

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6053



Introduced by Representative **FLORENCIO "JOEBEN" T. MIRAFLORES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution mandates that the State protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and ensure that education is accessible to all. In line with this, Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act," reiterates that quality tertiary education is an inalienable right and directs the State to take steps to make it accessible to every Filipino. The Constitution further provides that the State shall take into account regional and sectoral needs in educational programs. It is thus incumbent upon us to strengthen our state universities and colleges so they can effectively fulfill these constitutional and statutory mandates. This bill seeks to do so for Aklan State University (ASU) by updating its charter to meet present and future needs.

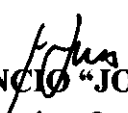
Established by virtue of Republic Act No. 9055 in 2001, ASU was created through the conversion of the Aklan State College of Agriculture into a state university. Its original charter envisioned ASU primarily as an agricultural institution, tasked with providing advanced instruction in agriculture, science and technology, education, and related fields while retaining its primarily agricultural mandate. Over two decades later, the landscape of higher education and the development priorities of Aklan and the Western Visayas region have significantly evolved. ASU has grown into a multi-campus university with diverse programs, and the demands on the University now extend well beyond its original focus. The limitations of the current charter have become evident in the face of emerging disciplines and industries that are crucial to regional progress. To remain responsive and relevant, ASU's enabling law must be revised and strengthened as a matter of urgent policy.

The bill also enhances ASU's governance and autonomy to enable it to meet its expanded role. It is essential to expand the Board of Regents of ASU to include additional representatives who can contribute valuable perspectives, thereby making the University's governing body more inclusive and responsive. This initiative is consistent with the intent of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of

1997,” which sought to strengthen the governing boards of state universities so they can provide more relevant direction in policy-making and ensure that higher education institutions are effective in addressing societal needs. A more representative and empowered Board of Regents will bolster transparency, accountability, and strategic vision in ASU’s leadership. In tandem with this, the bill will reinforce ASU’s fiscal and administrative autonomy. While the original charter and existing laws already grant the University certain corporate powers, further strengthening these provisions will give ASU greater flexibility in managing its resources. Enhanced autonomy will allow the University to streamline its processes, quickly implement academic improvements, and forge partnerships, including research collaborations and industry linkages, without undue bureaucratic delay. These governance reforms will capacitate ASU to innovate and adapt in the fast-changing educational landscape, all while remaining accountable to the public and aligned with national higher education policies.

Overall, a stronger and more dynamic Aklan State University will be a driver of socio-economic transformation in the Province of Aklan and the wider Western Visayas region. By modernizing its charter, ASU can generate the human capital and research needed for regional development, from improving agricultural productivity and environmental resilience to advancing healthcare, science and technology, and maritime industries. The expanded academic offerings and sustained research extension services of ASU will directly support local industries and community welfare, thereby contributing to countryside development in line with our national development goals. ASU’s growth into a comprehensive higher education institution will also help fulfill the State’s responsibility to make tertiary education not only accessible but also relevant to the people’s needs. With this measure, ASU is positioned to significantly uplift the lives of Aklanon through education and innovation, while upholding the constitutional tenets of academic freedom, excellence, and equitable access.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. FLORENCIO “JOEBEN” T. MIRAFLORES
Representative, 2nd District of Aklan

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6053

Introduced by Representative FLORENCIO “JOEBEN” T. MIRAFLORES

AN ACT

STRENGTHENING THE AKLAN STATE UNIVERSITY, RATIONALIZING ITS CAMPUSES AND SPECIALIZATIONS, EXPANDING ITS CURRICULAR OFFERINGS AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9055, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT CONVERTING THE AKLAN STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE AKLAN STATE UNIVERSITY”

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Revised Aklan State
2 University Charter.”

3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State shall promote, foster, nurture, and protect
4 the right of all citizens to accessible quality education. It shall establish, maintain, and support
5 a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education that is relevant to the needs of the
6 people and society.

