



Visayas State College of Agriculture
Baybay, Leyte
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 14, 1999

MEMORANDUM No. 78
Series of 1999

T O: All VISCA Faculty, Administrative Staff and Students

SUBJECT: Relevant Information and Update on the Integration of CHED-Supervised Schools (CSIs) to the VISCA System

1. Special Provision No. 2 of the CHED FY 1999 Budget under the General Appropriation Act of 1999 or RA 8745 on the Integration of CHED-Supervised Institutions (CSIs) to State Universities and Colleges provides that effective 02 January 1999, Phase I of the Integration of CSIs to SUCs shall be implemented pursuant to Section 8.h of RA 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994" and Sec. 4.1 of RA 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997." In this special provision, heads of the concerned CSIs and the Host SUCs are mandated to effect the integration not later than first semester of SY 1999-2000 in accordance with guidelines formulated.
2. Pursuant to the pertinent provisions of RA 7722, RA 8292, and RA 8745 and for the purpose of promoting quality education, rationalization of tertiary education, and maximization of resources, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) of the Office of the President of the Philippines, issued CHED Memorandum Order No. 18, Series of 1999 last 01 June 1999. This CHED Memo specifies that heads of the concerned CSIs and the Host SUC shall effect the integration not later than 31 October 1999.
3. On July 14, 1999, at Leyte Normal University in Tacloban City, CHED Commissioner Kate C. Botengan, together with representatives of CSIs and SUCs in Region 8, held a consultation conference on the Integration of CSIs to SUCs. In said consultation conference, Commissioner Botengan distributed CHED Memo Order 18, S. of 1999 and advised the Host SUCs and the CSIs to take steps in facilitating the integration in line with the CHED Memorandum guidelines so that the integration could be effected in due time.
4. In accordance with the aforesaid CHED Memorandum and provisions of RA 8745, VISCA issued OP Memorandum No. 62, s. of 1999, dated 03 August 1999, inviting representatives of CSIs (INAVS, LSSA, LSSF, and LNCAST) to a "Conference Workshop for the Integration of Four CSIs to VISCA." In a letter dated 09 August 1999, the heads of the four CSIs requested for the postponement of said conference-workshop preferably to 31 October 1999. However, Dr. Ritaga, Superintendent of INAVS suggested the holding earlier of such workshop on September 28, 1999 to which VISCA agreed to serve as host. Invitations were sent to all CSIs to participate in said workshop including DBM and CHED representatives.
5. Responding to a Memo-letter dated August 13, 1999 issued by the VISCA OIC-President Dr. Nerelito P. Pascual, all heads of the CSIs indicated their "confirmation of the integration as provided by law and CHED Memorandum No. 18, s. of 1999."

6. In compliance with Rule IV, Section 10 of the IRR for RA 8292, the heads of the CSIs requested VISCA, through Dr. Roberto C. Guarte, the College/Board Secretary, for a confederation meeting on 31 August 1999 for the presidents of the three sectoral organizations" (alumni, faculty, and students associations) from the CSIs and VISCA.
7. On 26 August 1999, Dr. Roberto C. Guarte, wrote to the heads of the four CSIs and the Presidents of the VISCA Alumni, Faculty, and Student associations, informing them of the Confederation meeting on 02 September 1999, instead of the suggested date of 31 August 1999. CHED Chairman Ester A. Garcia was informed of the said confederation meeting.
8. On 02 September 1999, VISCA hosted the sectoral confederation meeting and provided facilitators for each sector. Prior to the sectoral meetings, it was made clear that the sectoral groups are free to make their plans and decisions as regards their respective confederation. Each sectoral meeting was initially handled by the facilitators and then finally chaired by the elected convening chairman of each group. Minutes of the individual meeting were submitted to the College/Board Secretary.
9. In order to clarify certain issues pertinent to the integration of CSIs to the VISCA System, I conferred with Director Bonifacio N. Acapulco of CHED Region 8 Tacloban City on 13 September 1999.

My inquiry revealed the following relevant information:

- a. That as of this date, the integration of CSIs to VISCA is still *on process* to be fully effected not later than October 31, 1999.
- b. That full integration as defined in CHED Memoranda No. 18, s. of 1999 refers to "complete absorption of CSIs by host SUCs and transfer of governance from CHED to the Governing Boards as mandated under RA No. 7722." Although RA No. 8745 has effected budgetary integration as Phase I of the integration process, the transfer of governance of CSIs from CHED to VISCA has yet to be effected thru BOT and CHED actions.
- c. That it will be after the full integration of the CSIs that the federation of sectoral associations can be officially represented by their respective federation presidents in the Governing Board of the integrated VISCA System, provided that such organizations "have been extended due recognition by the GB to be legitimate and lawful." Attempts to federate sectoral associations or to draft their respective constitution and by-laws are legitimate moves in line with integration process under RA 8292, provided that appropriate recognition by the BOT is sought.

We are therefore appealing to all members of the VISCA community to check first with the Office of the President or CHED before entertaining or believing in second-hand information and to refrain from acts that will destabilize the college and thus adversely affect our academic functions.

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