

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5521, June 21, 1969]

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BICOL UNIVERSITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS, AND DUTIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment.*—There is hereby established in the Province of Albay with a central site and administration office at Regan Barracks, Legaspi City and Municipality of Daraga, a university which shall be known as "the Bicol University", the same being organized as a body corporate under that name.

SEC. 2. *Conversion.*—The Bicol Teachers College, the Daraga Central Elementary School, the Albay Provincial High School, the Bicol Regional School of Arts and Trades, the Roxas Memorial Agricultural School, and the School of Fisheries at Tabaco, Albay, are hereby converted into appropriate or other units of the University. The Board of Regents may reorganize them as provided for in Section 6 (e) hereof.

SEC 3. *Purpose.*—The Bicol University shall primarily give professional and technical training, and provide advanced and specialized instruction in literature, philosophy, the science and arts, besides providing for the promotion of scientific and technological researches.

SEC. 4. *Powers of the University.*—The following are the powers of the University:

a) It shall have the general powers as set forth in Section 13 of Act No. 1459, as amended. The exercise of its corporate powers are hereby vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and in the President of the University in so far as authorized by the Board;

b) It shall have the power to acquire public lands for its expansion and/or beneficial use; and

c) It shall be authorized, through its college of engineering, to undertake the construction of its buildings and other permanent improvements and such sums as may be necessary for the purpose shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act for the University. All public works appropriations in the name of the Bicol Teachers College, the Daraga Central Elementary School, the Albay Provincial High School, the Bicol Regional School of Arts and Trades, the Roxas Memorial Agricultural School, and the School of Fisheries are hereby transferred to the University so provided for in this Act: *Provided*, That the construction of its buildings and other permanent improvements as authorized in the public works Acts of the Government shall be undertaken by the college

of engineering as herein provided any provision of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 5. *Governing Board; manner of appointment.*—The government of the Bicol University is vested in a Board of Regents which shall be composed of nine members, six of whom are regular members and three are *ex-officio* members. The regular members must be Filipino citizens and residents of the Philippines, two of whom shall be known educators in or from the Bicol Region, two shall be successful businessmen or industrialists or professionals of the Region who have shown and are showing interest in the cause of education in the region, and two shall be successful alumni of any of the school or college to be incorporated with and integrated into the University upon recommendation of their respective alumni association, and who will be replaced in due time, when available, by successful alumni of the University and upon recommendation by their alumni association when this shall have been organized. The three *ex-officio* members shall be the Secretary of Education, who shall be the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

The regular members of the Board of Regents who shall serve a term of four years, shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. Of the six regular members of the Board of Regents to be first appointed as above provided, the President of the Philippines shall designate two to serve for two years, two to serve for three years and two to serve for four years.

In the absence or inability of the Secretary of Education or when the position is vacant, the other members of the Board shall elect from among themselves a temporary chairman who shall act as Chairman. In case of a vacancy in the regular membership of the Board, the President of the Philippines shall, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, appoint a new member to serve for the unexpired term only.

No person in the employ of the University or any other educational institution in the Region in any capacity whatsoever, whether as dean, professor, instructor, lecturer or otherwise, shall be eligible for membership in the Board.

The regular members of the Board of Regents shall each receive for every board meeting attended a *per diem* of one hundred pesos: *Provided*, That in no case shall the total amount received by each exceed the sum of three hundred pesos for any one month. Besides the *per diem*, they, together with the *ex-officio* members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in attendance upon meetings of the Board or upon performing other official business authorized by resolution of the Board.

SEC. 6. *Powers and duties, of the Board of Regents.*— The Board of Regents shall have the following powers and duties, in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of the powers of the corporation :

- a) To determine and fix the dates and time of their regular meetings, as well as special meetings as the need for same may arise: *Provided*, That all such meetings shall not be more than three times in any one month,

nor less than one time in any one quarter;

b) To recommend the President of the University for appointment by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, and who shall serve for a period of nine years;

c) To fix the compensation of the President of the University and to empower him to sit as *ex-officio* member of the Board with right to participate in the deliberations but without the right to vote;

d) To receive and appropriate to the ends specified by law such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the University;

e) To provide for the establishment of colleges and schools as it may deem necessary; *Provided*, That at the initial establishment of the university, the Bicol Teachers College together with the Daraga Central Elementary School and the Albay Provincial High School shall be converted into the College of Education for elementary, high school and collegiate education; the Bicol Regional School of Arts and Trades into the School of Arts and Trades under the College of Engineering; the Roxas Memorial Agricultural School into the College of Agriculture, and the School of Fisheries into the College of Fisheries. It shall be required that the Board of Regents immediately establish a postgraduate course in liberal arts and sciences or in education leading to master's degree. The university shall also be required to possess and maintain a professionally administered library of at least ten thousand bound volumes of collegiate books;

f) To receive in trust legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal property of all kinds and to administer the same for the benefit of the University or off a department thereof, or for aid to any student or students in accordance with the direction or instructions of the donor, and/or in default thereof, in such manner as the Board may in its discretion determine; all such donations shall be exempt from the income tax of the donors; to import duty free commodities for educational purposes as an exception to existing laws;

g) To appoint, on the recommendation of the President of the University, professors, instructors, lecturers and other employees of the University; to fix their compensation, hours of service, and such other duties and conditions as it may deem proper; to grant to them in its discretion leave of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding, and to remove them for cause after an investigation and hearing shall have been had; and to extend with their consent the tenure of faculty members of the university beyond the age of sixty-five, any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, on recommendation of the President of the University, whenever in his opinion their services are specially needed: *Provided, however*, That no extension of service shall be made beyond the age of seventy: *Provided, further*, That all heads, professors, instructors, lecturers, researchers and other employees actually employed in the schools and colleges to be incorporated with and integrated into the