

146th Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, 31 March 1998
Leyte Normal University
Tacloban City

MINUTES OF THE 146th ViSCA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
31 March 1998, Leyte Normal University, Tacloban City

PRESENT:

DR. ESTER A. GARCIA Commissioner, CHED	.....	Presiding Officer Regular Chair
DR. SAMUEL S. GO President, ViSCA	.....	Vice Chairman
ATTY. ULPIANO SARMIENTO III esq. Regular Representative of HON. EDGARDO J. ANGARA	....	Member (Represented by Dr. Rola)
MS. ADORACION MONSANTO Regular Representative of HON. JOSE CARLOS LACSON	.....	Member
DR. CIRILO R. BALAGAPO JR. Regional Director DA Regional Office VIII	.....	Member
ATTY. BUENAVENTURA C. GO-SOCO JR. Regional Director NEDA Regional Office VIII	..	Member
MR. EFREN B. SAZ President, ViSCA Alumni Association	.....	Member
MR. ALVIN TRUYA President, ViSCA College Supreme Student Council	.....	Member
DR. ROBERTO C. GUARTE College Secretary Visayas State College of Agriculture	.....	Board Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Bonifacio Acapulco	-	Director, CHEDRO-8
Msg. Manuel P. Alonzo Jr.	-	Private Sector
Ms. Norma Cala	-	ViSCA Budget Officer
Mr. Climaco Evangelista	-	Private Sector
Dir. Imelda C. Laceras	-	DBM Representative
Ms. Aster Sevilla	-	Stenographer
Mr. Edmund Talle	-	DBM Representative
Dr. Perla M. Tan	-	ViSCA Faculty Representative

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner E. A. Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. The Board agreed with the suggestion of the Chair to forego items III – VIII A in the Order of Business and to proceed immediately to the approval of the proposed agenda.

II. ROLL CALL

All members of the Board officially holding office were present. The interim ViSCA Faculty representative and representatives from CHEDRO-8, DBM and ViSCA were also present. A quorum was declared.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA

Since this special BOT meeting was officially called to discuss the proposed FY 1999 ViSCA budget, the Chair proposed to include only items 1 and 6 in the proposed agenda which were the confirmation of the result of the referendum on the selection of two private representatives to the governing Board and the proposed FY 1999 ViSCA Budget. Trustee Saz commented that as far as he can remember, it was suggested during the last BOT meeting that the next meeting should discuss the unfinished business to include, among others, the opinion of DOJ on the ViSCA Presidency. He added that the status of the ViSCA Faculty representation in the Board was also included in the agenda but there was no mention about the discussion of the budget. He then suggested to include in the agenda the review of the status of the ViSCA Faculty representative in the Board based on the status of other faculty associations represented in the Board in Region 8. In response, Commissioner E. Garcia informed the Board that this meeting was really intended for the deliberation of the SCUs' proposed budget for 1999 as per CHED Memorandum Circular 5, series of 1998. She indicated, however, to discuss the issue after the deliberation of the Budget. After some discussions, the Board approved the following agenda:

1. Confirmation of the result of the referendum on the selection two private representatives to the governing Board
2. Proposed ViSCA Budget for 1999
3. Review of the status of the ViSCA Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees based on the status of faculty associations represented in the Board in Region 8.

IV. CALENDAR OF BUSINESS

1. **Confirmation of the result of the referendum on the selection of two private representatives to the governing Board**

Questions were raised whether to proceed with the confirmation of the results of the referendum on the selection of two private representatives to the governing Board. Trustee A. Monsanto, inquired from the Chair the proper action the Board should take on the referendum considering that three BOT members declined to endorse their preference. Dr. Rola asked whether the note "declined to sign" simply meant declined to write down their preferences and whether the referendum was agreed upon in the previous meeting. As one of those who declined to sign the referendum, Trustee E. Saz explained that he refused to indicate his choices in the referendum because the Board meeting was just a matter of days and he wanted the Board to deliberate on the issue before making choices.

