ONE UP in ONE UP: UP VISAYAS IN UP’s SECOND CENTURY

Vision for the University of the Philippines Visayas

By

Alice Joan G. Ferrer
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In my 24\(^1\) years at UPV, I have always hoped for a UPV in which students, faculty and staff thrive and the Filipino people benefit. It is an aspiration in which UPV is the recognized leader among universities in the country and in the region in the area of fisheries and aquatic sciences for teaching, research, scholarship, creative activity and public engagement and service.

Moving towards this direction would depend largely on the quality, dedication and commitment of the members of the UPV Community - its students, faculty, staff and the alumni. The University should nurture such dedication and commitment by providing an environment conducive for the promotion of outstanding performance of its members.

Achieving this state for UPV is not feasible in three years but from the existing plans, program, and projects, we can sustain the good ones, enhance those with potential and discard the irrelevant and inefficient. New plans can be initiated and can be continued by others later. All these efforts are directed towards the fulfillment of a vision for One UPV in One UP, the only national university in the country.

Towards the One UP in One UPV direction, the following are of prime importance:

1. Support the promotion of One UPV in One UP through intercampus teaching and research and development collaborations;
2. Strengthen teaching skills and initiatives through technological innovations (eLearning);
3. Promote excellence in research through interdisciplinary collaborations;
4. Advance public service through research translation and technology transfer; and,
5. Promote history, culture and the arts.

To attain the above plans we need to:

1. Improve resource generation by increasing land use and utilization;
2. Promote student development and welfare by participatory governance;
3. Boost staff development and welfare through a university human resource development plan;
4. Raise administrative efficiency with the development of electronic communication records and databases; and,
5. Strengthen alumni engagement.

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\(^{1}\) I started at UPV as a college student (1987), then faculty member (1991), and administrator (2002).
Support the promotion of One UP and One UPV through intercampus teaching and research and development collaboration

UPV as a UP institution shares the ideals of honor and excellence in providing UP education to a wide community of students. It is distinct because of its mandate as the National Center for Fisheries and Marine Sciences. With campuses in Region VI (Miagao and Iloilo City) and Region VIII (Tacloban City), UPV provides students in these regions the opportunity to access the distinctive UP education without moving to Manila.

To achieve oneness with the UP family, the development of complementary instruction and research and development programs must be supported. Specifically, academic courses that can be taught systemwide utilizing the different skills set and expertise of the respective constituent units can be developed and implemented. Moreover, support is needed for the development and sharing of proposals on resource generation and developing new and emerging technologies.

Similarly, to achieve One UPV, a specific agenda in line with the mandate must be supported. The opportunities for unity and collaboration are with the Revitalized General Education Program (RGEP) courses, the development of Curriculum Enrichment and Teacher Competency Upgrading Program in the Visayas and with the newly instituted UPV Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Program that envisions UPV to be the lead ICM Center in the country.

Strengthen instructional skills and initiatives through technological innovations

UPV is in the forefront of learning and teaching. Teachers are committed to the success of the students and of the UPV Community. To achieve this, UPV must support, promote, and enhance teaching effectiveness and student learning. To accomplish this, there is a need to:

- Advocate for appropriate use of technology specifically Information Communication Technologies (ICT) in enhancing teaching and learning (the use of e-learning systems to support Revitalized General Education Program and other courses, use of social software wikis, blogs, podcast, vodcast; training teachers on e-learning);
- Foster innovations in teaching by identifying venues for developing creative ideas and sharing of teaching innovations;
- Create new programs in line with the mandate of UPV and where UPV can carve a niche distinct from other constituent units of the UP System (Coastal Engineering and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM));
- Enrich existing programs such as the integration of ICM concepts in appropriate undergraduate program offerings;
- Enhance incentives by facilitating the professional and intellectual development of the faculty (new faculty orientation, training and continuous retooling, support for higher studies and training, documentation of output, Intellectual Property protection, promotion and recognition of accomplishments, teacher performance review);
- Enhance teaching support facilities (library modernization and the improvement in the collection and access to online journals, improvement in laboratories, conversion of regular classrooms into "technology"(enhanced) classrooms); and,
- Sustain a culture that recognizes and rewards good teaching (awards/recognitions).

