

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8417**



Introduced By Representative Maria Rachel J. Arenas,

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PANGASINAN STATE UNIVERSITY,
PROVIDING FOR THE COMPOSITION AND POWERS OF ITS
GOVERNING BOARD, PRESCRIBING ITS CURRICULAR OFFERINGS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Pangasinan State University (PSU) was chartered through the issuance of Presidential Decree No. 1497 promulgated on June 11, 1978 and became operational on July 1, 1979.

The PSU integrated the collegiate courses of five of the then Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) supervised institutions in the Province of Pangasinan and all the programs of the then Central Luzon Teachers College (CLTC) and Western Pangasinan College of Agriculture (WPCA).

The DECS institutions were:

1. Asingan School of Arts and Trades (ASAT) in Asingan;
2. Eastern Pangasinan Agricultural College (EPAC) in Sta. Maria;
3. Pangasinan College of Fisheries (PCF) in Binmaley;
4. Pangasinan School of Arts and Trades (PSAT) in Lingayen; and
5. Speaker Eugenio Perez National Agricultural School (SEPNAS) in San Carlos City

When the PSU started its operations in June 1979, it had two Colleges of Agriculture located in Municipality of Sta. Maria and the City of San Carlos; two College of Arts and Trades in the Municipalities of Lingayen and Asingan; a College of Education in Municipality of Bayambang; and a College of Fisheries in the Municipality of Binmaley.

In 1981, the College of Agriculture in Infanta (then the Western Pangasinan College of Agriculture (created under Presidential Decree No.1494) was established. Arts and Science courses were also offered in the College of Education in Bayambang.

It was the year 1983 that saw the opening of the College of Engineering and Technology in Urdaneta, as an extension campus of the College of Arts and Technology in Asingan. In 1987, the two campuses were integrated as the College of Engineering and Technology of the Asingan/Urdaneta Complex only to be separated again in 1989.

On February 03, 2005, the PSU Board of Regents in its first regular meeting for CY 2005 held at the Office of the President, PSU Main, Lingayen, Pangasinan passed Resolution No. 07, s. 2005 approving the areal integration of PSU Urdaneta, PSU, Sta. Maria and PSU Asingan into the PSU Eastern Cluster. However, the experiment on the cluster was terminated in May 2008. PSU BOR Resolution No. 13 dated May 28, 2008 dissolved the eastern cluster. The three campuses that

composed the cluster reverted back to their original status as autonomous campuses.

In 2009, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Alaminos has favorably endorsed and approved the establishment of Pangasinan State University Campus in the City of Alaminos as contained in Resolution No. 2007-84 adopted on November 16, 2007.

Given the history of PSU, and considering the vast land area of the entire Pangasinan Province and its large population totaling 3,163,190 based from the 2020 census of population, it is difficult for PSU to cater the needs of the province' populace with only nine campuses operating versus the province' total number of component cities and municipalities, hence, strengthening its charter and putting up additional campuses and programs are necessary to carry out its mandate in providing quality yet accessible public higher education.

Currently, the PSU is operating with almost one thousand four hundred (1,400) employees, including permanent, temporary, contractual, casual, contract of service and job orders. With more than thirty thousand students (30,000), the PSU is considered as the largest SUC (state universities and colleges) in terms of population and land area in the entire Region 1.

As we continuously fight the challenges brought about by COVID-19 pandemic, and the transition to the new normal resulting from this, higher education institutions have to keep on innovating to survive and thrive, in order to meet global workforce demand and the challenges of Education 4.0 as well.

In view of this, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARIA RACHEL J. ARENAS
Representative
Third District of Pangasinan

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Revised
Pangasinan State University Charter”.

SECTION 2. General Mandate. – The Pangasinan State University,
hereinafter referred to as the PSU shall primarily provide advanced instruction,
appropriate skills and competencies, and professional training in the field of teacher
education, agriculture, fisheries, engineering and technology, science and
medicine, law, literature, philosophy, arts, and other relevant fields of study. It shall
also undertake research and extension services as well as internal resource
generation projects and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

SECTION 3. Curricular Offerings. - The PSU shall offer undergraduate,
graduate, and post-graduate courses, within its competency and areas of
specialization in the fields of teacher education, agriculture, fisheries, engineering
and technology, science and medicine, literature, philosophy, law, arts and
humanities, sports and human kinetics, public administration, business
administration and management, human resources, social work, tourism, hotel and
restaurant management as well as food and nutrition and other relevant fields of
study, as the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, may deem
necessary for the accomplishment of its objectives, and those which respond to
meet the needs of the Province of Pangasinan and Region I.