Commissioner E. A. Garcia clarified that the referendum was not agreed upon during the previous meeting. She pointed out, however, that in the last BOT meeting, a report of the Search Committee on the candidates for the two private sector representatives to the Board was presented. The report was signed by its Chairman, Dr. Vicente Quiton, and its members which included Trustee E. Saz, Student Trustee A. Truya, Dr. Perla Tan of the ViSCA Faculty Association, and Mr. Simcon Sedrome, the Secretary. One member, Dr. N. Pascual, failed to sign because he was on official business (OB) during that time. The five nominees recommended by the Search Committee included Msgr. Manuel P. Alonzo, Professor Sarah M. Ancheta, Mr. Climaco Evangelista, Mr. Deogracias E. Pernitez, and Mr. Juanito V. Quero.

Commissioner E. Garcia stressed that because of the lack of material time, this was not discussed during the last Board meeting. She indicated that with the instruction of Chairman A. Alcalá to hasten the selection of private sector representatives and after receiving the referendum signed by four members of the Board, she suggested to include this item in today's Board meeting. Dr. S. Go also commented that because of the importance of the major item in today's Board meeting and the instruction of Chairman A. Alcalá to hasten the participation of private sector in the Board, it was decided to pass the referendum to have a guide on who should be invited in today's Board meeting, hoping that the result of the referendum would be confirmed by the Board.

As a reaction, student Trustee Truya commented that when he saw the referendum, he thought that it would render the Search Committee entirely powerless. He charged that it was a way of railroading the process especially that one BOT member is non-voting. He suggested to put things first. Dr. S. Go pointed out that since the Search Committee had already submitted its report, it is now up to the Board to decide on whether to confirm the results of the referendum or not.

After the foregoing discussion and perceiving that even the choice of the private sector representative was a controversial issue, the Chair declared to proceed with the selection of the two private representatives from the five nominees recommended by the Search Committee through secret balloting. With two members abstaining, the following were the results of the selection process:

<u>Nominee</u>		<u>Votes</u>
Msgr. Manuel P. Alonzo Jr.	-	5
Mr. Climaco Evangelista	-	4
Professor Sarah M. Ancheta	-	1

With the foregoing results, the Board passed:

Board Resolution No. 18, s. 1998

Confirming the appointment of Msgr. Manuel P. Alonzo Jr. and Mr. Climaco Evangelista as private sector representatives to the ViSCA Board of Trustees for a duration of two years as provided for in R.A. 8292. This shall take effect after their oath taking in the next BOT meeting on 14 May 1998.

Board Action: **APPROVED**
Date: 31 March 1998

2. Proposed ViSCA Budget for 1999

The Chair requested Dr. S. Go, the ViSCA President, to present the proposed FY 1999 ViSCA Budget. Dr. S. Go requested the Board to allow the two private sector representatives to join in the meeting to help review the proposed 1999 ViSCA Budget. He stressed that the two representatives can help later on in generating more funds for the College and if they can participate in the review, they would know where to come in. The Board then allowed the two representatives to join in the meeting as resource persons with no voting power. Dr. S. Go then introduced formally to the Board Msgr. Manuel P. Alonzo Jr. and Mr. Climaco Evangelista. Upon request from the Chair, the College President also introduced to the two private sector representatives those who were present during the meeting: Ms. Norma Cala,

ViSCA Budget Officer; Ms. Aster Sevilla, the stenographer; Dr. R. C. Guarte, the Board Secretary; Dr. C. Balagapo, DA-8 Regional Director, Atty. B. Go-Soco, NEDA-8 Regional Director; Trustee A. Monsanto representing Congressman Lacson; Dr. Rola, representing Senator E. Angara; Dr. Perla Tan, President, ViSCA Faculty Association; Student Trustee A. Truya; Trustee E. Saz, President, ViSCA Alumni Association; Director E. Laceras and Mr. Edmund Talle of DBM; Commissioner E. A. Garcia; and Director B. Acapulco of CHEDRO-8. After the introduction, Dr. S. Go presented the proposed 1999 ViSCA Budget.