7 To this end, the Aklan State University (ASU) and its constituent units shall be
8 strengthened as a state university to enhance its capability to provide accessible quality
9 education. It shall also be further strengthened by rationalizing the specialization of its
10 campuses, expanding its curricular offerings and the composition and powers of its governing
11 board, developing competencies and encouraging the specialization of its constituent units,
12 engaging in conventional or alternative instructional techniques, methodologies and strategies,
13 and fostering a unique and distinctive academic leadership towards the improvement of ASU
14 as an academic institution and the delivery of higher education services in the Province of
15 Aklan, the Western Visayas Region, and the entire country.

16 **Sec. 3. University Campuses and Other Units.** – The ASU shall be composed of its
17 existing campuses in the municipalities of Banga, Kalibo, Ibaday, New Washington, and

Makato, as well as its constituent units, colleges, academic or nonacademic units, and all other ASU campuses that may be established in the future. The seat of governance of the university shall remain in the Municipality of Banga, Province of Aklan.

Sec. 4. General Mandate. – The Aklan State University (ASU) shall primarily provide advanced education, higher technological and professional courses, and training programs in agriculture, forestry, environmental sciences, veterinary medicine, fisheries, aquaculture, marine sciences and maritime studies, engineering and industrial technology, computer studies, architecture, hospitality, tourism and eco-resource management, education, medical, life sciences, and other allied, related and emerging fields of study. It shall also undertake research, extension services, and production activities in support of the socioeconomic development of the Province of Aklan, the Western Visayas Region, and the nation.

Sec. 5. Curricular Offerings. – The ASU shall primarily offer undergraduate and graduate courses, advanced professional and technical instruction, and training within its areas of specialization, as follows:

(a) ASU – Banga:

1. College of Agriculture, Forestry and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) – Master of Science in Agriculture, Agriculture, Food Technology, Forestry and Home Technology,
2. College of Teacher Education (CTE) – Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Management, Master of Arts in Education, Education
3. School of Veterinary Medicine
4. College of Arts and Sciences
5. College of Nursing
6. College of Business Management

(b) ASU – Kalibo:

1. College of Engineering and Architecture,
2. College of Industrial Education, College of Industrial Technology
3. College of Computer Studies

(c) ASU – Ibajay:

1. College of Hospitality and Rural Resource Management (CHARMM) – Master and Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management, Hospitality Management, Computer Science, Environmental Sciences, Education

(d) ASU – New Washington:

1. College of Fisheries and Marine Sciences (CFMS) – Master of Arts in Education, Culture and Arts Education, Secondary Education, Marine Biology, Fisheries Criminology, Customs Administration and Hospitality Management

(e) ASU – Makato:

1. College of Human Development and Performance Sciences (CHDPS) – Technology and Livelihood Education, Physical Education, Exercise and Sports Sciences, Early Childhood Education

The University may also offer other relevant fields of study, other than the priority programs identified by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as the Board of Regents may deem necessary for the accomplishment of its objectives, and those which respond to the human resource development needs of the Province of Aklan, Western Visayas, and the nation. The Board of Regents shall have the power to declare priority programs, not identified by the CHED. Provided, That ASU shall comply with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED for the offering of degree programs and the introduction of new or revised programs.

The ASU may open new campuses as it may deem necessary, to improve access to quality education, promote innovation and progress in the academe, and advance its research capabilities, Provided, That ASU shall comply with the policies, standards, and guidelines of the CHED for the operation of campuses.

Sec. 6. Administration. – The ASU shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in Republic Act No. 11232, otherwise known as the “Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines.” The exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, and the President of the ASU, hereinafter referred to as the University President.

Sec. 7. The Governing Board. – The governing board of the ASU shall be the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be chaired and co-chaired by the Chairperson of the CHED and the President of the ASU, respectively, 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 Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev);

(d) Regional Executive Director of the Department of Agriculture (DA);

(e) Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);

(f) President of the federation of faculty associations of the ASU;

(g) President of the federation of student councils of the ASU;

(h) President of the federation of alumni associations of the ASU;

(i) President of the nonteaching personnel association of the ASU; and

(j) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization.

