



14 September 2021

**MEMORANDUM NO. 593**

Series of 2021

**T O: All Concerned**

**R E: Visayas State University Committee on Advocates for Resilience  
and Empowerment of Students (VSU CARES)**

In response to the Commission on Human Rights –VIII-ADV-2021-28F21 re: “Advisory on the Different Roles and Responsibilities of Government Agencies under the Mental Health Act” for State Universities and Colleges and all higher education institutions to *“integrate age-appropriate content pertaining to mental health into the curriculum to all degree programs”*, the Visayas State University supports the integration of mental health, wellbeing and resilience of all students through the different learning areas of the curriculum, thus, as proposed by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services (OVPSAS) a University Committee for Mental Health and Well-being called the Visayas State University Committee on Advocates for Resilience and Empowerment of Students (VSU CARES) is hereby created with the following functions:

1. Work collaboratively with both teaching and non-teaching personnel in the identification of strategies, contribute to policies and operational practices;
2. Demonstrate leadership and provide professional learning to others, such as teachers and other school personnel on concepts of resilience as gestures of empowerments;
3. Coordinates with other departments/offices/units (including the Integrated High School and Student Support Services staff) and external service providers, where necessary, to provide support to students;
4. Establish mechanism for strong mentoring system to provide peer positive reinforcement to students;
5. Spearheads online counseling sessions in remote educational era for students to seek assistance from professional counselors and guidance advocates to get appropriate psychological support care;
6. Capacitate faculty and students on concepts of resilience as gesture of empowerment and continued professional development activities; and
7. Create relevant policies and programs/projects to ensure that both faculty and learners manifests a healthy mindset towards resilience.

The committee shall be composed of the following:

## **Steering Committee:**

Chairperson: Dr. Aleli A. Villocino  
Co-Chairperson: Prof. Manolo B. Loreto, Jr.  
Members: Ma. Naide P. Lantajo  
Prof. Mari Cristina P. Buba  
Ms. Reena Rose P. Abonales  
Ms. Camella D. Maliper

## **Sub-Committees:**

### **A. Psycho-Social Support and Counseling**

Chairperson: Ms. Chona A. Brit  
Co-Chairperson: Ms. May C. Pascual  
Members: Ms. Marwen A. Castañeda  
Ms. Mary Ann G. Cobico  
Ms. Christie Cyrene T. Tauy  
Rev. Fr. Gary Esguerra  
Pastor Johua Jireh Salomon

### **B. Faculty Support**

Chairperson: Prof. Jesusa Magno  
Co-Chairperson: Ms. May C. Pascual  
Member: Dr. Nancy D. Abunda  
Co-Chair: Prof. Maricel V. Lim  
Dr. Sheila M. Rabe  
Dr. Joel Q. Mabalhin  
Dr. Christy Desades

### **C. Wellness and Fitness**

Chairperson: Mr. Dennis Joel L. Cerna  
Co-Chairperson: Dr. Sarah W. Tabada  
Members: Ms. Jan Ana M. Salar  
All IHK Instructors

### **D. Gender, Culture & Arts and Media**

Chairperson: Prof. Jude Nonie A. Sales  
Co-Chairperson: Prof. Maria Aurora Teresita W. Tabada  
Members: Prof. Jed Asaph D. Cortes  
Dr. Rhodora A. Bande  
Mr. Buen Josef Andrade

### **E. Stakeholder Representatives**

Community: Barangay Health Worker  
Parent: Ms. Irene T. Plimaco  
Student: USSCF Chairperson  
Committee on Student Welfare and Development

This Memorandum shall take effect immediately until revoked or terminated by higher authorities.

Kindly coordinate with Dr. Aleli A. Villocino, VP for Student Affairs and Services regarding this assignment.

Please be guided accordingly.

  
**EDGARDO E. TULIN**  
President

cc: OVPSAS  
USSO  
USHER  
Records  
File