Dr. S. Go relayed to the group that strengthening the existing programs is still the main focus of ViSCA with the hope of attaining the two main objectives namely: 1) To attain Level 3 accreditation and 2) ViSCA to be identified as the Center of Excellence in Agriculture. These two objectives are in line with ViSCA's mission which is the "Enhancement of the general well-being of the rural populace especially the disadvantaged sectors of the Visayas through effective instruction, research, and extension in agriculture and rural development." With these two objectives in mind, Dr. S. Go presented the proposed ViSCA Budget for 1999 which totals to *Two Hundred Twenty-Seven Million, Six Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Pesos* (P227,661,000.00). This amount is divided into the following:

I. Internal Operations

A. Programs

- a. Personal Services - P 137,659,000.00

This amount will cover mandatory increases plus other benefits of the ViSCA Faculty and Staff.

- b. Maintenance and Other Operating expenses - 53,020,000.00

- c. Capital Outlays - 5,330,000.00

This amount is for furniture, fixtures, and equipment outlay.

B. Projects

I. Locally Funded

- a. Land and Land Improvement Outlay - 3,072,000.00

- b. Buildings and Structures Outlay - 24,257,000.00

- c. Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Outlay - 4,123,000.00

Sub-Total: 31,452,000.00

GRAND TOTAL: P227,661,000.00

Dr. S. Go mentioned that included in the locally funded project, which is part of ViSCA's Internal Operating Budget based on the approved budgetary structure, are as follows:

1. Land and Land Improvements
 - Beach Erosion Control Project - P 3,072,000.00
2. Building and Structures Outlay
 - Completion of Crop Processing Bldg. - 4,957,000.00

-	Repair/improvement of Bldgs.	-	1,600,000.00
-	Construction of Student Cooking Dormitory (Phase 1)	-	6,000,000.00
-	Construction of New Library (Phase 1)-	-	8,000,000.00
-	Repair of ViSCA Cebu Building	-	1,000,000.00
-	Completion of Agro-Forestry Building "C"	-	1,200,000.00
-	Completion of Home Science Building (Basement)	-	1,500,000.00
3.	Acquisition of Equipment	-	<u>4,123,000.00</u>
	<u>Total:</u>		<u>P31,452,000.00</u>

Dr. S. Go also indicated that the other increases incorporated in the proposed budget shall be used for the following activities: 1) Institutionalization of centers and programs that include the National Abaca Research Center, the Regional Coconut Research Center, the Veterinary Medicine Curriculum, the Extramural Program for Rural Development, and the Visayas Coordinated Agricultural Research Program, 2) the New Programs/Projects that include the Institute of Applied Tropical Ecology, New Research Projects, Installation of the Internet Service Provider, and Capital Outlay Projects, 3) Others including equipment outlay, books, and maintenance and operating expenses.

All in all, ViSCA is asking a budgetary increase of Fifty Million, Seven Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Pesos (P50,784,000.00) over its 1998 Budget.

After the presentation, discussion ensued. On the inquiry of Commissioner E. Garcia of the P31.4 million for locally funded projects, Dr. S. Go explained that it is already part of the P50.784 million budget increase. On her question about the P7.0 million in the PS for the institutionalization of Centers and

1 Programs, Budget Officer N. Cala clarified that it is already part of the P15.0
2 million increase in the Personal Services which is indicated in the BP Form 201
3 proposed Budget including the baseline.

4 On the query of Dr. Rola on what ViSCA Cebu Building is, Dr. S. Go
5 explained that it is an old building occupying about 300 square meters of land
6 purchased by ViSCA 15 years ago. It is used as ViSCA's liaison office in Cebu
7 and serves as lodging house for ViSCAns who go to Cebu for official business.
8 Dr. S. Go indicated that the building needs major repair.

9 On the question of Trustee A. Monsanto about the Agro-forestry and Home
10 Science Buildings, Dr. S. Go indicated that both buildings are for final completion
11 and that the money asked would be enough for the construction. He added that
12 equipment is not included in the request since there is a separate item requested
13 for equipment outlay.

