



The University of the Philippines

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DECISIONS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

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1406TH BOR Meeting

26 February 2026

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 - b. UP Manila (*approved by the UP President on 24 February 2026 and by the UP Manila University Council on 13 February 2026*); and,
 - c. UP Tacloban College (*approved by the UP President on 23 February 2026*)

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DECISIONS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

1406th BOR Meeting 26 February 2026

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD

A. GENERAL GOVERNANCE

1. **Appointment of University Officials:**

The Board deliberated on the procedure for evaluating the appointment of University officials, particularly for positions with multiple nominees. President Jimenez proposed that the Board either hear the summary report of the search process from the Search Committee Chair followed by interviews with the nominees, or consider the Chancellor's formal recommendations. After further discussion, the Board agreed to first receive the Chancellor's recommendations for each deanship.

a. **Deanship of the College of Architecture, UP Diliman**

- a.1 President Jimenez provided a brief professional background and track record of the nominees, summarized the Search Committee report, and outlined the issues currently faced by the College of Architecture.
- a.2 Regent Acidre proposed that the University develop a more intentional succession plan and maintain a pool of potential leaders. He suggested that future appointments could be framed in terms of "change" or "continuity," allowing the Board to select candidates not only based on individual qualifications but also on the specific institutional needs of the college at a given time. President Jimenez responded that the administration is

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

A. GENERAL GOVERNANCE (cont'd)

1. Appointment of University Officials: (cont'd)

a. Deanship of the College of Architecture, UP Diliman (cont'd)

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currently developing a Leadership Institute, which aims to provide mandatory management training and a clear “Charter” of responsibilities for all appointees.

a.3 UP Diliman Chancellor Edgardo Carlo Vistan II was then invited to join the meeting to present his recommendations to the Board. After further discussion, the Board approved the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Carmen Bettina S. Bulaong as Dean of the College of Architecture, UP Diliman, effective 26 February 2026 until 25 February 2029.

a.4 The Board also invited the nominees in the meeting to express its appreciation for their willingness to offer themselves as leaders of the College and requested their continued support for the College and the University.

Board Action: The Board appointed of Assoc. Prof. CARMEN BETTINA S. BULAONG as Dean of the College of Architecture, UP Diliman, effective 26 February 2026 until 25 February 2029.

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

A. GENERAL GOVERNANCE (cont'd)

1. Appointment of University Officials: (cont'd)

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b. Deanship of the College of Home Economics, UP Diliman

b.1 Chancellor Vistan then presented to the Board the background and expertise of the nominees for the Deanship of the College of Home Economics (CHE). He discussed his recommendation to the Board, noting that his evaluation was guided by the candidates' experience, rapport, reputation, and acceptability within the College community.

b.2 The Board had a brief discussion on the role of the College in national development. President Jimenez highlighted the College's expertise in Hospitality Management, Food Technology, Clothing Technology, and Early Childhood Development.

b.3 Regent Legarda raised the possibility of collaborating with the College to utilize its knowledge, technologies, skills, and training programs in support of the government's tourism initiatives. She also noted that the College could contribute to government programs on health and nutrition, particularly those addressing childhood stunting.

b.4 President Jimenez also raised the issue of the outdated kitchens and equipment used in the College. Chair Agrupis suggested exploring the 'Upgrading the College Kitchen Facilities for Hospitality and Tourism Students' Program funded by the Commission on Higher Education.

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

A. GENERAL GOVERNANCE (cont'd)

1. Appointment of University Officials: (cont'd)

...

b. Deanship of the College of Home Economics, UP Diliman (cont'd)

...

b.5 Regent Acidre further suggested exploring the possible updating of the College's nomenclature, noting that its current name may not fully highlight the critical industries it serves. He remarked that this could be an issue for the next Dean to consider.

b.6 After further deliberations, the Board approved the appointment of Prof. Joanne R. Bantang as Dean of the College of Home Economics, UP Diliman, effective 26 February 2026 until 25 February 2029.

b.7 Regent Legarda reiterated to the newly appointed Dean her interest in the Clothing Technology program of the CHE, suggesting that initiatives could be explored to support the revival of traditional textiles in line with the Tropical Fabrics Law. She also mentioned the Culinary Heritage Bill and the 'Gulayan sa Paaralan' Program, for which she expressed interest in collaborating not only with the Dean but also with CHE faculty members to integrate the College's expertise into national policy initiatives.

