



Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin
President
Visayas State University

Dear Sir,

If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants – Isaac Newton

Allow me to say words of gratitude – thank you – for the opportunities that VSU has given me to pursue graduate studies. I see further, thanks to VSU.

Unfortunately, I failed to get the degree. At least for now, I know it's a violation of the contract. Hence the Office of the Chief Legal Officer has issued a Demand Letter. In this connection, may I request a grace period for at least a semester to defend my dissertation. My journey is undoubtedly a learning experience. I hope that these valid reasons merit considerations: 1) I believe I need sound research skills on top of the degree, and 2) personal challenges.

I finished the course work in 1 ½ years including 3 summer classes. I realized that research was apparently not yet evident in the program. I need to find a good mentor to help me fill the gap. I chose Dr. Jay P. Picardal, who at that time has more than a dozen of publications. Fresh from his PhD at DLSU he gladly accepted me in his mentorship. I produced the proposal that focuses on understanding the *extension activities of science educators in the region*. When I am about to defend the proposal, I learned that my adviser is technically not yet a full-fledge PhD holder because he has not yet marched and received his diploma. I chose to reinstate to work than to change the adviser. I believe we started a novel cause for science teachers in teacher education institution.

My reinstatement was untimely, I should say, because of pressing concerns. I needed to help resolve the financial mismanagement of DTE sometime in 2017. The publication output in DTE was minimal. I may have not yet the degree but I started my publication journey since 2017 (please refer to attached Google Scholar printout). A feat I never have while enrolled. I am able to somehow find a way to sustainably help the unit in terms of publication. Our topnotcher, Mr. Perez, currently pursuing his master's study has discover his way to research. Also, my colleagues have re-discover their research skills. I mixed up earning a degree and rendering the return service. I am aware that return service starts only after completion of the degree. What is important is that I am a #proudViscan.

I asked for a semester extension to finished my degree in 2019. It was granted and I am absolutely happy. The happiness turns emptiness when I lost my nanay. Though I managed to collect the data, but it was cold and dark! I accepted a management function as coordinator of CWTS and created an extension project to divert my attention. Before, CWTS is dubbed

as “*silhig-silhig*” subject but now students get life skills (some examples can be accessed here: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXrzOq9FmArPvCQIJ9eaPJrsou_TwC8UD). My extension project is only project existing in the department. Thanks to my dissertation topic, I find a better way to apply my studies. Now, I have 6 months old baby girl, I am back on track. Few days before I received the demand letter, together with my (the same) adviser we have discussed to fast track in 1 semester.

Finally, my quality education is never a straightforward but a journey filled with challenges and learning. I choose to view this way. Sir, may I reiterate my prayer, may I request a grace period for at least a semester to defend my dissertation.

Thank you for the support.

Sincerely,


JOY A. BELLEN
Grantee