A Vision for UPV
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The short three-year term of a UPV chancellor is a direct challenge to realizing one’s vision for the university. The challenge of course is in inspiring the younger generation to share that vision so that it can eventually be realized.

In that context, what follows will be a program of action that, although not very original, has inspired us enough to carry it forward as a guide. It will serve as a concrete roadmap for the next three years, at the end of which we hope to inspire others to make it their own and continue the drive to its eventual realization. By its very nature therefore, the act of concretizing visions is necessarily a collective endeavor that spans not just disciplines but generations of like-minded academics.

**Academic Affairs**

- The institution of new GE courses that have global, national and local perspectives and flavors will be encouraged. The Philippine Studies domain, apart from the usual clusters like AH, ST and SSP, shall be expanded.
- Synergism will be encouraged in instituting new graduate programs that will be implemented with faculty resources from all colleges of UP Visayas. It will directly address UPV’s mandate to be the nation’s center of excellence in the aquatic sciences and fisheries. Currently, the flagship college CFOS, is the only unit offering the only PhD program of UPV. To involve the expertise of other colleges, a PhD program in the Marine or Ocean Sciences will be instituted under the Office of the Chancellor that will have chemical, biological, physical, computational and other streams. That way, faculty expertise from other units like CAS, CM, SOTECH or UPVTC can be actively involved in the implementation of the program. At the same time, the program will give UPV a distinctive niche that will set it apart from the other CU’s of the UP system that have their own areas of specialization.
- A comprehensive review of all academic programs will be conducted especially those with student enrollment totals that have leveled off in low figures or are trending downward alarmingly. This will be complemented by activation of a university-wide campaign of student recruitment and orientation that will actively promote UPV’s academic programs in most high schools of Region 6 and 8.
- Parallel to the shift in the faculty reward system towards emphasis in more research activities, all degree-granting units will be encouraged to institute graduate programs starting at the masters level subject to availability of qualified faculty. This is especially true in the many divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences. Along this line, the implementation of the recently-proposed MA Psychology program of the Social Sciences Division of CAS will be fast-tracked. The same fast-tracking will be applied to the PhD in Biology program of the Division of Biological Sciences, CAS.
- Full support will be extended to the Communication and Media Studies program of CAS, especially with regards to the operationalization of their FM transmitter. This involves direct technical support for procurement of hardware and equipment including its installation and power requirements plus UPV-level support to secure our own broadcasting license. Contributions will be actively solicited not only from the divisions within CAS but also from other colleges and units so that a complete 5-day broadcasting schedule from 8am to 5pm can be fleshed out.
- UPV will continue to be an active member in the National Science Consortium which assists DOST-SEI in accelerating the production of MS and PhD graduates in the basic and applied sciences and mathematics throughout the country. By participating in this consortium, UPV will
have access to DOST scholarship slots that will provide graduate students to its MS programs which will in turn serve as feeders to its PhD programs in the future.

Administration

Information Access, Production and Distribution

• The Data and Information Systems Program or DISP will be placed directly under the Office of the Chancellor. It will play a more critical role in implementing steps to apply information technology to various administrative processes so that information from the many offices of central administration are highly accessible and not duplicated needlessly. The networking infrastructure, especially the fiber-optic backbone installed during the term of Chancellor Aguilar is severely underutilized. Many software applications especially in electronic databases are awaiting implementation. These include a personnel management information system for faculty and staff and a health records management system for students. What is needed is a final determined push from the highest policy level within UPV to effect the needed changes so that the university does its share in realizing the e-UP vision of President Pascual. The students, especially from the BS Computer Science program, will be actively involved.

Resource Generation

• The utilization of idle land grants to generate income via rentals/leases for UPV will be a major task to be implemented by central administration. UPV has paid a substantial amount of money to the former owners of major portions of the sprawling campus in Miag-ao and yet the land has remained idle and unproductive. More “out-of-the-box” thinking will be encouraged to generate new revenue streams from these non-performing assets.