Promote excellence in research through interdisciplinary collaboration

UPV is a leading research institution with a strong research capability and an agenda in line with the mandate of the University. To achieve this, we need to:

- Promote interdisciplinary and collaborative researches aligned with the national development agenda. Particularly, it should pursue researches that will yield information useful for decision-making and in the design and development of coastal management interventions;
• Strengthen research capability, particularly of junior faculty members through a system of awards. In the research training award, the junior faculty will compete for a slot to be trained and mentored on research proposal making and implementation by senior faculty researchers through lectures, oral presentations and one-on-one sessions. Participants compete for in-house funding;

• Strengthen research skills of students and preparing them to apply these skills in real work scenario (undergraduate course requiring research projects, graduate research conference);

• Protect intellectual property of relevant researches and products (need to assess available technologies in the university and the application of patents and copyrights when needed);

• Mentor young researchers on writing for publication to increase the publication profile of the university (ISI journals, policy papers, and more);

• Enhance capacity of researchers to seek highly competitive research grants; and,  

• Enhance research support facilities through upgrading of research laboratories.

**Advancement of public service through research translation and technology transfer**

UPV has a strong presence and impact in the larger community. As a constituent unit of UP, the national university, UPV recognizes its special obligation to the Filipino people by helping them improve their lives. To accomplish this, there is a need to:

- Promote translation of research knowledge into effective plans and actions to enable research to have an impact where it should and could (research results sharing to ensure results are in the hands of policy makers and the end-users where it can be turned into action);

- Technology development, packaging and transfer and Intellectual Property protection;

- Elucidate local and national issues, particularly those in line with the mandate of the University. Experts from UPV should give their expert opinions on issues affecting society and the environment. Promote closer relation of the University with the larger community;

- Reengineering the Information and Publication Office to become the Information and Public Affairs Office, strong partnership with the host municipality of Miagao and the nearby municipalities and the province; UPV ICM Program’s has strong engagement in coastal communities through LGU alliances and in other fisheries schools nationwide, enhancement of existing facilities to reach out to the community such as the conversion of Inter-School Broadcast Laboratory to DYUP where a program to reach out to nearby fishing communities can be established, student practicum in communities in relevant degree programs, support to student organization public service programs).

**Promotion of history, culture and the arts**

Members of the UPV community are aware of the history of UPV and supports local culture and the arts. To achieve this, we need to:

- Establish the “Wall of UPV History” and labeling and tagging of important spots, places in the university to highlight their historical value;

- Promote Iloilo City and Tacloban campuses as regional centers for Arts and Culture;

- Launch Oblation Play, a venue for students to show their creativity in tackling issues of social relevance (probably to start the December celebration);

- Strengthen existing programs and activities on culture and the arts; and,

- Accreditation of dance and singing groups in the University promoting local culture.
Improve resource generation by increasing land use and utilization

UPV is maximizing financial gains from its assets to provide additional resources to support its operation. But by embarking on revenue generation, the University does not absolve the national government of its responsibility to allocate funds to UP education. We accomplish this by:

- Funds generation from UPV properties. The greatest asset of UPV is its lands, a large portion is idle. Need to efficiently use these assets through the conceptualization and implementation of academic support facilities, which are also development projects with potential to generate funds for UPV. Currently, this includes the Diwata Shore, the LoveNature! Park, the Blue and Green Technology Village, UPV-Farmers Partnership. These projects are on different levels of development and should be continued;
- Promoting entrepreneurship in the university (training on entrepreneurship to members of UPV community, establishment of Enterprise Club, access to IGP funds);
- Intellectual property management;
- Enhancing internal capability to package programs and projects to attract funders especially for big development projects in Miagao Campus (building for College of Management, School of Technology, UP Main Library), City Campus, and Tacloban Campus; and,
- Strengthening of partnership with the private sector; and,
- Expanding Financial Resources Administrative Staff to become the UPV Income Generation Office.