The existing laboratory school for early childhood, primary, junior and
senior high school, in Bayambang Campus as well as the existing laboratory school
for junior and senior high school in Infanta Campus, shall continue to operate
under the supervision of the College of Education of the PSU to serve the in-campus
requirements of its students.

SECTION 4. The Board of Regents. - The governing board of the PSU
shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education
(CHED) and shall be co-chaired by the President of the PSU, and with the following
as members:

- (a) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education of the Senate;
- (b) Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives;
- (c) Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority;
- (d) Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology;
- (e) Regional Executive Director of the Department of Agriculture;
- (f) President of the federation of faculty associations of the PSU;
- (g) President of the federation of student councils of the PSU;
- (h) President of the federation of alumni associations of the PSU;
- (i) President of the federation of non-teaching personnel association of the PSU; and
- (j) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization.

Gender balance shall be ensured in the composition of the Board of Regents.

SECTION 5. *Appointment of Two (2) Private Sector Representatives (PSR)*- The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from a list of at least five (5) qualified candidates if the vacancy in the office of PSR is two and from a list of at least three (3) qualified candidates if the vacancy in the office of PSR is one from the Province of Pangasinan, as recommended by a search committee duly constituted by the President. The members of the Search Committee for PSR shall consist of three (3) designated members, one from faculty or non-teaching personnel, one from student sector, and one from private sector. The members of the Search Committee shall elect from among themselves the Committee Chairperson.

The Search Committee for PSR shall screen and select the nominees based on the standards and qualifications for the position set by the Board. However, the Board may opt to adopt the provisions pertaining to the selection process and criteria for PSRs provided for under relevant CHED issuances.

SECTION 6. *Term of Office of the Faculty, Student, Alumni and Non-Teaching Representative* - The membership of the President of the federation of faculty associations, the President of the federation of student councils, the President of the federation of alumni associations, and the Representative of the nonteaching personnel in the Board shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws.

SECTION 7. *Powers and Duties of the Board.* — In addition to its general powers of administration and the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under existing laws, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- (a) Promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies on education, other pertinent provisions of the Constitution on education, agriculture, science and technology, and the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1994”;

- (b) Approve the curricula and instructional programs, as well as the closing of programs/courses that are no longer aligned with the mandate of the university

upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and rules on student discipline drawn by the Administrative and Academic Councils as herein provided;

(c) Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the PSU, the vice presidents, deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members, and other officials and employees of the PSU;

(d) Fix and adjust the 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; grant designated officials, at its discretion, salary differential, subject deloading, leaves of absences, service credits, allowances and bonus under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing law to the contrary notwithstanding; and remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process of law;

Any provision of existing law, rule or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the PSU from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services, income generating projects, and land grants, shall be retained by the PSU and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension services or other programs, salaries, emoluments and incentives, and projects of the PSU; *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for which these are collected; *Provided, however*, that if, for reasons beyond its control, the PSU 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 PSU;

(f) Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater access of poor but deserving students in accordance with Republic Act No. 10931, or the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”;

(g) Establish professorial chairs in the PSU and provide fellowships for qualified faculty members, and scholarships to deserving students and employees;

(h) Receive and appropriate sums as may be provided by law for the support of the PSU, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the PSU;

(i) Approve upon the recommendation of the president the policies on admission and graduation of students;

(j) Award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contributions in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, business management or any field of specialization within the academic competency of the PSU, and authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of nondegree and nontraditional courses;

(k) Establish research and extension centers to promote the development of the PSU;

(l) Develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, whether public, private, local or foreign, and appoint experts or specialists as consultants, part-time, visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;

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

(n) As deemed necessary, collaborate with the governing bodies of other state universities and colleges within the Province of Pangasinan and Region I, under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in restructuring the PSU to make it more efficient, relevant, productive and competitive;