• A major challenge will be in following up on the BOR-approved land-use plan for the Iloilo City campus. Here, the exceptionally good relations between the UPV administration and the city government leadership should be utilized so that a working arrangement with the informal settlers and private commercial businesses could be hammered out that will open new revenue streams both for the community and for the university. The specifics will include but not be limited to Build-operate-and-transfer schemes for private businesses combined with commitments from these same businesses to employ current residential occupants of some areas within UPV property and to find suitable relocation areas for them.

Alumni Affairs

• The UPV alumni will play a more active role in resource generation not only through their own personal donations but also through the strategic use of networks within their areas of expertise especially at the international level. With their active involvement UPV can benefit from linkages with their home universities, agencies and private companies.

• The activation of the alumni will be at divisional/institute/college levels. This has already been initiated in CAS with alumni homecomings and elections of officers for alumni groups of the different academic such as the Electrons and the Redbolts. This should be followed by the convening of a congress of alumni with proportional representation from each local/academic unit that will explore innovative ways by which the alumni could contribute to the alma mater. This task will be assigned to the Office of Alumni Relations.

Staff Development

• With the offering of graduate programs by the different units will come opportunities for advancement also by staff members. For example, as a division evolves into an institute, the staff complement will include higher plantilla positions such as administrative officers. This will make staff movement possible for all higher-degree-granting units of UPV.
• Parallel with the computerization of most processes in all central administration offices, training workshops of office staff will be conducted by the DISP especially to upgrade their information technology skills. To save on costs, open-source office solutions will be tested and explored.

• To promote the health and wellbeing of admin/academic staff, the university wellness program will be expanded with the installation of exercise equipment adjacent to the work environments of staff members from the different colleges. In addition, participation in inter-government tournaments will be supported and encouraged.

**Role of Unions in UPV**

• The faculty and staff unions within the university will be recognized as partners in good governance. Feedback from the unions will be actively solicited regarding the selection and evaluation of personnel to head the offices in middle management. The current set-up will be maintained, wherein there is union representation within policy-recommending bodies like the UPV AdPFC, the UPV AcPFC and the college-level AdPC’s. This will ensure transparency in decision-making and an incentive system based on merit.

**Research, Extension and Creative Works**

**Research**

• Research bodies of the university such as the Center for West Visayan Studies (CWVS), the Institute of Fisheries Policy and Development Studies (IFPDS), the National Institute of Biology and Biotechnology (NIMBB) and others will have be consolidated and/or rationalized.

A UPV-wide conference/workshop of directors, faculty researchers and REPS from these research units and from all colleges within UPV will be organized and conducted by the OVCRE to craft an **Research Thrusts and Programs Master Plan**. It will be an integration of the research thrusts and program of each college with a view towards addressing UPV’s mandate of excellence in the marine sciences and fisheries. While each faculty and researcher is encouraged to conduct his/her own according to discipline, it is better to have an umbrella research program that encompasses all disciplines. In this way, it would be easy to attract potential funding agencies or even funding schemes within the UP System. Moreover, with this plan, all UPV researchers will know where their own individual contributions can be incorporated.

• A good incentive for active researchers would be to increase the allotment for the UPV In House Research grant especially if the topic of research is in response to an issue of national interest such as the latest fishkill phenomena in Luzon.

• While there is a reward system under the UP system (e.g., Intl Publication Awards) for papers and books published in ISI journals and reputable institutions, UPV should have its counterpart amount. Since there is a financial constraint, this reward system **should first be applied to publications which are funded by UPV In House grant**. This is also a way of recognizing the works of highly productive individuals of the University to inspire young minds in the pursuit of excellence, that despite meager resources for research, they are still able to produce highly exceptional results recognized internationally.

• To foster an enabling environment for research productivity, the current policy regarding administrative costs of research projects needs to be revised so that more of this will go to the implementing units rather than to offices of central administration.

• UPV will lobby for a comprehensive UP System-wide review of the faculty promotion instrument to gradually shift toward a distinct bias for research output and knowledge generation.
Extension

- One possible niche that UPV can consider is extension work involving faculty and students in our Public Health and Community Development programs as applied to coastal communities adjacent to our campuses in Miag-ao and Tacloban. Again this will involve synergism among the various colleges and academic units of the university to come up with an integrated, yet uniquely UPV extension program. Moreover, an extension program that has an distinctive bias for activities in the coastal zone will also complement its research strength in the marine sciences.

