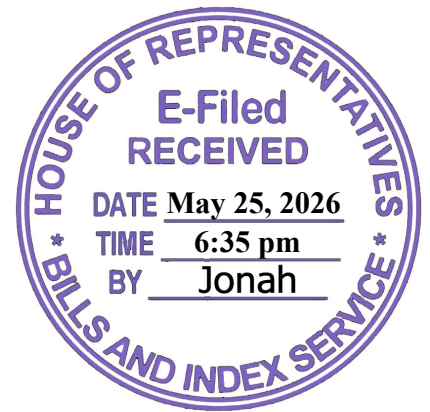




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9414



Introduced by Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
DECLARING THE UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN PHILIPPINES AS THE
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education and to advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

In furtherance of this constitutional policy, Republic Act No. 9512, otherwise known as the National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008, recognizes the vital role of educational institutions in promoting environmental awareness, sustainability education, ecological protection, and responsible stewardship of natural resources. The law likewise encourages the integration of environmental education in academic instruction and institutional programs.

The University of Eastern Philippines, being the first state university in the Visayas region, has consistently demonstrated its commitment to accessible and quality tertiary education while addressing the socio-economic and environmental needs of Eastern Visayas and the nation. Guided by its vision of becoming “a globally competitive green entrepreneurship university,” UEP has institutionalized sustainability-oriented instruction, research, extension, governance, and community engagement programs.

The university has also established several sustainability and innovation-centered research facilities and programs, including the Center for Environmental Studies

and Advocacy (CESA), the Research Center for Climate Change and Resiliency, the Affiliated Renewable Energy Center, the University Technology Innovation Center, and other research and extension initiatives dedicated to environmental protection, sustainable development, and green innovation.

This proposed measure seeks to formally declare the University of Eastern Philippines as the National University for Sustainability Studies in recognition of its institutional leadership in sustainability education, environmental stewardship, green entrepreneurship, climate resiliency, and community empowerment.

Moreover, this bill aims to strengthen the university's capacity to advance sustainability-centered higher education, expand research and innovation initiatives, promote environmentally responsible development practices, foster global academic linkages, and produce graduates equipped to address contemporary environmental and developmental challenges.

The enactment of this measure shall further reinforce the State's commitment to sustainable development, ecological protection, and inclusive national progress through transformative and future-oriented higher education.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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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 University of Eastern Philippines Charter”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State is mandated to protect and promote the right to quality education for all citizens, ensuring it is accessible and relevant to the national needs. On the other hand, the State is also mandated to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 9512, otherwise known as the “National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008”, universities have a significant and vital role in promoting environmental education, including programs and projects that seek the promotion of environmental awareness

through environmental education which shall encompass environmental concepts and principles, environmental laws, the state of international and local environment, local environmental best practices, the threats of environmental degradation and its impact on human well-being, the responsibility of the citizenry to the environment and the value of conservation, protection and rehabilitation of natural resources and the environment, thus integrating the principles of sustainability, innovation, entrepreneurship, and environmental stewardship in the higher educational landscape.

Further, as the first state university in the Visayas region, UEP is tasked with providing accessible, quality education while addressing the socio-economic needs of the region.

Guided by national priorities and global educational standards, ***UEP strives to empower learners, advance research, and engage communities in sustainable development initiatives.*** This commitment is captured in its Mission Statement:

“Empower students and the community with the integration of green entrepreneurship in instruction, research, extension and production for sustainable development, and global impact.”

The Vision Statement provides UEP with a long term perspective, aligning the choices of its leaders and stakeholders with the university’s ultimate aspirations. A well crafted vision enables UEP to rise above immediate challenges and focus on achieving its highest goals.

This aspiration is embodied in its Vision Statement: ***“A globally competitive green entrepreneurship university.”***

To this end, the University of Eastern Philippines (UEP) is hereby declared as the National University for Sustainability Studies.