(o) Put up additional campuses and additional programs/courses if necessary, and allocate funding for its initial operation;

(p) Authorize an external management audit of the PSU, to be financed by the CHED, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;

(q) Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units as well as public, private, local or foreign institutions and agencies for the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the PSU;

(r) Import economic, technical and cultural books and publications;

(s) Enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable development and management of economic assets, the proceeds of which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the PSU;

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

(u) Delegate any of its powers and duties provided to the President and other officials of the PSU, as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the PSU;

(v) Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative and transparent decision-making within the PSU;

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

(x) Institutionalize social dialogue and negotiate separately with the accredited faculty association and non-teaching organization consistent with the International Labor Organization Convention 151- Public Services Labor Relations convention; and

(y) Promulgate rules and regulations, as may be necessary, to carry out the purposes and functions of the PSU.

SECTION 8. *Meetings of the Board.* - The Board shall regularly convene once every three (3) months. The Chairperson of the Board may, however, call a special meeting whenever necessary. Provided, that members are notified in writing at least five (5) days prior to the conduct of said meeting.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of a 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 PSU is among those present in the meeting.

In case the Chairperson of the CHED cannot attend a meeting of the Board, a CHED Commissioner duly designated by Chairperson of the CHED as representative to the meeting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member; *Provided*, that during the meeting, the President of the PSU, as Co-Chairperson, shall be the presiding officer: *Provided, further*, that this provision notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED Commissioner as the regular Chairperson of the Board, in which case, the said CHED Commissioner shall act as the presiding officer.

In case the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education shall not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may designate their respective representatives, who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as regular members of the Board.

The members of the Board shall not receive any salary, but shall be entitled to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either for their attendance to the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by resolutions of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 9. *The University President.* — The PSU shall be headed by a President who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines on qualifications and standards, and based on the recommendation of a search committee duly constituted for the purpose of selecting the President. The PSU President shall render full-time service, serve a term of four (4) years, and may be reappointed to another term only.

Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent President of the PSU, the Board may constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency.

The powers and duties of the President of the PSU, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall include those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of similar state universities and colleges and those delegated by the Board.

The salary of the President of the PSU shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466 or the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019”, and such other laws amendatory thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and shall be comparable to that being received by the presidents of similar educational institutions.

In case of a vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, suspension, removal for cause, or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the PSU from among its officials, pending the appointment of a new President: *Provided, That* the Officer-in-Charge shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the term or until the new President has been selected.

The President of the PSU shall be assisted by Vice Presidents along different divisions such as but not limited to Academic Affairs, Student Services, Local and International Linkages, Finance and Auxiliary Services, Administration, Research, Development, and Extension.

SECTION 10. *Vice Presidents of the University* – The PSU shall be entitled to at least three (3) plantilla Vice Presidents as provided for under Annex A of DBM National Budget Circular Number 589 issued on May 25, 2022, and an additional two (2) designated Vice Presidents who shall assist the President in the day-to-day affairs of the University. The designated vice presidents shall be entitled to the salary differential of their current position provided that the officials to be designated as Vice President are occupying a permanent position not lower than Salary Grade 22.

SECTION 11. *Campus Director* – The PSU Board shall designate upon recommendation from the President a Campus Director for each component campus of the university who shall manage the day-to-day operation of the respective Campus. The designated Campus Director may be entitled to the salary differential equivalent to Director II with Salary Grade 26 charged to the income of the university.

SECTION 12. *The Secretary of the University.* — The Board shall appoint a Secretary subject to the recommendation of the President who shall serve as such for both the Board and the PSU and shall keep all records and proceedings of the Board. The Secretary of the PSU shall serve upon each member of the Board the

appropriate notice of board meetings. The Secretary of the Board shall hold the position of Board Secretary V and shall be co-terminus with the term of the appointing authority.

SECTION 13. *The Treasurer of the University.* - The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the *ex officio* Treasurer of the PSU.

SECTION 14. *The Executive Committee.* - There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President of the PSU as chairperson, and all vice presidents, chief administrative officers, and University Legal Officer, as members.

