, directors and other officials of equal rank as members, whose duty is to review and recommend to the Board the policies 2 governing the administration, management and development of the University 3 4 for appropriate action. SEC. 12. The Academic Council. - There shall be an Academic 5 Council to be composed of the President of the University, who shall act as 6 Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant 7 8 professor, as members. 9 The Academic Council shall have the power to review and recommend 10 the curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the University, subject to the appropriate action by the Board. It shall fix the requirements for the admission 11 12 of students, as well as for their graduation and conferment of degrees, subject to review and/or approval by the Board through the President of the 13 University. It shall have the disciplinary power over students of the University 14 and shall formulate academic policies and rules and regulations on discipline, 15 16 subject to the approval of the Board. SEC. 13. The Secretary of the University. - The Board shall appoint a 17 secretary, who shall serve as such for both the Board and the University, and 18 19 shall keep all records and proceedings of the Board. He/She shall serve upon 20 each member of the Board the appropriate notice of the Board meetings. SEC. 14. The Treasurer of the University. - The Treasurer of the 21 Philippines shall be the ex officio treasurer of the University. 22 23 SEC. 15. The Faculty - No religious opinion or affiliation shall be a 24 matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the University: 25 Provided, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board: Provided, further, That no 26

27 member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or28 religious sect.

1 SEC. 16. Scholarship Program/Admission. - The University shall 2 provide a scholarship program and other affirmative action programs to assist 3 poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the University 4 No student shall be denied admission to the University by reason of sex, religion, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin. 5 SEC. 17. Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy. - The 6 7 University shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy, pursuant 8 to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution of the Republic of 9 the Philippines. 10 SEC. 18. Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus/Equipment/Supplies 11 and Detail of Personnel. - The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national 12 government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the President of the University, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be 13 14 needed by the University, and to detail employees for duty therein when, in the 15 judgment of the head of the bureau or office, such apparatus, equipment, 16 supplies or services of such employees can be spared without serious detriment 17 to the public service. 18 The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the President of the University, and the time so employed shall be counted 19 20 as part of their regular services. 21 SEC. 19. Assets, Liabilities and Personnel. - All assets, fixed and 22 movable, personnel and records of the Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry, as well as liabilities or obligations, are hereby transferred to the 23 University: Provided, however, That the positions, rights and security of tenure 24 25 of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the conversion into a University shall be respected. 26 All parcels of land belonging to the government and occupied by the 27 28 Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry are hereby declared to be

1 property of the University, and shall be titled under that name: *Provided*, That

should the University cease to exist or be abolished or should such parcels of
land aforementioned be no longer needed by the University, the same shall

4 revert to the LGUs concerned.

5 SEC. 20. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the 6 provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's 7 appropriations of the Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry, except 8 the sums needed to continue the operations of the existing high school/s. 9 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and 10 maintenance of the Ifugao State University shall be included in the annual 11 General Appropriations Act.

12 SEC. 21. Development Plan, Management Audit, Organizational/ 13 Administrative/Academic Structure. – Within the period of one hundred twenty 14 (120) days after the approval of this Act, the University shall accomplish the 15 following:

16 (a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its
17 corresponding program budget to the CHED, for corresponding
18 recommendation to the DBM;

19 (b) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with the CHED; and

20 (c) Accordingly set up its organizational, administrative as well as
21 academic structure, including the appointment of the key officials of the
22 University.

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

SEC. 23. Suppletory Application. - The provisions of Republic Act I 2 No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 3 1997", shall be an integral part of this Act and shall serve as part of the 4 Governing Charter of the University. 5 SEC. 24. Parity Clause. - All other powers, functions and privileges, responsibilities and limitations to state universities and/or their officials under 6 existing laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the University 7 8 and/or its officials, whenever appropriate. 9 SEC. 25. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall formulate the guidelines to fully implement 10 11 the provisions of this Act. 12 SEC. 26. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining 13 parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect. 14 SEC. 27. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive 15 orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of 16 17 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. 18 SEC. 28. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after 19 its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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Approved,