

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8448, January 09, 1998]

AN ACT SEPARATING THE ILOILO STATE COLLEGE OF FISHERIES IN SAGAY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, FROM ILOILO STATE COLLEGE OF FISHERIES AND CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN NEGROS STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Iloilo State College of Fisheries, hereinafter referred to as the College, in Sagay, Negros Occidental, which is an extension of the Iloilo State College of Fisheries, is hereby separated from the Iloilo State College of Fisheries and converted into an independent State college of science and technology to be known as the Northern Negros State College of Science and Technology.

SEC. 2. The State College shall primarily provide higher technological, professional and vocational instruction and training in science, fishery, forestry, agriculture, engineering and industrial fields, as well as short-term technical or vocational courses. It shall also promote research, advanced studies, extension work and progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

The existing high school shall be transferred to the jurisdiction and supervision of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports: Provided, That this high school shall be allowed to remain and operate within the campus of the College until it shall have been transferred to another location, or until its students shall have been accommodated in other public or private high schools: Provided, further, That the College may operate a reasonably-sized laboratory school if it has a college of education.

SEC. 3. In addition to its present curricular offerings, the State College shall offer undergraduate courses in the fields of science, fishery, agriculture, education, forestry, marine biology, engineering and other courses and fields of specialization as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary. It shall likewise offer short-term technical or vocational courses, provide nonformal education and undertake vigorous extension and research programs in food production, nutrition, health and sports development.

SEC. 4. The College shall have the general powers of a corporation as set forth in the corporation law. The administration of the College and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Trustees and the president of the College insofar as authorized by the Board.

SEC. 5. The governing body of the College shall be the Board of Trustees,

hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), chairman;
- (b) The president of the College, vice chairman;
- (c) The chairman of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture of the Senate, member;
- (d) The chairman of the Committee on Education and Culture of the House of Representatives, member;
- (e) The Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), member;
- (f) The president of the faculty association of the College, member;
- (g) The president of the supreme student council of the College, member;
- (h) The president of the alumni association of the College, member; and
- (i) At least two (2) prominent citizens who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization of the College chosen from among a list of at least five (5) persons qualified in the Province of Negros Occidental, as recommended by the search committee constituted by the College president in consultation with the chairman of the CHED based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position, members.

The chairman of the Commission on Higher Education, the president of the College, the education committee chairmen of the Senate and the House, and the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority shall have an ex officio term of office.

The term of office of the president of the faculty association, the federation of student councils and, when deemed necessary, the president of the alumni association, shall be coterminous with their term/terms of office.

The two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for a term of four (4) years and two (2) years, respectively. In case of vacancy in the office of the president, the officer-in-charge of the College designated by the Board shall serve for the unexpired term only.

The president of the State College, whose term may be terminated according to this Act, shall be entitled to full retirement benefits under existing laws.

SEC. 6. The Board shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports (as well as the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722).

SEC. 7. The Board shall have the following specific powers and duties 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:

- (a) To enact rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the College;
- (b) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the College in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the College;
- (c) To import duty-free, subject to existing laws, essential commodities, materials and equipment for educational or technological programs: Provided, That such commodities, materials, and equipment are not available locally at a comparable price;
- (d) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose the same when necessary for the benefit of the College and subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any. Such donations shall be exempt from all taxes and shall be considered as deductible items from the income tax of the donor;
- (e) To fix tuition fees and other necessary school charges such as, but not limited to, matriculation fees, graduation fees, and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose;
- (f) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machineries, equipment, and other facilities and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;
- (g) To confirm designations of vice presidents, deans, directors, heads of departments, and the appointments of faculty members and other officials and employees of the State College made by the president of the College;
- (h) To fix and adjust the salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees in accordance with the revised compensation and position classification system;
- (i) To approve the curricula, institutional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the administrative and academic councils as herein provided;
- (j) To confer degrees upon successful candidates for graduation, to award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contributions in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, or in any field of specialization; and to authorize the award of certificates for completion of non-degree and non-traditional courses;
- (k) To establish chairs in the College and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students; and
- (l) To establish branches in the Province of Negros Occidental, if and when it becomes essential and necessary, where there is no existing school offering similar programs or courses, to promote and carry out equal access to educational opportunities as mandated by the Constitution.