Promote student development and welfare through participatory governance

UPV is a university that greatly values its students. It provides them with an environment that will nurture and develop their full potential. We can achieve this by:

- Reengineering of the Office of Student Affairs to boost student participatory consultation and to become more attuned to the needs of the students (such as housing, food, improved academic performance); to implement programs that will encourage values formation (integrity, nationalism, environmental concern) and towards the identification and promotion of activities toward students’ social and professional development: listen and respond to students’ concerns;
- Provide opportunities for student development and learning through leadership and co-curricular experiences in environments that are supportive, challenging, and inclusive (observance of Student Week Celebration where a group of selected student “take over” the reins of the University; acceptance of OJT of students in offices of the University; promotion of student attendance to conferences and support them in competitions);
- Promotion of InfoBoard and dialogues with the administration as venue for students to give feedback and comments; and,
- Promotion of educational environment free from all forms of intimidation and harassment.

Boost staff development and welfare through a human resource development plan

UPV is a university that greatly values its staff who are dedicated to the success of the faculty and the students. The University will provide an environment conducive to outstanding performance of the staff. To achieve this, we need to:

- Reengineer the HRDO to function for the development of the university’s human resources. A university human resource development plan should be put in place;
- Facilitate the professional and intellectual development of staff (a program for the staff who has been serving the University to obtain the necessary eligibility for hiring like review class for those in need of civil service eligibility exam and to tap the OCEP to provide the training; regular training on Essential Administrative Assistance Skills);
- Support the wellness program to promote healthy workforce;
- Support further training and higher studies for deserving members of the staff;
• Provide sensitive and effective support through a variety of sources to help the staff resolve personal and workplace concerns, problems and difficulties they may encounter; and,
• Provide service for the sensitization of staff and units of the university to welfare issues through the provision of information, workshops and training courses.

Raise administrative efficiency with the development of electronic communication records and databases

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<th>UPV is efficient in service delivery. This can be done through</th>
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<td>• Improve service delivery (use of Voice Over Internet Protocol for the offices/units in all campuses &amp; stations, use of document tracking system, reduction on volume of paper, intranet as repository of memos and the likes, timely releases of financial benefits, webinars, podcasting);</td>
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<td>• Upgrading of UPV ICT infrastructure; improved internet and intranet services</td>
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<td>• Broadcast of emergency and important information through the InfoBoard and improved Intranet and Internet;</td>
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<td>• Promotion of transparency (need for the delivery of the State of the University Address during opening of classes in June); and,</td>
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<td>• Advocacy for increased budgetary support in the education sector. The decreasing budget for education in the country is alarming.</td>
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Strengthen alumni engagement

UPV has a strong pool of alumni actively participating and highly visible in the campus. To achieve this, we need to:

| • Increase alumni attendance to Graduation, UP and Miagao Day, Sportsfest, UP Presence in Iloilo, Lantern Parade and other activities; |
| • Strengthen partnership between the Office of Alumni Relations and the UP Alumni Association (UPAA) in Iloilo in implementing programs and activities that generate funds; |
| • Bring in the college alumni – “the missing alumni” through the academic groups, student organizations, and fraternities/sororities; |
| • “Connect with UPV”, a program to reach out and connect to current and future alumni, parents, and friends on what is going on in UPV through print and electronic communication (internet and the UPV InfoBoard) with the help of Class Agents (persons tasked to connect classmates with UPV); and, |
| • Launch alumni news portion in UPV publication or the alumni e-news. |

Achieving One UPV is a possible dream. The different units of UPV must collaborate, coordinate, complement, and correspond so that UPV can move better towards achieving its lofty goals. We start the force and the path that will unite and integrate the many separate entities of UPV into one new entity. With a robust and united UPV, we can fulfil our mandate in UP’s Second Century. #