



117TH BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

BOR RESOLUTION NO. 162

Series of 2024

APPROVING THE PROPOSED INTERIM GUIDELINES ON CANCELLATION/SUSPENSION OF CLASSES/WORK IN THE VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY DUE TO TYPHOON, FLOODING AND OTHER WEATHER DISTURBANCES AND CALAMITIES

WHEREAS, the Governing Board has the power, among others, "to enact rules and regulation not contrary to law, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and university, as provided in Section 7 (a) of RA 9158;

WHEREAS, CHED Memorandum Order No. 15, s. 2012 provides the, "Clarificatory Guidelines for the Suspension of Classes in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) due to Typhoons/Storms, Flooding and Other Weather Disturbances";

WHEREAS, the proposal establishes rules for canceling or suspending classes and works in VSU due to typhoons, flooding, and other weather disturbances or calamities that would hit the province or the region;

WHEREAS, outlining the signals issued by PAGASA that automatically trigger the cancellation or suspension of classes and work in the university system and allowing localized cancellation of classes and work in flood-prone or high-risk areas without typhoon signals;

WHEREAS, streamlining the procedure of suspending classes and working in government offices in times of disasters or calamities to spare the students, faculty, and staff from unnecessary dangers to their lives;

WHEREAS, the proposal was presented to the University Administrative Council at its meeting on November 21, 2024 and obtained favorable action;


NOW, THEREFORE, on motion, duly seconded, and unanimously approved, be it;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Board of Regents of Visayas State University approves the proposed interim guidelines on cancellation/suspension of classes/work in the Visayas State University due to typhoon, flooding and other weather disturbances and calamities.

IN WITNESS of our approval thereof, we hereby affix our signatures this 17th day of December 2024 at the Commission on Higher Education, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

VSU BOARD OF REGENTS


HON. ETHEL AGNES P. VALENZUELA
CHED Commissioner and Chairperson-designate



HON. PROSE IVY G. YEPES
VSU President and Vice Chairperson

HON. BERNADETTE REMALLA-MAYBITUIN
Representing Hon. **ALLAN PETER S. CAYETANO**
Chairperson, Senate Committee on Higher,
Technical and Vocational Education
Member, VSU BOR

HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI
Representing Hon. **MARK O. GO**
Chairperson, Committee on Higher & Technical
Education House of Representatives
Member, VSU BOR


HON. MEYLENE C. ROSALES
Regional Director, National Economic and
Development Authority Regional Office VIII
Member, VSU BOR

HON. ANDREW RODOLFO T. ORAIS
Regional Executive Director, Department of
Agriculture-RO8
Member, VSU BOR



HON. ERNESTO F. BULAYOG
Faculty Regent - VSU System Faculty Union of
Baybay Leyte
Member, VSU BOR


HON. OSCAR B. POSAS
President, VSU Federated Alumni Association
Member, VSU BOR


HON. RYAN C. ILAIDA
Student Regent - VSU Student Council Federation
Member, VSU BOR

Private Sector Representatives:

HON. ALAIN CHARLES J. VELOSO
Member, VSU BOR
Villaba, Leyte


HON. RUPERTO O. APPARRI, III
Member, VSU BOR
Tacloban City, Leyte



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT

PROPOSED INTERIM GUIDELINES ON CANCELLATION/SUSPENSION OF CLASSES/WORK IN THE VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY DUE TO TYPHOON, FLOODING AND OTHER WEATHER DISTURBANCES AND CALAMITIES

RATIONALE

This proposal establishes rules for canceling or suspending classes and works in VSU due to typhoons, flooding, and other weather disturbances or calamities that would hit the province or the region. It outlines the signals issued by PAGASA that automatically trigger the cancellation or suspension of classes and work in the university system. It also allows for localized cancellation of classes and work in flood-prone or high-risk areas without typhoon signals.

There is a need to streamline the procedure of suspending classes and working in government offices in times of disasters or calamities to spare the students, faculty, and staff from unnecessary dangers to their lives.

To eliminate confusion, among students, parents, and the academe during typhoons, heavy rainfalls, floods, and earthquakes, the university management proposes these interim guidelines.

LEGAL BASIS

- RA 8292, Section 4 (a)
- CHED Memorandum Order No. 15, s. 2012, "Clarificatory Guidelines for the Suspension of Classes in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) due to Typhoons/Storms, Flooding and Other Weather Disturbances"
- DOST PHIVOLCS Earthquake Intensity Scale (PEIS)
- DepEd Order No. 037, series 2022

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

The proposal provides the Governing Board with interim guidelines to govern classes and work suspension or cancellation to ensure clarity and consistency approval by the Board.

ENDORSEMENT

The University Administrative Council favorably endorsed the proposal during the November 21, 2024 meeting.