93 The Board shall appoint two (2) prominent citizens who shall be selected from a list of
94 at least five (5) qualified persons from the Province of Aklan as recommended by a search
95 committee constituted by the President of the ASU, in consultation with the Chairperson of the
96 CHED and other members of the Board, based on the guidelines, qualifications and standards
97 for the position set by the Board. They shall serve for a term of two (2) years from the date of
98 appointment.

99 The president of the federation of faculty associations, the president of the federation
100 of student councils, the president of the federation of alumni associations, and the president of
101 the nonteaching personnel association of the ASU shall be coterminous with their terms of
102 office, as provided under their respective constitutions and bylaws.

103 **Sec. 8. Powers and Duties of the Board.** – The administration of the ASU and the
104 exercise of its corporate powers are vested in the Board, which shall have the following specific
105 powers and duties in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the
106 powers granted to the Board of Directors of a Corporation under Section 35 of Republic Act
107 No. 11232, the Board shall have the following specific powers and duties:

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

112 (b) Approve the curricula, instructional programs, and rules on student discipline drawn
113 by the Administrative and Academic Councils as herein provided;

114 (c) Appoint, upon the recommendation of the President of the ASU, the vice presidents,
115 deans, directors, heads of the campuses, faculty members, and other officials of the
116 ASU;

117 (d) Prescribe the salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and
118 employees, subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 11466, otherwise known as
119 the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019,” civil service rules and regulations governing
120 hours of service and such other requirements and conditions, and other pertinent laws,
121 rules, and regulations;

122 (e) Fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as matriculation fees,
123 graduation fees, and laboratory fees, as it may deem proper to impose, after due
124 consultation with the concerned sectors. The fees and charges, including government
125 subsidies and other income generated by ASU, shall constitute its funds to be used
126 exclusively in the pursuit of its mandate as a State University, and shall be deposited in
127 any authorized government depository bank. All interests that shall accrue therefrom
128 shall form part of the same funds for the use of ASU.

129 The fees and charges collected by ASU, including government subsidies and proceeds
130 from other income sources, as well as interests that would accrue therefrom, shall be

retained by the University: Provided, That in no case shall the said income be used for the payment of allowances and other benefits not authorized by law: Provided, further, That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purpose for which they were collected.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Board may authorize, for such reasonable and legal purposes as it may deem necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives of ASU, the use of: (1) any unexpended balance whose fiduciary character has been ipso facto removed pursuant to the grant of subsidy under Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act"; and/or (2) any appropriation for any project under the duly approved program of expenditures of ASU, which, for reasons beyond its control, could not be pursued: Provided, That funds collected from students for specific purposes shall not be realigned or reprogrammed to other expenditures.

(f) Adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater access of poor but deserving students in accordance with Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act;

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

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

(i) Set 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, sports, and human kinetics or any field of specialization within the academic competency of the ASU, 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 ASU;

(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 knowledge transfer for the promotion of greater access to education, such as the use of information technology, the dual training system, open distance learning, and community laboratory;