14 In terms of priority, Dr. S. Go pointed out that it is good for ViSCA if the
15 construction of the Student Dormitory and the Library will be given top priority
16 by DBM. He pointed out that it would be easier for DBM to consider the small
17 projects listed in the budget proposal after the bigger projects are approved. Dr.
18 Rola suggested that in case DBM will not consider the total amount requested,
19 construction of the Student Dormitory should be pushed up in the priority list and
20 repair of buildings be lowered down. Dr. S. Go agreed to put down the Beach
21 Erosion Control Project at the bottom and push up the student dormitory. Dr.
22 Rola, however, reiterated her suggestion to give more priority to student
23 dormitory than the repair of buildings. Trustee A. Monsanto suggested that on top

of the Beach Erosion Control Project, the No. 9 priority, more priority should be given to the construction of the Student Dormitory over the repair of buildings. So priority No. 1 would be the completion of the Crop Processing Building, Priority No. 2 would be the construction of Student Dormitory, Priority No. 3 would be the Repair and Improvement of Buildings, and the rest may be maintained as they are.

As a reaction, Commissioner Garcia pointed out that based on the ViSCA Facts and Figures, ViSCA has already 21 student dormitories, 2 for the graduate level, and one for the High School, thus, constructing a new dormitory might not be a priority. In response Dr. S. Go clarified that most of the dormitories in ViSCA are old staff houses that can accommodate only from 15 to 25 students. He added that once a new big dormitory is constructed, these staff houses will be returned to the faculty and staff.

On the Beach Erosion Control Project, Commissioner E. Garcia voiced her apprehension that if it is given the lowest priority, the project may never be implemented. Trustee A. Monsanto then suggested to change it to "Breakwater Project" and make strong representation.

Mr. C. Evangelista of the private sector then asked the Board the bottom line of the ViSCA Budget. He indicated that personally, he does not believe in instalment construction because it would just delay the usefulness of the project. He suggested that a budget should first be allocated before deciding the things to be done. He stressed that it is just a futile exercise discussing the budget when there is no money available. He pointed out that it is nonsense in the private

sector to construct a project in five years when it can be done in 6 months. He emphasized that the private sector wants accomplishments immediately so that they can be used on time; otherwise, if the project is delayed, the first part constructed may be destroyed by the time the second part is constructed.

Commissioner E. Garcia appreciated the comments of Mr. C. Evangelista and pointed out that this is in fact the reason why there are private sector representatives in the Governing Board. She said that precisely, the Board needs to get new perspective, new inputs which are not from the government, and to enlighten those in the government sector who normally think of limitations rather than facilitating things. Similarly, Dr. Rola pointed out the usefulness of having a private perspective. She, however, indicated that unless we are sure of the tax collection, there is no way of knowing what the bottom line is. She added that sometimes the government is operating in a deficit; thus, most of the SCUs are asking for more hoping that if ever the budget is slashed they could still get something, and this is the reason why there are priorities. In like manner, Commissioner E. Garcia pointed out that it is in fact the reason why there is a budget hearing so that the Board can help the President prioritize the budget such that if DBM hears what the governing Board is saying, DBM would have an intelligent way of knowing where to cut if necessary. She informed the members of the Board, especially those who are new, that the budget covers mostly the mandatories. The Board is simply helping the administration determine what else should be added to the budget. She stressed that the Board does not approve anything but it is helping the administration put together the budget and prioritize

its requirements. Once the budget is approved, the Board will meet again to approve the "Internal Operating Budget" of ViSCA.

On the selection of priorities for locally-funded projects, Msgr. M. Alonzo commented that may be it would be worthwhile to consider how effective ViSCA is in terms of its contribution to the community, specifically with its graduates. He pointed out that based on his observation, most of the graduates of ViSCA are looking for employment after graduation. Very few are engaged in their own business enterprise. He cited for example that in their small credit union, which provides about P1.0 million for entrepreneurial activities per month, no takers are from ViSCA. He then asked whether it is possible to give priority funding for the creation of an institute leading to the formation of entrepreneurs. Dr. S. Go then explained that although ViSCA has not proposed any institute for this purpose, the Vice President for Academic Affairs has already started making a proposal revising the curriculum that would introduce new courses which will prepare the graduates for entrepreneurship and would make them confident in putting up their own projects. He mentioned that ViSCA is now strengthening its production projects so that the students have their hands-on instruction with the existing facilities. Dr. S. Go cited the possibility of creating a separate institute depending on the demand for more entrepreneurs.