Arts, Culture and Creative Works

- While UPV’s faculty in the arts and humanities have proven their mettle as critics, more emphasis should now be placed on creating an enabling environment for creators of art in all its forms. This means recognizing artists even among our scientific circles for such combinations are rare and should be encouraged. This also means fine-tuning the artistic equivalent of what the peer-review system is for scientists. The model for this would be the UP System’s Artistic Productivity System. The Chancellor’s Committee for Culture and the Arts shall take the lead in this area.

- The most promising area where creativity of our faculty-artists can be rejuvenated is the long-neglected field of Creative Writing where the rich cultural traditions of both Western and Eastern Visayas can be sources of material. To this end, UPV institutional support will be provided so that UPV faculty-writers could conduct regular creative writing workshops with alternating venues at the Miag-ao and Tacloban campuses.

Faculty, Staff and Student Welfare, Others

- The Office of the Chancellor will set a new realignment of priorities and emphasize knowledge-generation and service to the constituents i.e. the students, the faculty, the staff and the community. This calls for a comprehensive re-engineering and smoothing of functions of the different units of central administration. With the example set at the top office i.e. OC, all units of the central administration are expected to be more “service-oriented” and facilitative rather than obstructionist and threatening. To effect this change, one solution to be explored is the possibility of involving dedicated faculty in the middle management of the central administration and not just as heads of the executive offices.

- To highlight the research-oriented thrust of UPV, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension (OVCRE) will let go of its extension function to focus entirely on research-related activities. It will evolve into the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Publication (OVCRP) and will concentrate on activities fostering research collaboration across colleges. It will take the lead in crafting the Research Thrusts and Programs Master Plan mentioned earlier. It will actively search out funding support for these projects from the UP System, private and government sources. It will assist in research proposal preparation including identification of projects under these programs and the faculty who will head these projects. It will not just be a mere recorder and monitoring unit for university research output. Its monitoring function will be carried out mainly through continuing efforts by all academic units in fully populating the Research and Extension Reporting System (RERS) database with dynamic input from all academic units of UPV. Its publication function will be expanded to cover not only the maintenance of the two UPV journals. It will also embark on initiatives to disseminate UPV research output through the web. With the technical assistance of the DISP, electronic versions of the journals should be available online for exposure to the international audience and the search engines of Google Scholar. The open-access model will be explored and if feasible, implemented.

- The current Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration will be relieved of its auxiliary services function and become the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
(OVCAF). It will oversee central administration offices only but will now handle the financial and resource generation functions currently assigned to OVCPD.

- The existing Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (OVCPD) will be refocused to serve as the extension and community affairs arm of the university. It will become the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Extension, Community Affairs and Services (OVCECAS) that will handle issues involving the relationships of UPV vis-a-vis its various internal and external publics i.e. the faculty, staff, students, industry and the surrounding communities around UPV campuses. Thus its main areas of concern will include security, health services, OSA and the dorms, ASHO, Gender Office and the Office of Alumni Relations. It will be the primary liaison arm with the Miag-ao Municipality and the other LGU’s. It will address student/faculty access to more housing/health and medical services/dormitory/library facilities, places for social gatherings and interactions and alternative providers of food that is safe but cheap. This is especially true for the campuses in Miag-ao and in Iloilo City. The status of food availability for students and faculty especially in the Miag-ao campus is unacceptable principally because of a lack of competing food providers and concessionaires. Private entrepreneurs should be encouraged to come in again and compete with each other so that the prices and the service will improve.

- The students through their councils and organizations should make their voices heard in a comprehensive search process for the next director of the Office of Student Affairs. The OSA Director should approachable, accessible to the students and receptive to their many concerns and problems.

- Finally the perennial cry of our rank and file for staff items shall be given appropriate attention. In consonance with the new DBM policy of withholding funds allotted for unfilled items in the UPV plantilla, urgent yet transparent steps need to be taken to fill up these items with qualified personnel. At the same time, the yearly practice of providing multiple, across-the-board rounds of monetizations of leave credits will need to be reviewed because the funds utilized for these are partly taken from savings generated by unfilled items.