SEC. 3. *Purposes of the University of Eastern Philippines.* – As the National University for Sustainability Studies, UEP is committed to ensuring relevant and quality tertiary education with the integration of sustainability principles and environmental stewardship through green innovations covering instruction, research and extension, external affairs and internal governance, the UEP shall:

1. Provide technical and professional training, advanced instruction in literature, philosophy, science, and arts, promote scientific and technological research, and ensure democratic access to education for deserving students both in the Province of Northern Samar and nationwide;
2. Ensure relevant and quality tertiary education to achieve inclusive growth and increase access to quality tertiary education for poor but deserving students;
3. Improve higher education research to promote productivity and innovations;
4. Increase community engagement;
5. Establish a robust alumni network and strengthen linkages and partnerships with a global presence; and
6. Achieve participatory, transparent, and accountable governance.

These outcomes encompass several key components, including academic excellence, research innovation, community empowerment, sustainability, and advocacy for equitable access to education.

SEC. 4. *The University.* – The University of Eastern Philippines shall be composed of both the main and external campuses established by its governing board upon the recommendation of its University President.

The Main Campus is located in the Municipality of Catarman, Province of Northern Samar and the external campuses shall include the following: UEP

Laoang Campus – Laoang, Northern Samar, the UEP Pedro Rebadulla Memorial Campus – Catubig, Northern Samar and UEP Lavezares Campus – Lavezares, Northern Samar and those that may be created in the future.

SEC. 5. *Academic Freedom.* – The University of Eastern Philippines shall enjoy academic freedom as provided for in Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997" and paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

SEC. 6. *Commitment to become a globally competitive Green Entrepreneurship academic tertiary education as a significant contribution to National Development.* – The University of Eastern Philippines is committed to provide accessible high quality tertiary education while addressing the socio-economic needs of the region. As such, the university through its long-term perspective pursues the integration of the principles of sustainability, innovation, entrepreneurship, and environmental stewardship into its core functions in instruction, research, extension and production for national development.

As a globally competitive green entrepreneurship university, the university fosters a culture of entrepreneurship focused on green practices and eco-friendly solutions, equipping the students and stakeholders with the skills and knowledge, and values necessary to address environmental challenges and drive sustainable development. It has established research centers for green sustainability duly approved by the UEP Board of Regents, to wit: Affiliated Renewable Energy Center, Center for Environmental Studies and Advocacy (CESA), Integrated Research Laboratory, Diagnostic Laboratory, PhilRice Research Center, Local Governance Training and Research Institute, Research Center for Climate Change and Resiliency, UEP Bio-composting: A sustainable Biodegradable Waste Project, University Biocontrol Technology Learning Facility, University Technology Innovation Center, Center for Natural Products Research, DTI-

Shared Service Facility, Center for Material Science, Center for Samar Studies and the UEP Materials Recovery Facility.

SEC. 7. *Commitment to the University's Core Values.* – The University is grounded in a set of core values that underpin its operations and culture, namely: INCLUSIVITY, RESILIENCE, INTEGRITY, INNOVATION, STEWARDSHIP, COLLABORATION, & EXCELLENCE.

These fundamental principles drive the university's pursuit to excellence ensuring a culture of continuous improvement strengthening the University of Eastern Philippines resilience and adaptability in the face of evolving challenges.

SEC. 8. *Commitment to Inclusivity and Social Responsibility.* – The University of Eastern Philippines shall serve the Filipino Nation and the humanity. The UEP commits to foster inclusivity and equal access to tertiary quality education to uplift economic welfare. In the continuous pursuit of attaining its mission and vision, the university is committed to fulfill its social responsibility for the general welfare of the people as magnified by its tagline, "UEP Cares".

SEC. 9. *Support to Sports, Culture, and the Arts.* – The University of Eastern Philippines shall undertake and support comprehensive sports programs that promote physical education, uphold excellence, and encourage competitive participation in sports activities, instill the university's identity and solidarity, cultivate discipline and responsibility. It shall continue to support culture and the arts to promote the importance of our Filipino identity, social well being, and preserve culture and traditions of the county.

SEC. 10. *Administrative Autonomy.* – As the National University for Sustainability Studies, the UEP shall be treated with greater flexibility. It shall determine its teaching, research and extension programs and policies, thrust, plans, and standards consistent with its purpose, and according to the national

priorities and global educational standards aligned with sustainability and innovation.