On the inquiry of Commissioner E. Garcia on why ViSCA is already proposing a Tropical Ecology Institute when it is still beginning its Tropical Ecology Program, Dr. S. Go clarified that ViSCA started its Tropical Ecology Program in 1990 through the ViSCA-GTZ Ecology Program funded by the

German Government. Since the project will terminate in 1998, ViSCA would like to carry on the project activities with the proposal of creating an Institute of Applied Tropical Ecology. The initial concentration of the institute's activities will be on research and extension on tropical ecology, covering both terrestrial and aquatic resources. Dr. Rola indicated that approving ecology programs is not a problem. She suggested, however, to deal with the budget separately from the organizational development because, according to her, once the Board approves the budget proposal for the institute, it is almost likely as the Board is already approving the institute which should be decided separately. Director B. Go-Soco pointed out, however, that the proposal for the Institute has been in the Agenda for many times, three years ago, but was not acted upon because ViSCA was not yet prepared. He cited that this time, ViSCA is already prepared considering the numerous training its staff underwent in many parts of the world. Dr. S. Go then mentioned that the proposal for the establishment of the Institute of Applied Tropical Ecology was included in the Agenda of the last BOT meeting but was not discussed due to the lack of material time. After hearing the comments of Director Go-Soco, Dr. Rola then suggested to give priority to discuss the issue in the next BOT meeting. Commissioner E. Garcia indicated to tackle the issue in the next BOT meeting. Trustee A. Monsanto suggested to treat the same the National Abaca Research Center, Regional Coconut Research Center, Veterinary Medicine, etc. Dr. S. Go pointed out, however, that these centers/programs are different since they have been existing for a number of years in ViSCA. He stressed the importance of institutionalizing the existing centers/programs because

most of their staff are just borrowed from different academic departments on-detail basis. Considering the responsibilities of these centers, they should be given regular staff so that they can carry out effectively their mandates.

On the inquiry of Commissioner E. Garcia whether the 181 casuals are the remainder of the 400+ casuals before, Dr. S. Go commented that in 1993, after he took over the Presidency, there were 533 casuals and contractuels. At that time DBM approved only 294, giving ViSCA serious financial problems. Luckily in 1994, Undersecretary Bongcodin gave ViSCA an additional budget of P4.7 million but with specific instruction that ViSCA should reduce the number of casuals and contractual the following year. In 1995, ViSCA was forced not to renew the appointments of 133 casuals and contractuels but still there was a deficit in ViSCA's budget. Fortunately, Undersecretary Bongcodin saved ViSCA again by releasing P2.4 million, on top of the 1995 budget. In 1996, DBM did not provide ViSCA any amount but luckily, Congressman E. Loreto gave ViSCA P3.0 million out of his countryside development fund, thus, saving ViSCA's financial problem for that year. In 1997, ViSCA was able to regularize 25 casuals through the help of DBM. Dr. S. Go emphasized that ViSCA still has financial problems with casual employees.

As a reaction, Dr. Rola asked the President if it is possible to do the following: a) consider a professionally managed performance audit to serve as staffing pattern, for once it is established, ViSCA can move slowly of having regular items for them; or b) consider the option of contracting a particular job, i.e. production projects, etc., comprising of so many casual workers who might

maintain them. She indicated that these projects can also be used as show case for students. Contracting may be applied to production and any similar project. Director B. Go-Soco commented that ViSCA has been doing something on these things already. Similarly, Dr. S. Go informed the Board that ViSCA is already doing this. Some casuals have been converted to contractual workers doing job contract. He informed the Board, however, that some are against it because they will no longer receive PERA, accumulated leave credits, and other privileges. He acknowledge the merit of the suggestion of Dr. Rola especially for production projects.

