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15 November 2020

OVPAA Memorandum No. 2020-139

For: UP Faculty and Students

Through: The Chancellors
cc: Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs, Deans/Institute Directors,
Program Directors and Chairs, University Registrars

CAIT

From: Maria Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Re: 16-21 November 2020 Recovery Period in the Aftermath of Typhoon
Ulysses;
Compassion and Flexibility for Affected Students and Extended
Deadline for the Submission of Grades; and
Reiteration of Suspended Academic Rules

16-21 November 2020 Recovery Period

Typhoon Ulysses cut a wide swath as it swept across the country with its bigger wind radius and rain impact, compounding the situation of our people in provinces previously hit by Super Typhoon Rolly and Typhoon Quinta, and causing untold human suffering in other parts of Luzon. Given the distribution of UP students across the archipelago, a significant number of students from the different Constituent Universities are affected, with some of them still staying in evacuation centers up to this time. Some of our faculty members and academic and administrative staff are also affected in varying degrees. We will only know the full impact of the typhoon on individual members of our UP community in the next few days.

In the midst of this disaster, it is heartening to note the spontaneous response of UP students, staff and faculty in the different CUs to help alleviate the situation. In the spirit of solidarity with those affected, the UP Administration is declaring the week of **16-21 November 2020** as a period of recovery for affected members of the UP community and for the rest of our community to continue raising funds, soliciting donations in kind, engaging in sorting, packing and repacking relief goods, participating in the delivery of goods to those in need following public health protocols, and helping in the rehabilitation process, if needed. The conduct of synchronous and asynchronous activities as well as the submission of course requirements are suspended for this week.

Compassion and Flexibility for Affected Students; Extended Deadline for the Submission of Grades

The Office of the Registrar of each Constituent University is enjoined to furnish the faculty the names of students in their classes who are based in the areas affected by Typhoons Quinta, Rolly and Ulysses. The list will help the faculty identify, in the spirit of compassion and flexibility,

the students who may need printed course packs and/or advice on course requirements and their submission.

To accommodate a later submission of requirements for all students, the University is extending the deadline for the submission of grades to Friday, **22 January 2021**.

Please note that for this semester, the 20% attendance rule is suspended and thus should not have any weight in the final grade. Attendance of students in synchronous sessions is also not required. The faculty should make appropriate arrangements for those who miss synchronous sessions.

Reiteration of Suspended Academic Rules

In addition to the suspended rule on attendance cited above, it is important to remind administrators, faculty and students of the rules that applies to all students – undergraduate and graduate - that have been suspended with the approval of the Board of Regents.

1. The deadline for dropping and filing of leave of absence is suspended.
2. A 12-unit course load will be considered a regular load for undergraduate students. *[If students realize after enrolling in more than 12 units that it will be difficult for them to fulfill the requirements of all their courses and choose to drop the course, whether to put the 'DRP' in the transcript is currently under deliberation.]*
3. The First Semester AY 2020-2021 will not be counted towards MRR (Note: Because it is the first time for students to do remote learning and they will still calibrate the course load that they can manage, especially for graduate students who are working from home and for other students who have a workload outside of their school work).
4. A student enrolled in a course this semester that is a prerequisite to another shall be allowed to enroll in the latter course for credit in the subsequent semester, despite having no grade yet for the prerequisite course given the extension of the deadline for submission of grades to 22 January 2021.
5. The following rules on scholastic standing are suspended for the First Semester AY 2020-2021
 - a. Warning
 - b. Probation*
 - c. Dismissal
 - d. Permanent Disqualification

*applicable only for undergraduate students.

Compassion and Flexibility for All

The First Semester AY 2020-2021 is a transition semester towards a more effective remote delivery of learning in the Second Semester AY 2020-2021. The recent natural disaster in the time of COVID-19 and the reality that the University is still adjusting to course packs and remote learning call upon the faculty to review the coverage of their courses considering their students' load. Mindful of the expected learning outcomes in the course and the content and activities essential to achieving these outcomes, the faculty is enjoined to calibrate the requirements for the remainder of the semester, addressing a common student's concern of having an overwhelming volume of work. This, because some faculty members added required readings or activities to compensate for the remote mode of course delivery. Students should be informed of changes, if any.

Finally, given the relentless challenges of this semester, a compassionate calibration of expectations from students and teachers this semester is an imperative for our academic community.

Thank you.