

2023

VISION STATEMENT & AGENDA

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE:

As I seek a second term as Chancellor, I see no reason to craft a new vision for the University. I am, therefore, submitting my original vision statement to the search committee with a few changes. The presentation, however, is enriched with the inclusion of major ongoing thrusts and/or current developments to help mark progress made, under my watch, on each of my five-point agenda.

MY VISION FOR *UP Visayas*

A university that builds on its strengths in teaching, research, and public service to fulfill the general mandate of a national university, while responding in equal measure to specific challenges occasioned by its geographical location. It will be a U.P. Visayas that channels its capabilities to deepen engagement with various communities and lead towards meaningful change in education. These thrusts are to be sustained by anchoring the drive for excellence on a robust commitment to diversity, inclusion, and democratic governance, values which ought to be enacted in the many ways we work and live as an academic community.

The vision may be stated thus:

A world-class institution of higher learning known for excellence in teaching, research, and public service, leading in community engagement and meaningful change in education, and distinguished by a robust commitment to diversity, inclusion, and democratic governance.



5-POINT AGENDA FOR

UP Visayas

1. Building on our strengths in teaching, research, and public service
2. Deepen engagement with our communities
3. Lead towards meaningful change in education
4. Deepen and promote diversity and inclusion in our campuses
5. Reinvigorate democratic governance in the University



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Agenda	Where we are at the moment (milestones)	Corresponding Strategic Reform Program
<p>1. BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS IN TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND PUBLIC SERVICE</p> <p>We have strengths and we need to begin with them. This is a logical first step. We need to think clearly about what our capabilities are so we can harness them more effectively.</p>	<p>A. Consortium-building activities: The Philippine Genome Center Consortium, the TBTI Consortium for small-scale fisheries, and the UGSAD Gender Resource Network, all led by UPV, bring in a total of 75 partner institutions, mostly SUCs. This is in addition to MOUs/MOAs/agreements with 66 SUCs, 5 elementary/secondary schools, 14 private sector entities, 44 institutions/organizations, and 30 foreign HEIs. UPV now leads in the entire UP System in terms of the number of collaborations/partnerships with state universities and colleges (SUCs).</p> <p>B. Upgrading of research capability: Establishment and upgrading of the Philippine Genome Center (PGC) Visayas for the provision of bio-surveillance services (P95 million capability upgrade) and greater efficiency, the institutionalization of the Regional Research Center (RRC). Critical infrastructure, facilities, and equipment completed/provided, and strengthening of UPV's position as Center for R&D in Mollusks with the development of technologies in the production, processing, and commercial use of green mussels, as well as current research on the biology and ecology of wild mollusk species to provide baseline information on the status of these resources.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate the development and introduction of innovative academic programs that capitalize on existing expertise, including but not limited to programs that focus on public health emergencies and environmental disasters in small islands and marine waters. 2. Institutionalize a public service program whose mandate is to explore ways of systematically linking University-based research, teaching, and public service as complementary activities. 3. Increase support for research and publication activities by faculty members. 4. Institutionalize research and publication mentoring for junior faculty members, including those taking advanced degrees as part of tenure requirements. 5. Ensure adequate support for existing University-based academic journals.



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	<p>C. Increasing organizational capability for research: Operationalization of the OVCRE Research Administration Section (RAS) to assist research activities, and the constitution and accreditation of the UPV Research Ethics Board (level 1 accreditation). Also included is the support extended to research and publication mentoring for junior faculty members.</p> <p>D. Leading the charge in knowledge dissemination: 2021 Mollusk Industry Forum, Mussel Investors' Forum, 6th and 7th International Conference on Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, 2023 Conference-Workshop on Indigenous Languages and Sustainable Development Goals, 2023 Training of trainers (ToT) for Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, renewed and greater support for University-based academic journals. Currently, preparations are underway for the International Conference-Workshop on Small Island Landscapes and Ecologies (collaboration between UPV- CWVS and UCLA) this coming January 2024.</p>	<p>6. Work to secure greater government, private sector, and alumni support for research activities, scholarships, financial assistance programs for students, and new inclusive infrastructure.</p> <p>7. Pursue mutually beneficial partnerships with non-profit and non-governmental organizations that seek to utilize University expertise for policy advocacy.</p> <p>8. Establish strong collaborative linkages with various academic and scholarly organizations and work to make the University a leading organizer of academic conferences and scientific meetings.</p> <p>9. Build stronger partnerships with other universities here and abroad, particularly for faculty exchange, research collaboration, and joint graduate programs.</p>