Looking at the proposed budget of the National Abaca Research Center and citing the ViSCA 1997 Accomplishment Highlights, which mentioned that the center has already provided Bohol and Negros cooperative with portable Abaca Spindle Stripping Machine, Director C. Balagapo inquired whether the provinces of N. Samar, E. Samar, and Samar have already availed of the same techno-demo items. Dr. S. Go mentioned that based on a report, private organizations and cooperatives have ordered stripping machines that are now used by cooperators and private abaca plantations. He pointed out that techno-demo has been done practically all over the region including E. Samar, N. Samar, Biliran, Southern Leyte, Samar, and in Leyte. Director Balagapo then asked for the listing, so that when some amount flow to this techno-demo, the Department of Agriculture can follow this up.

On the Agricultural and Fishery Modernization Act, Commissioner E. Garcia voiced her observation that she did not see anything which has something to do

with its implementation. Dr. S. Go replied that under the Agricultural Modernization Law, the research component is incorporated in ViSCA's research activities and the training component is already incorporated in the extension programs. After a lengthy discussion, the Chair concluded the discussion of the budget.

Upon motion of Director C. R. Balagapo, Regional Director of DA Region 8; duly seconded by Director B. C. Go-Soco, Regional Director of NEDA Region 8; then the Board passed:

Board Resolution No. 19, s. 1998

Recommending approval of the proposed FY 1999 Budget of the Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA) in the amount of Two Hundred Twenty Seven Million, Six Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Pesos (P227,661,000.00) broken down as follows (in P 000) following the priorities recommended by the Board:

	<u>Baseline</u>	<u>PPF</u>	<u>Total</u>
Personal Services	P129,703.00	P 7,956.00	P 137,659.00
MOOE	37,851.00	15,169.00	53,020.00
Capital Outlay	-	36,982.00	36,982.00
TOTAL:	<u>P 167,554.0</u>	<u>P 60,107.0</u>	<u>P 227,661.0</u>

3. Review of the status of the ViSCA Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees based on the status of faculty associations represented in the Board in Region 8

The Chair requested Dr. P. Tan, the ViSCA Faculty representative, to step out of the room while the Board discusses her status as faculty representative to the Board. Commissioner E. Garcia then mentioned that the Board had already decided to allow the faculty representative to sit in the Board as non-voting member, even without the Civil Service accreditation, provided that such process was already on-going. Director B. Go-

Soco suggested that since in the ten (10) other SCUs, there has been no questions on the matter even if the faculty associations are not yet accredited by the Civil Service Commission, the Board should recognize the official membership of the ViSCA faculty representative to the Board. He pointed out that in the legal perspective, the provision in the IRR can be disregarded because the law does not provide it. He stressed that it was supposed to facilitate instead of curtail the faculty's representation in the Board. Dr. Rola commented that this particular provision in the IRR arose out of the situation that there were too many faculty associations in some SCUs: faculty/non-academic personnel association as against purely faculty association. As input information for the Board, Dr. S. Go informed the Board that in ViSCA, other than the newly organized ViSCA Faculty Association, there are still other faculty organizations existing namely: the ViSCA Personnel Association, with both faculty and administrative staff as members and another new faculty association, which he just learned, is also seeking for a Civil Service Accreditation.

Student Trustee Truya then accused the administration of using the Civil Service requirement to curtail the representation of the ViSCA faculty to the Board. As a reaction, Director Balagapo commented that the ViSCA faculty representative has already been allowed to participate in the discussion during the past Board meetings and that, it was in fact the College President who suggested that she be allowed to participate. Student Trustee Truya countered that it is only now that the President allowed Dr. Tan to sit in the Board. He then moved for the Board to recognize the ViSCA faculty representative as a full member of the Board and at the same time, requiring the compliance of getting an

accreditation from the Civil Service Commission. After reaching a consensus, the Board then passed:

Board Resolution No. 20, s. 1998

Recognizing the interim ViSCA faculty representative as a full member of the ViSCA Board of Trustees effective immediately after she shall have taken her oath with the chairman of the Board in the next Board meeting.


Board Action: APPROVED
Date: 31 March 1998

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 noon.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT


ROBERTO C. GUARTE
Board Secretary

NOTED:


SAMUEL S. GO
President

ATTESTED:


ESTER A. GARCIA
CHED Commissioner and
Regular Chair