

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11088, October 11, 2018]

AN ACT CONVERTING THE SORSOGON STATE COLLEGE IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE SORSOGON STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Conversion.* The Sorsogon State College (SSC) in the Province of Sorsogon, which is composed of the SSC-Sorsogon Campus in Sorsogon City, the SSC-Bulan Campus in the Municipality of Bulan, the SSC-Magallanes Campus in the Municipality of Magallanes, and the SSC-Castilla Campus in the Municipality of Castilla, all located in the Province of Sorsogon, is hereby converted into a state university to be known as the Sorsogon State University. The main campus of the University shall be in Sorsogon City.

SEC. 2. *General Mandate.* — The Sorsogon State University, hereinafter referred to as the University, shall primarily provide advance and higher professional, technical and special instructions in education and technology, engineering and architecture, public administration and management, accountancy, economics and finance, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, arts and sciences, maritime education, peace and security courses and other related fields of study. It shall also undertake research and extension, as well as income generation programs, for the sustainable development of the Province of Sorsogon and Region V.

SEC. 3. *Curricular Offerings.* - The University shall offer undergraduate and graduate courses in the fields of education and technology, engineering and architecture, public administration and management, accountancy, economics and finance, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, arts and sciences, maritime education, peace and security courses, information technology and other courses within its areas of specialization and according to its capabilities as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly in meeting the needs of the Province of Sorsogon and Region V.

The existing reasonably-sized laboratory high school shall continue to operate under the control of the College of Education of the University to serve the in-campus requirements of the students in the College of Education.

SEC. 4. *Administration.* - The University shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Big. 68, as amended, otherwise known as "The Corporation Code of the Philippines." The administration of the University and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and the President of the University.

SEC. 5. *The Governing Board.* - The governing board of the University shall be the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and President of the University, respectively, with the following as members:

(a) The Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture of the Senate;

- (b) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives;
- (c) The Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
- (d) The Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- (e) The Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
- (f) The President of the Federation of Faculty Associations of the University;
- (g) The President of the Federation of Student Councils of the University;
- (h) The President of the Federation of Alumni Associations of the University; and
- (i) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization of the University.

The Board shall appoint the two (2) prominent citizens from among a list of at least five (5) qualified persons from the Province of Sorsogon, as recommended by the search committee to be constituted by the University President, in consultation with the CHED Chairperson and the other members of the Board, based on the standards and qualifications for the position set by the Board. They shall serve for a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment.

The term of the President of the Federation of Faculty Associations, the President of the Federation of Alumni Associations, and the President of the Federation of Student Councils, as members of the Board, shall be coterminous with their terms of office as set forth in their respective Constitution and bylaws.

SEC. 6. Powers and Duties of the Board. - The Board, in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the Board of Directors of a corporation under existing laws, shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- (a) To promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared state policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, agriculture, science and technology, as well as the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994".
- (b) To approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules of discipline drawn by the Administrative and the Academic Councils herein provided;
- (c) To appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the University, the vice presidents, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members and other officials and employees of the University;
- (d) To fix and adjust salaries of faculty members, administrative officials and employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service and such other duties and conditions as it may deem proper; to grant them, at its discretion, leaves of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing law to the contrary notwithstanding; and to remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process of law;
- (e) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultation with the involved sectors. The fees and charges, including government subsidies

and other income generated by the University, shall constitute a special trust fund, and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank, and all interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the University.

Any provision of existing law, rule or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the University from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services, and land grants, shall be retained by the University, and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension or other programs/projects of the University: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for which these are collected. If, for reasons beyond its control, the University shall not be able to pursue any project for which the funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the University;

(f) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the University in the manner it may determine, in its discretion, to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;

(g) To adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater access of poor but deserving students;

(h) To set the policies on admission and graduation of students;

(i) To establish professorial chairs in the University and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students;

(j) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, agriculture or any field of specialization within the academic competence of the University, and to authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of nondegree and nontraditional courses;

(k) To establish, research and extension centers to promote the development of the University;

(l) To establish and absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the Province of Sorsogon as branches and extension centers in coordination with the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and to offer therein programs or courses to carry out the constitutional mandate of providing equal access to educational opportunities;

(m) To develop academic arrangements for institution-capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public and private and local and foreign, and to appoint experts/specialists as consultants, part-time, visiting or exchange professors, scholars, researchers, as the case may be;

(n) To set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge such as the use of information technology, the dual training system, open distance learning, and community laboratory for the promotion of greater access to education;

(o) To authorize an external management audit of the University, to be financed by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit (COA); and to institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;

(p) To collaborate with the governing boards of the state universities and colleges (SUCs) within the Province of Sorsogon, under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with

the DBM, and work towards restructuring of the University to become more efficient, relevant, productive and competitive;

(q) To develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units (LGUs), institutions and agencies, both public and private and local and foreign, in the furtherance of the purpose and objectives of the University;

(r) To enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable development and management of the economic assets of the University, the proceeds from which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the University;

(s) To import economic, technical and cultural books and publications;

(t) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the University and subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any;

(u) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;

(v) To extend the term of the President of the University beyond the age of retirement, but not beyond the age of seventy (70) based on the guidelines, qualifications and standards act of the Board: *Provided*, That the President's performance has been rated by the Board as outstanding, and after unanimous recommendation by the search committee;

(w) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision-making and transparency within the University;

(x) To privatize, where most advantageous to the University, the management of nonacademic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance, and such other similar activities;

(y) To delegate any of its powers and duties provided to the President and other officials of the University, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the University; and

(z) To promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the University.

SEC. 7. *Meetings of the Board.* - The Board shall regularly convene once every quarter. However, the Chairperson of the Board may, upon three (3) days' prior written notice, call a maximum of two (2) special meetings whenever necessary within the year.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all its members holding office at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however*, That the Chairperson of the Board or the President of the University is among those present in the meeting.

In the absence of the CHED Chairperson, a Commissioner of the CHED, duly designated by the CHED Chairperson, as representative in the meeting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided, however*, That during this meeting, the President of the University, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the Presiding Officer: *Provided, further*, That this *proviso*, notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case said CHED Commissioner, shall act as the Presiding Officer.