- 166 (n) Collaborate with the governing bodies of other state universities and colleges within
167 the Province of Aklan and Western Visayas Region, under the supervision of the CHED
168 and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in
169 restructuring the ASU to make it more efficient, relevant, productive, and competitive;
- 170 (o) Absorb non-chartered tertiary institutions within the Province of Aklan and Western
171 Visayas Region as branches, extension or external centers, in coordination with the
172 CHED and in consultation with the DBM, and offer therein programs or courses to
173 carry out the constitutional mandate of providing equal access of students to educational
174 opportunities;
- 175 (p) Authorize an external management audit of the ASU, to be financed by the CHED,
176 subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit, and institute reforms,
177 including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and
178 recommendations;
- 179 (q) Develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government
180 units as well as public, private, local, or foreign institutions and agencies for the
181 furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the ASU;
- 182 (r) Import books or publications, instruments, equipment, and apparatuses for
183 economic, technical-vocational, scientific, medical, philosophical, historical, legal, or
184 cultural purposes;
- 185 (s) Lease, develop, or enter into Public-Private Partnership (PPP) or Joint Venture (JV)
186 arrangements for the productive use of its non-academic assets, subject to COA rules,
187 the PPP Code, and DEPDev JV Guidelines; proceeds shall accrue to ASU and be used
188 for instruction, research and extension, student welfare, and infrastructure.
- 189 (t) Receive, in trust, all legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal properties of
190 all kinds and administer and dispose of the same, when necessary, for the benefit of the
191 ASU and subject to the limitations, directions, and instructions of the donor, if any;
- 192 (u) Extend the term of the President of the ASU beyond the age of retirement, but not
193 beyond the age of seventy (70), based on the guidelines, qualifications and standards
194 set by the Board: Provided, That such extension shall be subject to the term limits
195 provided in Section 10 of this Act: Provided, further, That the President's performance
196 has been rated by the Board as outstanding and a unanimous recommendation for such
197 extension has been decided upon by the search committee;
- 198 (v) Delegate any of its powers and duties provided to the President and other officials
199 of the ASU, as it may deem appropriate, to efficiently and effectively administer the
200 affairs of the ASU;
- 201 (w) Establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative and transparent
202 decision-making within the ASU;

(x) Where most advantageous to the ASU, outsource the management of nonacademic services such as health, food, building, or grounds or property maintenance, and such other similar activities;

(y) 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; and

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

Sec. 9. 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 three (3) 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 ASU 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 the 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 ASU, as Vice Chairperson, shall be the presiding officer: Provided, further, That this provision notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED may 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 Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical, and Vocational Education and the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education cannot 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 at the meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by a resolution of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

Sec. 10. The University President. – The ASU shall be headed by a President who shall be appointed by the Board, subject to its guidelines, qualifications, and standards, and based on the recommendation of a search committee duly constituted for the purpose of selecting the President.

The University President shall render full-time service and shall have a term of four (4) years and may be reappointed to another term.

239 Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the President of the
240 ASU, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency, and shall ensure the
241 appointment or reappointment of a University President on or before the expiration of the term.

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

245 The salary of the University President of the ASU shall be in accordance with Republic
246 Act No. 11466, or the “Salary Standardization Law of 2019,” and such other laws amendatory
247 thereto, which may hereinafter be enacted, and on the joint circular for state universities and
248 colleges' leveling instruments, and guidelines of the CHED and the DBM.

249 In case of a vacancy in the office of the President by reason of death, compulsory
250 retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity to perform the functions of the office,
251 the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the ASU, pending the appointment of
252 a new President: Provided, That the OIC shall serve only during the unexpired portion of the
253 term.

254 The University President of the ASU shall be assisted by Vice-Presidents. The
255 appointment of the Vice President shall be exercised by the University President based on the
256 needs of the university and approved by the Board.

257 **Sec. 11. The Secretary of the ASU.** – The University President shall appoint the
258 Secretary to be approved by the Board, who shall serve as such for both the Board and the ASU
259 and shall keep all records and proceedings of meetings of the Board and university councils.
260 The Secretary of the ASU shall serve upon each member of the Board and council members
261 the appropriate notice of board and council meetings.

262 **Sec. 12. The Treasurer of the ASU.** – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the ex-
263 officio Treasurer of the ASU.

264 **Sec. 13. The Administrative Council.** – There shall be an Administrative Council
265 consisting of the University President of the ASU as Chairperson, and the vice presidents,
266 deans, directors, and other officials of equal rank, as members. The Administrative Council
267 shall review and recommend to the Board the policies that shall govern the administration,
268 management, and development planning of the ASU.

269 **Sec. 14. The Academic Council.** – There shall be an Academic Council, which shall
270 formulate academic policies. It shall be composed of the University President of the ASU, who
271 shall act as Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant professor,
272 as members.

273 The Academic Council shall have the power to review and recommend the curricular
274 offerings and rules on student discipline, subject to the approval of the Board. 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 University President.