SEC. 11. *Administration.* – The University of Eastern Philippines shall have general powers of a corporation as set forth in the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines. The administration of the UEP and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and the President of the University of Eastern Philippines. There shall be a central administration headed by the UEP President who shall provide leadership and overall strategic direction in the four pillars of the university, to wit: instruction, research and extension, external affairs, and internal governance, including infrastructure development, linkages and partnerships and resource management to achieve its vision and mission. The administration of the external campuses shall be vested in the CAMPUS DIRECTORS, who shall be designated by the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of the UEP President, subject to the limitations and insofar as delegated by the UEP President and authorized by the Governing Board.

SEC. 12. *The Board of Regents.* – The governing body of the University of Eastern Philippines shall be the UEP Board of Regents, referred to herein as the Board, which shall be chaired by the Commissioner, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the UEP President as Vice- Chairperson, respectively, with the following members:

- a. Chairperson, Committee on Higher Technical Education of the Senate of the Philippines;
- b. Chairperson of the Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives;
- c. Regional Director, Department of Economy, Planning and Development

- d. Regional Director, Department of Agriculture
- e. Regional Director, Department of Science and Technology
- f. President, UEP Federation of Faculty Unions
- g. President, UEP Alumni Association Federation
- h. President, Federation of Student Councils
- i. Two (2) private sector representatives who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization, chosen from among a list of at least three (3) qualified persons as recommended by the search committee constituted by the President of the University of Eastern Philippines in consultation with the Commissioner of the CHED and other members of the Board, based on the standards and qualifications for the position set by the Board; provided that one of the private sector representatives must have a distinctive contribution in the society, reputable practice of profession and advancement of higher education in the country.

The regents holding office as members of the Board at the time of the effectivity of this Act shall continue to serve until the expiration of their appointments.

The terms of office of the President of the UEP Federation of Faculty Unions, the President of the UEP Federation of Alumni Associations, and the President of the UEP Federation of Student Councils shall be coterminous with their terms of office, as provided in their respective Constitutions and bylaws.

The terms of office of the two (2) private sector representatives shall serve for a term of two (2) years and may be reappointed for another term.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the University President, the Officer-in-Charge designated by the Governing Board shall serve for the unexpired terms only or until such time that a new President is elected.

SEC. 13. *Powers of the Board of Regents.* – The Board of Regents shall have the following specific powers and duties:

- a. To receive and appropriate to the ends specified by law such sum as may be provided by law for the support of the University;
- b. To enter into Memorandum of Agreement with other agencies (government or private) in the fulfillment of the core functions of the university in instruction, research and extension, external affairs, and administration;
- c. To confer the usual honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of learning, statesmanship, or eminence in literature, science or art: Provided, that such degrees shall not be conferred in consideration of the payment of money or other valuable consideration:
- d. To establish chairs in the colleges and schools mentioned in paragraph (b) of this section and to provide for the maintenance or endowment of such chairs;
- e. To approve the courses of study and rules of discipline drawn up by the University Council as hereinafter provided; to fix the tuition fees required of students, as well as matriculation fees, graduation fees and fees for laboratory courses; and all special fees;
- f. To provide fellowships for faculty members and scholarships to students showing evidence of special merit;
- g. To contract for technical services, under certain conditions;
- h. To prescribe rules for its own government;
- i. 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 of a department thereof, or for aid to any student or students, in accordance with the direction or instructions of the donor, and, in default

thereof, in such manner as the Board of Regents may, in its discretion, determine;

- j. To appoint upon recommendation of the President of the University, professors, associate professors, assistant professors, other members of the teaching staff, and all other employees; to fix their compensation, hours of service, and such other duties and conditions as he may deem proper; to grant to them in his discretion leave of absence under such regulations as he may promulgate, and to remove them for cause after an investigation and hearing shall have been had; and
- k. To delegate its powers and duties to the University President as it may deem appropriate as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the University of Eastern Philippines.
- l. To enact for the Government of the University such general ordinances and regulations, not contrary to law, as are consistent with the purposes of the University.
- m. To promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the University of Eastern Philippines.