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	<p>E. Pathbreaking initiatives in the arts: Award-winning short films (including UPV's first-ever Famas Award for the film Solo), continuing support for short films, and the launching of the UPV Museum of Arts and Cultural Heritage (with seven galleries, six of which feature Panay artistry).</p> <p>F. Ensuring accountability and quality in our various academic programs: First AUN-QA accreditation for UP Visayas, Seminar-Workshop on Internationalization, Seminar-Workshop on the Institution of Minor Programs, Workshop on Program Redesign, Quality Assurance, and Blended Learning.</p> <p>G. Optimizing use of the University's campuses for teaching, research, and public service: Development of the Miagao campus into a biodiversity hub, and the Iloilo City campus into a culture and heritage hub, supported by new programs such as the Eco Trail, UPV camping grounds, and the UPV Animal Care Program, building of new roads (e.g., academic loop) and new facilities, improvement of existing facilities and services, repair and adaptive reuse of heritage structures, a properly crafted Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP), and an inventory of UPV's natural assets.</p>	<p>10. Support quality assurance initiatives within the UP system, to include external reviews of existing academic programs by national and international accreditation entities.</p> <p>11. Institutionalize ethics review for research done within the University.</p>



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	<p>H. Generating/accessing financial resources outside of UPV's regular budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1.) Research grants (2021 – July 2023): P406,360,676.452.) GAA-funded projects (including congressional insertions): P255,013,0003.) Funds received through UPVFI (research and public service/extension projects, donations through adopt-a-room project, etc.): P54,370,619.37 <p>The total amount generated/accessed is P715,744,295.82.</p>	



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<p>2. DEEPEN ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR COMMUNITIES</p> <p>We must guard against the tendency to position ourselves over and above the communities we ought to serve, mobilizing our capabilities to address concrete community problems and issues. U.P. Visayas must become a publicly engaged university.</p>	<p>A. Program for Coastline Protection and Sustainable Development --- A Resilient Futures Initiative. Deliverables: Stakeholder mapping and engagement, capacity building, and drafting of proposed legislation on coastline protection. The program is funded through the office of Sen. Pia Cayetano.</p> <p>[The general aim of this program is to help ensure that vulnerable communities and ecosystems along the country's physical coastlines survive, and even thrive, in the face of challenges brought about by the climate crisis and its impacts, and other challenges emanating from human activities. In pursuit of its specific deliverables, the program seeks to integrate existing related programs, projects, and activities of the University with a view to harnessing the various capabilities and collaborations that have already been developed.]</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring together research capabilities in the University's flagship program in fisheries and ocean sciences with those in other programs to develop multidimensional approaches to understanding the vulnerabilities of coastal communities. 2. Make the empowerment of marginalized communities a key feature in the development or enhancement of undergraduate and graduate academic programs. 3. Strongly encourage the different sub-units to align academic activities with community needs and also respond to pressing issues.



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	<p>B. Support for greater resilience and innovation in governance: UPV-organized first-ever 2020 Flood Summit in Iloilo City and Province, participation in the Coastal Cities at Risk in the Philippines Project of ADMU (CCARPH), constitution of the UPV Oil Spill Response Team to assist affected local communities, provision of scientific and technical advice to Iloilo City government through the Project Coordinating Council, partnership with the Iloilo City government in the establishment of the Iloilo City Traffic Academy. Technical advice is also provided by the University to regional and national bodies such as the Scientific Advisory Group of three Fisheries Management Areas of BFAR, DENR, National Panel of Technical Experts (Climate Change Commission), DA-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards, and other LGUs.</p>	<p>4. Constantly create opportunities for dialogue between the University and key sectors of society --- media, civil society, business community, etc.</p> <p>5. Mobilize faculty resources in the University in support of effective and innovative local governance.</p> <p>6. Work with local media and other relevant sectors to pursue initiatives that educate and enrich public opinion.</p> <p>7. Develop and institutionalize capacity for translating and communicating research for practical community use.</p> <p>8. Establish training programs that capitalize on existing expertise to support local businesses and encourage entrepreneurship.</p>