Board Action: The Board appointed Prof. JOANNE R. BANTANG as Dean of the College of Home Economics, UP Diliman, effective 26 February 2026 until 25 February 2029.

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

A. GENERAL GOVERNANCE (cont'd)

1. Appointment of University Officials: (cont'd)

...

c. Deanships of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, UP Diliman and the School of Labor and Industrial Relations, UP Diliman

c.1 Since both the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) and the School of Labor and Industrial Relations (SOLAIR) had lone nominees who were also incumbent Deans, the Board resolved to deliberate on their appointments together.

c.2 After Chancellor Vistan's recommendation and further deliberations, the Board approved the appointment of Prof. Kristoffer B. Berse as Dean of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, and Prof. Melisa R. Serrano as Dean of the School of Labor and Industrial Relations, both effective 26 February 2026 until 25 February 2029. The newly appointed Deans were then invited into the meeting room to respond to answer further queries and/or receive the directives from the Board.

c.3 Regent Legarda sought the insights of Dean Serrano on the Living Wage Bill and the Waste Workers Bill, particularly regarding their possible implications on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In response, Dean Serrano explained that her academic training in labor policy and globalization at the Berlin School of Economics and Law, and in labor studies at the University of Milan, had strengthened her expertise in labor relations and industrial relations. She noted that the world of work is rapidly evolving, with new forms of employment such as gig and platform work

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

A. GENERAL GOVERNANCE (cont'd)

1. Appointment of University Officials: (cont'd)

...

c. Deanships of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, UP Diliman and the School of Labor and Industrial Relations, UP Diliman (cont'd)

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often falling outside traditional labor protections. She emphasized that these developments have significant implications for labor standards and social protection and added that the SOLAIR actively recognizes these changes, and that they continue to advocate for new approaches to extend social protection, citing as an example her recent involvement in developing a roadmap for the formalization of informal waste workers in Quezon City. Regent Gadong pointed out that even certain low salaried employees of the University still receive compensation below the minimum wage. She suggested that this matter be reviewed to ensure compliance with minimum wage standards.

c.4 Meanwhile, as requested by the Board, Dean Berse briefly discussed his initiatives at the NCPAG, highlighting efforts to improve the curriculum, introduce microcredentials, strengthen external engagement, and renovate the College complex. The Board also had further discussions on initiatives that the University may undertake in relation to climate change issues.

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

A. GENERAL GOVERNANCE (cont'd)

1. Appointment of University Officials: (cont'd)

...

- c. Deanships of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, UP Diliman and the School of Labor and Industrial Relations, UP Diliman (cont'd)**

...

Board Action: The Board APPROVED the appointment of the following officials:

- Prof. KRISTOFFER B. BERSE as Dean of the National College of Public Administration and Governance, UP Diliman, effective 26 February 2026 until 25 February 2029; and**
- Prof. MELISA R. SERRANO as Dean of the School of Labor and Industrial Relations, UP Diliman, effective 26 February 2026 until 25 February 2029.**

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

A. GENERAL GOVERNANCE (cont'd)

2. Appointment of University Officials: (cont'd)

...

d. Deanship of the College of Social Sciences, UP Cebu

d.1 Since there was also lone nominee to the Deanship of the UP Cebu College of Social Sciences, the Board approved the appointment of Prof. Regletto Aldrich D. Imbong as Dean of the College of Social Sciences, UP Cebu, effective 26 February 2026 until 25 February 2029.

d.2 UP Cebu Chancellor Leo B. Malagar and Dean Imbong were then invited to the meeting room to respond to the queries of the Regents. Dean Imbong presented a brief overview of his vision for the College.

d.3 After further discussion, President Jimenez encouraged the units to ensure that programs maintain their high quality across all campuses. He noted that strengthening programs in the regional units would help maximize their carrying capacity and help decongest the Diliman campus. He emphasized the continued thrust toward research and graduate education.

