



17 October 2023

Dr. ROTACIO S. GRAVOSO

Director

Quality Assurance Center

Visayas State University

Dear Dr. Gravoso,

Greetings!

Ms. Maria Lilia P. Vega of QAC informed ISRDS of the release of the excerpt on the hiring of staff on Job Order status for the AACUP accreditation of the Master of Science in Land Administration and Management (MSLAM) and Master in Land Administration and Management (MLAM). The request to hire two staff was approved but for four months only, i.e., January-April 2024 instead of the requested six months.

The MSLAM and MLAM programs are integral to the University's academic portfolio, aimed at providing high-quality education in land administration and management, including Urban and Environmental Planning. This accreditation is a pivotal step in ensuring that these programs meet the highest standards set by AACUP. At the same time, these programs are taught by faculty members from various departments in the University with multidisciplinary expertise. These faculty members are also assigned duties and responsibilities beyond their instruction workload with MSLAM and MLAM. In light of these, assistance from other staff in preparing the required documents for each of the ten areas for evaluation is essential to secure the accreditation effectively and maintain the integrity and excellence of these programs.

Several vital considerations necessitate the extension of the two job order staff from four months to six months:

1. **Comprehensive Review:** Accreditation demands a comprehensive review of program materials, including faculty qualifications, research, extension, student services, library, and laboratories, among others. The hiring of the job-order staff for six months before the accreditation will allow us enough time to prepare documentation, address shortcomings, and ensure complete alignment with accreditation standards.
2. **Stakeholder Involvement:** Consultations with stakeholders, including students, faculty, and industry professionals, are a vital aspect of the accreditation

process. The hiring of the staff six months prior to the accreditation will permit us to collect extensive input, make any necessary adjustments, and ensure the programs cater to the needs of all involved parties.

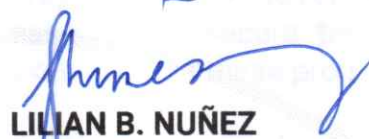
3. **Adaptability:** Accreditation agencies might require additional information before the site visits during the review process. The assistance of the job-order staff will provide the flexibility to respond promptly and effectively to such requests.
4. **Exceptional Quality:** The hiring of the job-order staff six months before the accreditation will allow us to ensure that the MSLAM and MLAM programs meet the minimum accreditation standards and surpass them, positioning us as a leader in land administration and management education in the region.

While we understand the cost implication of hiring the job-order staff for more than the approved four months, the long-term benefits, including program accreditation, a strengthened reputation, and increased enrollment, will outweigh these additional costs. Achieving certification for MSLAM and MLAM programs will position our institution as a paragon of academic excellence in this field, especially since VSU is the only university in Region 8 that offers these unique and multidisciplinary programs.

I kindly request your support to justify the need for hiring the two job-order staff for the accreditation of our MSLAM and MLAM programs for six months, from October 16, 2023 until the date of the accreditation in April 2024. Your support in this matter is highly appreciated, and this consideration will be an investment in our institution's ongoing growth and success.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us at ISRDS. We are grateful for your attention and we look forward to your positive response.

Very truly yours,



LILIAN B. NUÑEZ
Director