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	<p>C. Expanding UPV's footprint in Western Visayas: Completion and operationalization of the UP Visayas Extension Facility in Pandan, Antique (includes the acquisition of additional land area for the facility), ongoing establishment of an extension facility in Roxas City in collaboration with Capiz-based alumni, planned construction of the Gawahon Park Research Station and Community Science Center in Victorias City, Negros Occidental (the project is a collaboration between UPV and the city government of Victorias).</p> <p>D. Doing our share in the fight against fake news and disinformation: Launching of the Bantala Media Excellence Awards, Democracy and Disinformation Project (with ADMU) and other related activities, and the crafting of the first West Visayas Journalist Guide in partnership with the Phil. Press Institute, Hanns Seidel Foundation, and the Iloilo Media-Citizen Council.</p>	<p>9. Push for a leading role for the University in heritage conservation and protection of cultural diversity, in long-term partnership with relevant cultural agencies of government.</p>



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	<p>E. Supporting our entrepreneurs and farmers: Business Incubation Program (10 incubatees graduated, so far), Collaborative Research Agreements (CRA) with Lorenzana Foods Corporation (for mussel condiment) and Trading Room Inc. (for ulva seaweed feed additive), Research Service Agreement with local establishment Vnyard (for Calzinc beverage), establishment of the UPV-PCA Hybrid Coconut Seedfarm in Miagao campus.</p> <p>F. Meeting the challenge in heritage conservation: Ongoing elevation of the Center for West Visayan Studies (CWVS) into a supra-level Center, Antique and Panay cultural mapping projects (total funding so far: P75 million), creation of the Indigenous People’s Resource Center, adaptive reuse of Woman’s Club and Old Highschool buildings (Handumanan Project, funded through the office of then Sen. Franklin Drilon).</p> <p>G. Greater strategic support for Ugnayang Pahinungod/Oblation Corps, particularly its local programs: The Dampig Baybay Program (Capacity-Building for Coastal Communities), Balay Kalagday (UPV Animal Care Program), Pag-Ambit Volunteer Management System (a UPV digital platform for volunteers and would-be volunteers), and Arukahik: The Pahinungod Volunteer Training Program.</p>	



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<p>3. LEAD TOWARDS MEANINGFUL CHANGE IN EDUCATION</p> <p>Leadership is not declared nor claimed, but demonstrated. If we are as good as we think we are, then we should be able to make a difference in people's lives.</p>	<p>A. New academic unit and new possibilities for institutional growth: The establishment and operationalization of the UPV Graduate School, and opening of the UP College of Law Extension program, the UP College of Education Ph.D. programs, and the UP College of Music Ph.D. in Music Studies program. Good enrollment numbers mean that UPV is on track towards eventually establishing its very own School of Law and School or College of Education in the near future.</p> <p>B. New academic programs in the pipeline, and revision of existing ones: Proposals for MS Sustainability, BS Industrial Engineering, BS Coastal Engineering, Professional Masters in Techno-entrepreneurship, and Doctor of Public Administration. Harmonization of the HS Curriculum, revisions of MEd, MS Fisheries, and additional tracks for MM programs in Health Systems Management and Food Systems Management.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritize support for the needs of teacher education institutions and other higher educational institutions in the planning and/or redesign of academic programs. 2. Work to establish the Division of Professional Education as an important center of graduate education by updating the current MEd program and pushing for interdisciplinary graduate programs in education. 3. Strengthen and expand the mandate of the Graduate Program Office to help chart and manage the development of the University's graduate programs. 4. In partnership with alumni, led by those in the technology sector, showcase possibilities in and generate initiatives towards the digital transformation of education through remote learning activities at the U.P. High School in Iloilo.