Board Action: The Board appointed Prof. REGLETTO ALDRICH D. IMBONG as Dean of the College of Social Sciences, UP Cebu, effective 26 February 2026 until 25 February 2029.

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

...

B. FISCAL MATTERS¹

Regent Pagdanganan informed the members of the Board that Item Nos. 1-12 under Fiscal Matters had already been presented to and deliberated upon by the BOR Finance Committee during its meeting held on 25 February 2026. He then moved for the omnibus approval of the said items. Regent Espanto seconded the motion. There being no objections, the following matters were approved:

- 1. Request for Reprogramming of UP System Administration's unexpended balances from prior years to cover the request for funding of the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Board Action: APPROVED

- 2. Request for Reprogramming of UP System Administration's unexpended balances from prior years to cover the request for funding of the Office of International Linkages (OIL)**

Board Action: APPROVED

- 3. Request for Reprogramming of UP System Administration's unexpended balances from prior years to cover the request for funding of the Information Technology Development Center (ITDC)**

Board Action: APPROVED

¹ In all resolutions involving the disbursement of funds, it is understood that the same must be subject to all existing government accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations.

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

...

B. FISCAL MATTERS¹

...

4. **Request for Reprogramming of UP System Administration's unexpended balances from prior years to cover the request for funding of UP Mindanao**

Board Action: APPROVED

5. **Request for Reprogramming of UP Manila's Unexpended Balances from prior years under the General Fund**

Board Action: APPROVED

6. **Request for Programming of UP Manila's FY 2025 Unprogrammed Income**

Board Action: APPROVED

7. **Request for Realignment of UP Manila's BOR-approved reprogrammed Funds from FYs 2017-2020**

Board Action: APPROVED

¹ In all resolutions involving the disbursement of funds, it is understood that the same must be subject to all existing government accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations.

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

...

B. FISCAL MATTERS¹

...

8. **Proposed funding sources for the construction of the UP Manila National Institutes of Health (NIH) Building Phase 2**

Board Action: APPROVED

9. **Policy on Proper Classification of Internally Generated Income and Management of Trust Receipt**

Board Action: APPROVED

10. **Policy on the Modification of Funds already released by UP System to CUs/AU/PGH and the validity and period extension of Programmed and Reprogrammed Funds**

Board Action: APPROVED

11. **Modification of the Php175,000,000.00 released as “For Comprehensive Release” (FCR) under the FY 2026 GAA for the project “Establishment of the Forensics Institute, Phase II, UP Manila”**

Board Action: APPROVED

12. **Request of the College of Human Kinetics (CHK), UP Diliman for Authority to Purchase Motor Vehicle (APMV) for the procurement of one (1) commuter van**

Board Action: APPROVED

¹ In all resolutions involving the disbursement of funds, it is understood that the same must be subject to all existing government accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations.

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

...

C. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. **Automatic Merit Promotion (MAP) of Asst. Prof. MITCHIRENE KATE G. OYALES, College of Engineering, UP Diliman, from Assistant Professor 7 to Associate Professor 3, effective upon conferment of degree (*for obtaining Ph.D. with merit, 1147th BOR Meeting held on 21 December 2000*):**

- 1.1 Chair Agrupis inquired whether the members of the Board had any queries or objections to the matter. There being none, Regent Gadong moved for the approval of the Automatic Merit Promotion (MAP) of Asst. Prof. MITCHIRENE KATE G. OYALES, College of Engineering, UP Diliman, from Assistant Professor 7 to Associate Professor 3, effective upon conferment of degree. Regent Pagdanganan seconded the motion. There being no objections, the same was approved.

Board Action: APPROVED

2. **Memorandum of Agreement between the University of the Philippines and Cardinal Santos Medical Center for the Expanded eHOPE Benefit Program**

- 2.1 Vice President for Administration Augustus C. Resurreccion briefly discussed the salient features of the Memorandum of Agreement between the University of the Philippines and the Cardinal Santos Medical Center on the eHOPE Benefit Program for UP employees.
- 2.2 After some clarifications, Regent Gadong moved for the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement. Regent Espanto seconded the motion. There being no objections, the Memorandum of Agreement between the University of the Philippines and Cardinal Santos Medical Center was approved. Regent Pagdanganan registered his abstention on the matter.

I. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

...

C. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

...

2. Memorandum of Agreement between the University of the Philippines and Cardinal Santos Medical Center for the Expanded eHOPE Benefit Program (cont'd)

...

2.3 Regent Espanto commended the administration for the initiative to expand the current eHOPE Program for the welfare of the UP employees.

2.4 Vice President Resurreccion further informed the members of the Board that the University has established partnerships with approximately 40 hospitals under the eHOPE Program, noting that these collaborations extend beyond the National Capital Region. He also reminded the Board that the ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement is scheduled to take place immediately after the meeting but will be held at the Octagon Skyline of Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

Board Action: APPROVED

II. MATTERS FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE BOARD

1. Confirmation of the Ad-Interim Appointment of Assoc. Prof. JOSELITO G. FLORENDO as Vice President for Planning and Finance, Effective 16 February 2026 to serve at the Pleasure of the President

1.1. President Jimenez briefly introduced Vice President Joselito G. Florendo to the members of the Board as the new Vice President for Planning and Finance *vice* VP Iryn Y. Balmores,

II. MATTERS FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE BOARD

1. **Confirmation of the Ad-Interim Appointment of Assoc. Prof. JOSELITO G. FLORENDO as Vice President for Planning and Finance, Effective 16 February 2026 to serve at the Pleasure of the President (cont'd)**

...

effective 16 February 2026. Regent Espanto then moved for the confirmation of the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Florendo as Vice President for Planning and Finance, effective 16 February 2026, to serve at the pleasure of the President. There being no objections to the motion duly made and seconded, the same was confirmed.

Board Action: CONFIRMED

2. **Graduation of students whose names are included in the lists submitted by the following Constituent Universities, who have completed all the requirements for their respective degrees/titles as of the end of First and Second Semesters/Trimesters, and Mid-Year AY 2025-2026, or as of the end of term specified, and recommended by their respective University Councils:**

- a. **UP Diliman** (*approved by the UP President on 11 February 2026 and by the UP Diliman University Council ad referendum*)
- b. **UP Manila** (*approved by the UP President on 24 February 2026 and by the UP Manila University Council on 13 February 2026*); and,
- c. **UP Tacloban College** (*approved by the UP President on 23 February 2026*)

- 2.1 Chair Agrupis informed the members of the Board that the lists of graduates had been endorsed by their respective University Councils. Regent Gadong then moved for the confirmation of the graduation of students whose names are included in the lists submitted by the following constituent universities: UP Diliman, UP Manila, and UP Tacloban College. Regent Pagdanganan seconded the motion. There being no objections, the same was confirmed.

Board Action: CONFIRMED

III. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OF THE BOARD

These matters have been transmitted via email to all Regents on 21 February 2026 (*Memorandum No. OSU2026-07-02*).

- 1. Appointment of GERALD PIO M. FRANCO as Director, Office of Admissions, Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, effective 17 December 2025 to serve at the pleasure of the Vice President for Academic Affairs**
- 2. Change of date of UP Baguio's Regular University Council Meeting from 23 February 2026 to 02 March 2026**
- 3. Contracts/Agreements**

The following agreements are compliant with standard and applicable University processes involving the Constituent Universities (CUs) concerned and the University System. They fall under the delegated approving authority of the President, subject to information of the Board on matters not exceeding P150 Million Pesos (1312th BOR Meeting, 29 October 2015).

UP Diliman

	Contract	Nature
1.	Memorandum of Agreement between the University of the Philippines Diliman and the National Museum of the Philippines	<p>The University, through its College of Home Economics (CHE), as lender, and the National Museum (NM), as borrower, regarding the proposed loan agreement for terno sets from the CHE Costume Museum's Jurado Study Collection for the National Museum's upcoming Art Deco Exhibition.</p> <p>Duration: Shall be effective from 2-25 February 2026 with the terno sets to be display for a period of six (6) months</p>

IV. OTHER MATTERS

1. CHED-funded SDG-based research proposal of the Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, UP Manila titled "Evaluation of the 2026 Ligtas Measles-Rubella Supplementary Immunization Activity (MR-SIA) in the National Capital Region: A Pre- and Post-Campaign Seroprevalence Study"