SEC. 14. *Quorum; service of process.* – A quorum of the Board of Regents shall consist of a majority of all the members holding office at the time the meeting of the Board is called. All processes of the Board of Regents shall be served by the President of the University or the Board Secretary thereof.

SEC. 15. *The University President of the University of Eastern Philippines.* – The President of UEP shall be its chief academic officer, head of the university, faculty, and the chief executive officer. As such, the President shall exercise the powers specifically provided for in this Act, those determined by the UEP Board of Regents, those which pertain to the Office of the University President, and those which are related or necessary of its functions.

The UEP President who shall be elected by the UEP Board of Regents upon the recommendation of a duly constituted search committee, who shall render full-time service.

The UEP President shall have a term of four (4) years and may be reappointed to another term, upon the recommendation of a duly constituted search committee.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the University President by reason of death, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of the office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge, pending the appointment of a new President. In no case shall the search and appointment of the next President be longer than ninety (90) calendar days from the date when the vacancy occurs. The newly appointed President shall serve a full term, provided that the designated officer-in-charge shall not be allowed to join as candidate in the search process and shall be ineligible to vote.

The powers and duties of the President of the University of Eastern Philippines in addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be usually pertaining to the office of the president similar educational institution, and those delegated by the Board.

The President of the University shall be assisted by the Vice President for Administration & Finance, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Student Prosperity and Community Engagement and the Vice President for Research, Development and Extension.

SEC. 16. *The Secretary of the University.* – There shall be a Secretary of the University of Eastern Philippines designated by the UEP Board of Regents, who shall also be the Secretary of the Board, and who shall keep such records of the University of Eastern Philippines.

SEC. 17. *The Academic Council.* – There shall be an academic council consisting of the President of the UEP as Chairperson, the Vice President for Academic Affairs as Vice Chairperson, and all faculty members of the UEP holding the rank of assistant professors and higher as members.

SEC. 18. *The Administrative Council.* – There shall be an Administrative Council consisting of the President of the UEP as Chairperson and the Vice Presidents, Campus Directors, Deans and Directors and other officials of equal rank as members.

SEC. 19. *The Research Council.* – There shall be created a UEP Research Council, which shall be composed of the University President as the Chairperson, the Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension as Vice Chairperson; and with the Vice President for Student Prosperity and Community Engagement, Vice President for Administration and Finance, Campus Directors, Director for Research and Extension Services, and Heads of Established Research Centers, as members.

SEC. 20. *Rules of Construction.* – No Statutory or other issuances shall diminish the powers, rights, privileges and benefits accorded to the University of Eastern Philippines under this Act, or those enjoyed at present by virtue of other issuances not otherwise modified or repealed under this Act unless subsequent legislation expressly provides for their repeal, amendment or modifications. Any case of doubt in the interpretation of the provisions of this Charter shall be resolved in favor of the academic freedom and fiscal autonomy of the UEP.

SEC. 21. *Appropriation.* – The amount needed to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the University of Eastern Philippines and its other internal funds. Thereafter, the

amount necessary to strengthen its capacity as the National University for Sustainability Studies shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 22. *Transitory provision.* – to provide strategic direction and leadership as the university of eastern Philippines transitions to its original status into a national university for sustainability studies, and to ensure the effective attainment of its distinctive and purposeful mandate as such, as declared for in this act, the incumbent president of the university of eastern Philippines shall serve a new term as its first president as the national university for sustainability studies subject to one (1) reappointment; provided, that such reappointment is in pursuant to the guidelines as stated in section 11 of CHED memorandum no. 16, series of 2009.

SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 24. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 4126, otherwise known as the "An Act Converting the Samar Institute of Technology in the Municipality of Catarman, Province of Samar, into a university to be Known as the University of Eastern Philippines, and Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds Therefor" and all laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, including other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 25. *The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act providing for a detailed rules and policies shall be made within 30 days from its effectivity.

SEC. 26. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,