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	<p>C. Citizenship education: UP Visayas Civic Education program and the establishment of Sibika Hub (in partnership with YouthLed and USAID). Key, service learning, elements of this program will eventually be integrated into the program offerings of the future School or College of Education, as well as into the MS in Sustainability Studies program currently being developed.</p> <p>D. Moving forward with the digital transformation of education: The pandemic has forced the University not only to make hefty investments in improving digital infrastructure, but also reimagine education itself. UPV, with partners/collaborators from other parts of the UP System, is pushing for the digital transformation of education through the development of fully digital and gamified courses, particularly in General Education.</p>	<p>5. Pursue complementary faculty development activities framed by critical perspectives in the sociology and anthropology of education as well as in educational technology.</p> <p>6. Introduce service-learning programs geared towards civic engagement to complement the University's senior high school curriculum.</p> <p>7. In partnership with the Department of Education, develop innovative training programs in civic education, as well as public health and environmental education, to support and enhance the K to 12 curriculum.</p> <p>8. Review and update academic programs to reflect current global trends, emerging fields, and interdisciplinary approaches, as well as encourage the creation of courses that promote inclusivity, social justice, and democratic values.</p>



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<p>4. DEFEND AND PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN OUR CAMPUSES</p> <p>U.P. stands for certain values that have, over the years, nurtured great leaders. Central to all these is academic freedom, which can only be affirmed and measured by how diverse and inclusive life is in the University. This is the reason why we vehemently oppose red-tagging.</p>	<p>A. Regular engagement with relevant government institutions/agencies, particularly those in the security sector, to communicate and clarify UP’s perspective on issues stemming from red-tagging. This also involves establishing open lines of communication with the police, military, and local government leadership for coordination purposes. A key goal of these engagements is keeping UPV’s campuses free from outside interference.</p> <p>B. Provision of legal assistance to UPV student organizations: Aside from the Community Legal Assistance Group created early in 2021, the Office of the Chancellor has designated one of UPV’s lawyers to serve as regular legal consultant to the University Student Council. Legal trainings are also envisioned for university constituents.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renew emphasis on academic freedom as a core value of the University and as the centerpiece of its institutional identity. 2. Encourage and support more student-led and managed activities in the visual, literary, and performing arts. 3. Ensure support for campus journalism and encourage dialogues/interactions between student journalists and media practitioners. 4. Provide venues and safe spaces for the articulation of different worldviews and various ideological projects. 5. Encourage vigorous intellectual exchange and debate on a wide range of pressing local, national, and global issues.



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	<p>C. Institutionalization of the use of lived names and preferred attire by gender non-conforming students during important University activities such as commencement exercises. Where and/or when resources will permit, this will also include the provision of gender-neutral restrooms in certain areas.</p>	<p>6. Work with local governments, relevant agencies, local and national media, and University alumni to protect students and faculty members from threats to security arising from their exercise of academic freedom.</p> <p>7. Strengthen outreach programs to attract students from diverse backgrounds, and establish support services that cater to the needs of students with various abilities, experiences, and identities.</p>



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<p>5. REINVIGORATE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN THE UNIVERSITY</p> <p>Democratic governance is another one of these values. Far from being an inconvenience, it is a strength that we can better appreciate if we stop believing that we always know better than the rest of our colleagues.</p>	<p>A. Defending/protecting the prerogatives of collegial bodies in the University: This includes the prerogatives of academic units and the right of the University Council to decide on matters of academic policy.</p> <p>B. Democratizing the hiring process: Consulting with concerned units before final decision is made on the report submitted by the HRMPSB on the processing and vetting of job applicants for non-teaching positions.</p> <p>C. Engaging key sectors: Periodic consultations/dialogues with the University Student Council on matters that impact on student welfare, and dialogues with the faculty and staff unions on matters affecting faculty and staff welfare.</p> <p>D. Inclusive planning: Stakeholder consultation/participation as a regular feature of University's planning activities (e.g., crafting of the LUDIP and crisis management plan).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish regular sectoral dialogues or town hall meetings as key responsibilities and performance indicators for the University's executive offices. 2. Create robust consultative mechanisms and practices across all sub-units. 3. Work for a collaborative relationship and creative engagement with faculty and staff unions. 4. Initiate the extensive review of decision-making processes in the University in support of greater inclusion and transparency. 5. Participatory planning activities to improve the delivery of various services to constituents and to identify new or unmet needs.



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		<p>6. Formulate, in collaboration with representatives from various offices, comprehensive staff development plans that address the specific needs of administrative personnel and REPS and match the University's evolving requirements.</p> <p>7. Immediate drafting of a community-based and comprehensive crisis management and communication plan.</p> <p>8. Regular consultations with the University alumni and their organizations, and alumni participation in University's planning activities.</p>