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

Sec. 15. The Campus Directors. – The campuses of the university shall be headed by a Campus Director who shall serve as head or administrator of each of the campuses and shall render for a term of two (2) years and may be reappointed to another term.

The Campus Director shall be designated by the Board, upon the recommendation of the University President, subject to the guidelines, qualifications, and standards set by the Board: Provided, that upon the effectivity of this Act, the incumbent Campus Directors of the existing campuses of the ASU shall continue to serve as such.

Sec. 16. The Faculty. – No political belief, sex, gender, preference, cultural or community affiliation, ethnic origin, or religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the ASU: Provided, That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications and standards set by the Board: Provided, further, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular religious denomination.

Sec. 17. Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy. – The ASU shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution. This is also in pursuant with Section 11 of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997.”

Sec. 18. Scholarship Programs and Admission. – The ASU shall provide scholarship programs and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the ASU.

No student shall be denied admission to the ASU by reason of sex, gender, religion, cultural community affiliation, or ethnic origin, or any other form of discrimination.

Admission and retention policies shall uphold Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, and ensure reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and the poor but deserving, consistent with law and CHED policies.

Sec. 19. Loan or Transfer of Supplies, Apparatuses, or Equipment, and Detail of Personnel to the ASU. – Heads of national government agencies and instrumentalities may, upon the request of the Board through the President of the ASU, loan or transfer supplies, apparatuses, or equipment, or detail personnel to the University: Provided, That such loan, transfer, or detail shall not be detrimental to public service.

310 The personnel to be detailed to the University shall perform such duties as may be
311 deemed required by the President of the ASU, and the time spent for such duties shall be
312 counted as part of the detailed personnel's regular service.

313 **Sec. 20. Assets, Liabilities, and Personnel.** – All assets, both real and personal,
314 personnel and records of the ASU, as well as its liabilities or obligations, shall remain under
315 the name of the ASU: Provided, That the positions, rights, and security of tenure of faculty
316 members and personnel therein employed under existing laws shall be respected: Provided,
317 further, That the incumbents occupying the positions shall remain in the same status until
318 otherwise provided for by the Board: Provided, finally, That the ASU shall also accordingly
319 upgrade or increase its human resource component as may be deemed appropriate by the Board.

320 All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the ASU and all its
321 campuses are hereby declared as property of the ASU and shall be titled under its name:
322 Provided, That should ASU cease to exist or be abolished or should such aforementioned
323 parcels of land be no longer needed by the ASU, the same shall revert to the concerned local
324 government units or to the Province of Aklan or to the Republic of the Philippines, as the case
325 may be.

326 **Sec. 21. Duty and Tax Exemption.** – The importation of books or publications,
327 instruments, equipment and apparatuses which are for economic, technical-vocational,
328 scientific, medical, philosophical, historical, legal or cultural purposes made by the ASU, upon
329 certification by the CHED, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the
330 provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the "Customs Modernization and
331 Tariff Act."

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

337 **Sec. 22. Filing of Report.** – On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second (2nd)
338 month after the opening of regular classes each year, the Board shall file a detailed report on
339 the progress, condition, and needs of the ASU with the Office of the President of the Philippines
340 and both Houses of Congress, through the Chairperson of the CHED.

341 **Sec. 23. Suppletory Application.** – The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292,
342 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997," shall form part of this
343 Act.

344 **Sec. 24. Parity Clause.** – All other powers, functions, existing rights, privileges, grants,
345 responsibilities, and limitations under existing laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed
346 upon the ASU and its officials, whenever appropriate.

347 **Sec. 25. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is
348 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain
349 in full force and effect.

350 **Sec. 26. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 9055, entitled “An Act Converting the
351 Aklan State College of Agriculture in the Municipality of Banga, Province of Aklan into a State
352 University to be known as the Aklan State University, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for
353 Other Purposes,” is hereby amended accordingly. All other laws, presidential decrees,
354 executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of
355 this Act are amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

356 **Sec. 27. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
357 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

358 *Approved,*