- 1.1 Chair Agrupis informed the members of the Board that the Bantay Tigdas NCR Project had already been submitted to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), but that BOR endorsement was required as a prerequisite for the evaluation by CHED Technical Panel.
- 1.2 Regent Gadong then moved for the approval of the Bantay Tigdas NCR Project of UP Manila titled "Evaluation of the 2026 Ligtas Measles-Rubella Supplementary Immunization Activity (MR-SIA) in the National Capital Region: A Pre- and Post-Campaign Seroprevalence Study" for endorsement to CHED for funding. Regent Espanto seconded the motion. There being no objections, the same was approved.

Board Action: APPROVED

2. Presentation of the Student Regent on the 60th General Assembly of Student Councils Communiqué

- 2.1 Regent Clemente presented the communiqué from the 60th General Assembly of Student Councils (GASC), held from 5–7 February 2026 at UP Diliman. He shared that the assembly convened student leaders from across the UP System under the theme "*Patuloy na Makibaka, Mangahas na Magtagumpay*," reflecting the continuing commitment of student leaders to defend genuinely free and accessible education for their constituents. The communiqué focused on three major areas: (1) budget and student services; (2) academic policies and student welfare; and (3) the protection of democratic and safe spaces within the University.

IV. **OTHER MATTERS** (cont'd)

...

2. **Presentation of the Student Regent on the 60th General Assembly of Student Councils Communique (cont'd)**

...

2.2 On budget and student services, Regent Clemente expressed appreciation for the PHP 6.9 billion increase in the UP's 2026 budget but underscored structural gaps that continue to affect students' lived experiences. He cited, among others, that fewer than 25% of Student Learning Assistance System (SLAS) applicants at UP Los Baños received stipends, as well as reductions in the budgets for Grants-in-Aid Program, Student Assistantship and Graduate Assistantship (SAGA), and Special University Performers-Student Assistantship (SUPSA) compared to previous semesters despite increased demand. He also noted the absence of full-time psychologists at UP Mindanao, limited clinical capacity across the University, and unoccupied dormitory facilities in Mindanao due to delays in occupancy permits. He informed the Board that the GASC adopted Resolution No. 2026-012, which calls for prioritizing funding for housing, health services, and scholarships through targeted planning, clear timelines, defined budget allocations, and accountability mechanisms. He likewise emphasized the importance of meaningful student participation in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of these services.

2.3 On academic policies, Student Regent Clemente raised concerns regarding rigid retention standards and gaps in the implementation of the Return Service Agreement (RSA) at UP Manila. In relation to safe spaces and institutional integrity, he conveyed the students' call for the institutionalization of the use of "lived names", revisions to the 2017 Anti-Sexual Harassment Code, and the institutionalization of a Comprehensive Disaster Risk Response Framework. He also raised concerns about campus militarization, red-tagging, and harassment, stressing that the University must remain a safe space for critical discourse and democratic participation free from coercion and intimidation.

IV. OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

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2. Presentation of the Student Regent on the 60th General Assembly of Student Councils Communique (cont'd)

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- 2.4 Regent Clemente emphasized that the collective positions presented before the Board, supported by unit-level data, are intended as constructive contributions of the students to University governance.
- 2.5 President Jimenez noted that many of the student concerns raised in the communique are aligned with the current Administration's priorities. He clarified that the delay in the UP Mindanao dormitory occupancy was due to new water tank requirements imposed by the Davao City Council. He also presented student statistics based on the University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT), noting an increase in qualifiers from Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA). He added that around 40% of approximately 1,400 qualifiers do not enroll due to financial constraints. He shared that the Administration responded to this concern through the "Lingap Iskolar" Program, a needs-based scholarship intended to support the living expenses of eligible UPCAT qualifiers throughout their college education. The Board subsequently engaged in further discussions on the Lingap Iskolar Program. Regent Legarda encouraged the Administration and expressed her commitment to supporting UPCAT qualifiers in pursuing their studies in UP through financial assistance programs. She underscored the need to ensure that middle-class and underprivileged qualifiers have access to programs that can support their education.
- 2.6 Regent Pagdanganan observed that the statistics presented by President Jimenez on UPCAT qualifiers should be utilized for strategic planning, particularly in determining the capacities of the constituent universities (CUs) to accommodate incoming students.

