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R E: Reframing of the Delivery of VSU's Core Programs in the New Normal

The unprecedented crisis brought about by COVID-19 pandemic continues to endanger the economic and sociological development of our society. However, the biggest impact appears to be the uncertainties, threats, and challenges on how to deliver quality higher education to our students while ensuring their safety and well-being. Nevertheless, as part of our mandate, our University has to proactively find ways and solutions so that VSU's core programs and services in instruction, research and extension development, innovation and production continue to be relevant.

In any pandemic like the COVID-19 and those in the past, the key appears to be systematic preparedness. Since the impact of COVID-19 is multidimensional, we need to engage our mindset in preparation, coping, and planning strategies so as to mitigate those impacts not only to our students but in every aspect of our work and services. More than any time in our recent history, it is time for us to regroup and work together to make our University better prepared as we face the new normal and meet the new perspectives and demands of quality higher education, while finding ways to being flexible, inclusive, and innovative in our approaches.

In order to achieve this, we need to embrace the concept of reframing our approaches and strategies. Reframing is the process of refocusing and contextualization of a situation or a problem and finding solutions based on its current context. Given the inequalities and limitations that this national emergency has brought us to, we need to reframe our programs and resources that make the most return in a time like this and in the post-COVID-19 world. Some of the immediate challenges we need to face head on include the following: limited funding resources, travel restrictions, fear of parents sending their students back to school, economic distress and disruption of livelihood among families, new skill sets and teaching modalities that need to be learned by our teachers, poor internet connectivity and limited gadgets, and health, safety and security of all University personnel, among others. How do we prepare ourselves in such challenges, will determine the outcome of our performance in the end.

Attached is a framework you can use as a template in reframing your respective core functions and submit your outputs on or before the 3rd week of June 2020. You may also schedule a consultation meeting with me where necessary.

Please be guided accordingly.

EDGARDO E. TULIN

President