ATTACHMENT

- Proposal



VISAYAS
STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR **ADMINISTRATION AND
FINANCE**

Proposed Guidelines on Cancellation/Suspension of Classes/Work in the Visayas State University due to Typhoon, Flooding Other Weather Disturbances and Calamities

1. Introduction: The safety and security of students and employees are of paramount importance, especially during typhoons, flooding, and other weather disturbances and calamities. Thus, guidelines governing classes and work suspension or cancellation must be established to ensure clarity and consistency. This period of the year coincides with the so-called typhoon season in the Philippines. Thus, while the University is fine-tuning its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan, these guidelines are being proposed to ensure the safety of everyone and timely issuance of appropriate memoranda.

1.A. Typhoon

- The University shall adopt CHED Memorandum Order No. 15, S. 2012 amending CMO 34, series of 2010, titled **“Clarificatory Guidelines for the Suspension of Classes in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) due to Typhoons/Storms, Flooding and other Weather Disturbances”** to wit:

- 1.A.1 “Classes at the collegiate level, including graduate school, in the affected area, are automatically cancelled or suspended when Signal No. 3 is raised by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA) and announced through various media outlets.
- 1.A.2 “Classes at the collegiate level, including graduate school, may be cancelled or suspended at the discretion of local chief executives of Local Government Units and/or heads of HEIs if special circumstances in their area such as flooding, road damage, etc. warrant it. HEIs are also advised to monitor National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) announcements where disasters and calamities are present.
- 1.A.3 “Local chief executives and/or HEI heads or their duly authorized representatives shall make the announcement for the cancellation or suspension of classes not later than 4:30 AM of the day when cancellation or suspension shall take effect, using all available media outlets (radio, TV, SMS, website and other forms of social media). School heads are advised to use proper discretion since there are times it is safe to keep the students in school rather than expose them to greater danger”.
- 1.A.4 “Even without cancellation or suspension of classes, students who are unable to report to class or participate in scheduled activities such as exams due to inclement weather shall be given consideration and be allowed to make up for the missed class or activity.”
- 1.A.5 The DRRMO shall monitor weather conditions so that even if there is no tropical cyclone wind signal or a wind signal No. 1 is raised, the CMC may recommend suspension or cancellation of classes to the President, provided any of the following is present:

- **Red Rainfall Warning:** Heavy rainfall in the past 12 hours.



- **Orange Rainfall Warning:** Heavy rainfall in the past 24 hours.
- **Yellow Rainfall Warning:** High alert; keep posted for advisories from PAGASA.

1.B. Flood

- 1.B.1. Work and classes are automatically suspended when PAG-ASA issues a Flood Warning.
- 1.B.1. Work, and classes are automatically suspended when the LGU issues a flood warning or when upon assessment of the DRRM Office the university is facing imminent threat/danger of flooding.
- 1.B.2. When the Flood Warning is issued at a time when classes have already began, the University shall immediately suspend the classes and work and send everyone home, if it is safe to do so. However, the university is obligated to keep the students and personnel safely in school if travelling has become unsafe.

1.C. Earthquake. The DOST PHIVOLCS Earthquake Intensity Scale (PEIS) will be used as reference/basis for the suspension/cancellation of classes and work in VSU.

- 1.C.1. Classes and work shall be automatically suspended if an intensity V (five) earthquake is declared by PHIVOLCS.
- 1.C.2. The President through the recommendation of the DRRM Office shall decide on the suspension/cancellation of work and classes for earthquake intensity IV (four) and below is declared.
- 1.C.3. The President through the recommendation of the DRRM Office can cancel/suspend classes and work at any Intensity Scale if upon assessment buildings and other structures are seen to be in danger of collapsing or is found to have major damage.
- 1.C.4. The DRRM Officer shall request the Office of Building Official of the City of Baybay to assess the damage and safety of buildings after and before an earthquake if said structures are found to be in danger of collapsing or with major damage.

1.D. Integrated High School

DepEd Order No. 037, series of 2022 "Guidelines on the Cancellation or Suspension of Classes and Work in Schools in the event of Natural Disasters, Power Outages/Power Interruption and other Calamities" dated September 1, 2022 shall apply to the students of the VSU Integrated High School.

1.E. Maintenance of a skeletal force when classes and work are suspended.

- 1.E.1. When face-to-face classes are suspended/cancelled, classes will automatically shift to an asynchronous modality, to avoid disrupting the academic calendar.
- 1.E.2. When classes or work are suspended all students and employees shall not report except for employees whose work involves providing essential services such as medical and emergency response, security, feeding of animals and electrical services.

1.E. Conduct of Psychological First Aid

To ensure a conducive class and working environment, addressing the immediate needs of the students and employees in the aftermath of disasters, the guidance and counselling units of the University shall assess the mental health and psychosocial support needs and services and take the lead in the conduct of psychological first aid in coordination with the University services for health, emergency and rescue. Concerned units are empowered to conduct capability building activities towards this end.

Prepared by, for and in behalf of the Crisis Management Committee


ELWIN JAY V. YU, MD, MPH
Chairman, CMC

Vision: A globally competitive university for science, technology, and environmental conservation.
Mission: Development of a highly competitive human resource, cutting-edge scientific knowledge and innovative technologies for sustainable communities and environment.