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IV. OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

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2. **Presentation of the Student Regent on the 60th General Assembly of Student Councils Communiqué (cont'd)**

...

2.7 Chair Agrupis shared that CHED has just launched the Bagong Pilipinas Merit Scholarship Program (BPMSP), which provides merit-based assistance to incoming first-year college students enrolled in priority programs offered by CHED-recognized public or private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with Centers of Excellence (COE) and Centers of Development (COD). She suggested conducting a harmonization meeting between the University's Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and CHED's Scholarship Office to align the Lingap Iskolar guidelines with national scholarship programs and prevent duplication of benefits.

2.8 Regent Acidre suggested that the harmonization meeting between UP and CHED should include a comprehensive overview of the range of scholarships available to students. He likewise suggested maintaining the Lingap Iskolar Program to continue providing additional support to UP students.

2.9 Regent Legarda acknowledged the importance of the Student Regent's report, emphasizing that the concerns raised are valid and significant. She inquired about the reported PHP 20 billion budget deficit for UP for FY 2026, which President Jimenez clarified refers to the difference between the University's proposed budget and the amount provided by the government under the National Expenditure Program (NEP). Regent Legarda requested a list of unfunded projects and infrastructure proposals, suggesting that these may be considered for inclusion in the 2027 budget.

2.10 Senator Legarda expressed grave concern over reports of red-tagging and militarization, particularly at UP Mindanao, and requested documentation of specific incidents so these may be raised with the appropriate government agencies.

IV. OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

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2. Presentation of the Student Regent on the 60th General Assembly of Student Councils Communique (cont'd)

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- 2.11 On the matter of “lived names,” Regent Gadong explained that certain practices already exist in UP Diliman and other units where faculty members address students by their lived names during classes and graduation ceremonies. She clarified that students recognize that official documents fall under different jurisdictions; however, they are requesting that, at the very least, they be addressed by names aligned with their gender identity within classrooms. When asked whether a policy exists, Regent Gadong replied that a policy is already in place but requires system-wide institutionalization. President Jimenez remarked that the matter should form part of a broader community discussion and expressed appreciation for the constructive interventions of the Student Regents and student councils.
- 2.12 Regent Legarda further expressed willingness to align with student councils on initiatives related to scientific integrity and community welfare. Chair Agrupis encouraged the Student Regent to submit an expanded proposal detailing the implementation of the presented student resolutions.
- 2.13 There being no further questions, Regent Gadong moved for the notation of the resolutions presented by Regent Clemente based on the 60th GASC. Regent Legarda encouraged the Student Regent to submit to the Senate specific student proposals aligned with each resolution to enable the Senate to explore avenues for support.

Board Action: NOTED

IV. OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

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3. **FILIPINome: The Filipino National Genome Sequencing Project**

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- 3.1 Philippine Genome Center Executive Director Dr. Eva Cutiongco de la Paz presented the Filipino Genome Sequencing Project (FILIPINome), an initiative to sequence 10,000 Filipino genomes to create a national reference sequence for precision medicine. She emphasized that a local reference is of national importance as most global databases are Eurocentric, often leading to misdiagnosis in Filipinos.
- 3.2 Dr. De la Paz invited the Board to the project's official launch on 26 March 2026, featuring Professor Dame Sue Hill, the Chief Scientific Officer of the National Health (NHS) England. President Jimenez also highlighted the strategic value of the project for health equity and its potential for scaling genomic capabilities to other State Universities and Colleges (SUCs).
- 3.3 President Jimenez added that the Chair had earlier expressed interest in scaling the capability to other State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) to further strengthen the country's role as a regional leader in genome sequencing. Dr. Cutiongco de la Paz explained that sample collection will be conducted throughout the Philippines and that SUCs and other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country will be engaged in the process.
- 3.4 Chair Agrupis welcomed this development and encouraged broader participation from SUCs, particularly those with colleges of medicine. She also invited the members of the Board of Regents to mark their calendars for the upcoming event, describing it as an important milestone in the history of medicine in the Philippines.

Board Action: NOTED



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