The Executive Committee has the power to review, evaluate and recommend or not to recommend to the Board all matters requiring latter's approval submitted by the Academic Council, Administrative Council, and Research and Extension Council. They shall ensure that matters to be included in the agenda folder of the Board has undergone complete staff work in order to save time and resources and to ensure that important and pressing matters will be addressed promptly.

SECTION 15. *The Administrative Council.* - There shall be an Administrative Council consisting of the President of the PSU as chairperson, and the vice presidents, campus executive directors, directors, heads, the President of the non-teaching organization, and other designated officials of equal rank as members, that shall review and recommend to the Executive Committee the policies that shall govern the administration, operation and management and development planning of the PSU. The President may designate any of the Vice Presidents as the presiding officer of the council whenever necessary in the exigency of service.

SECTION 16. *The Academic Council.* - There shall be an Academic Council, which shall formulate academic policies. It shall be composed of the President of the PSU, who shall act as chairperson, the President of Faculty Association, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant professor, as members. The President may designate the Vice President for Academic Affairs as the presiding officer of the council whenever necessary in the exigency of service.

The Academic Council shall have the power to review and recommend the curricular offerings and rules on student discipline, subject to the approval of the Board as recommended by the Executive Committee. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for their graduation and conferment of degrees, subject to the review and approval of the Board through the President of the PSU and the Executive Committee.

It shall exercise disciplinary power over the students of the PSU and shall formulate rules and regulations on student discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

SECTION 17. *The Faculty.* - No political belief, gender preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, nor religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the PSU: Provided, that said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board and pertinent provisions of CSC Memorandum Circulars: Provided, further, that no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect. The PSU is an equal opportunity university. Any and all forms of discrimination are prohibited.

SECTION 18. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* - The PSU shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution.

SECTION 19. *Scholarship Programs and Admission.* — The PSU shall provide scholarships and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the PSU.

No student shall be denied admission to the PSU by reason of gender, religion, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin.

SECTION 20. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus, Equipment or Supplies and Detail of Personnel.* - Upon the request of the President of the PSU, the heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government may loan or transfer to the PSU such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by it, and detail employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of bureau or office, the apparatus, equipment, supplies or service of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to public service.

The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the President of the PSU and the time so served shall be counted as part of their regular service

SECTION 21. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.* - All assets, both real and personal, personnel and records of the PSU, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall remain under the name of the PSU: *Provided*, That the positions, rights, and security of tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws shall be respected: *Provided*, further, That the incumbents occupying the positions shall remain in the same status until otherwise provided for by the Board: *Provided*, finally. That the PSU shall also accordingly upgrade or increase its human resource component as may be deemed appropriate by the Board or cause the revision of its organizational structure as often as they deemed it necessary.

All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the PSU and all its campuses are hereby declared the property of the PSU, and shall be titled under its name: *Provided*, that should the PSU cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned parcels of land be no longer needed by the PSU, the same shall revert to the concerned local government unit or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case may be.

SECTION 22. *Duty and Tax Exemptions.* — The importation by the PSU of economic, technical, and cultural books or publications, which are for economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical, or cultural purposes shall, upon certification by the CHED, be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”.

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to and used actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes by the PSU, shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from gross income for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

SECTION 23. *Filing of Report.* - On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second (2nd) month after the opening of regular classes each year, the Board shall file a detailed report on the progress, condition, and needs of the PSU with the Office of the President of the Philippines and both Houses of Congress, through the Chairperson of the CHED.

SECTION 24. *Supplementary Application.* - The relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997”, shall form part of this Act.

SECTION 25. *Transitory Provision.* - Upon the effectivity of this Act, all employees of the PSU shall be retained in their present positions and no one shall be adversely affected by the approval of the amendments to the original Charter.

Upon effectivity of this act, the incumbent President of the PSU shall start a fresh term and may continue to hold office until the expiration of one (1) term only and shall not be eligible for re-appointment to another term.

SECTION 26. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 27. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall issue the rules and regulations to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 28. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected are in full force and effect.

SECTION 29. *Repealing Clause.* — Presidential Decree 1497, otherwise known as the "Pangasinan State University Charter", and all other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 30. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.