



Continuing the Legacy of Working Together for Excellence

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Professor and Nominee

Search for the UPLB Chancellor 2017-2020

Three years ago, I ran for chancellorship because I believed that the position would give me the opportunity to better serve the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and its constituents, by offering fresh and new leadership focused on a mission to fulfill and pave the way for UPLB to become a globally competitive graduate and research university contributing to national development.

Three years later, I am happy to report that my team and I, with your support, have successfully accomplished most of the goals that we have set for UPLB, and that we achieved these through participatory governance and management, and by being sincerely and profoundly moved by the mutual desire to make UPLB the best university that it can be.

During my first term as Chancellor, we have set three major goals to aid the realization of UPLB to become a globally competitive graduate research university contributing to national development and these are:

- 1) Sustaining UPLB's academic leadership and excellence;
- 2) Promoting the use of UPLB's knowledge and technologies towards attaining inclusive growth; and
- 3) Creating an enabling environment in UPLB for creativity and innovation to flourish.

Today, I am signifying my desire to run for another term as chancellor of UPLB, not only to continue the realization of the many current and future activities that we have started in the past three years, but more importantly, to address crucial aspects in the University and mobilize endeavors that will further contribute to UPLB's overall continued improvement and competitiveness.

THRUST #1:

Sustaining UPLB's Academic Leadership and Excellence

UPLB has accomplished a lot on this front from the certification of our BS Agriculture and BS Forestry programs as meeting the AUN-QA standards, the revisions of our undergraduate courses in time for the first batch of K-12 graduates, the *OBE-dization* of all of UPLB's courses, the expansion of UPLB's off-campus graduate programs, the establishment of the UP Professional School for Agriculture and Environment, the establishment of new graduate and postgraduate academic and research partnerships with international universities, to the restructuring of the former College of Agriculture to the College of Agriculture and Food Science. However, we believe that UPLB can achieve more through the following:

- 1) Addition of New Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Programs – such as the *BS Mechanical Engineering, MS Food Engineering, MS Landscape Horticulture*, the institution of a *Robotics and Automation Program*, and a program that adheres to the *One Health* approach. We believe this is crucial so that UPLB can keep up with the times and produce graduates that are competent not only in UPLB's traditional fields of expertise, but also in integrating these fields to address emerging challenges that require interdisciplinary systems of thinking.
- 2) Development of an "Academic Development Fund" that is Exclusively for Students – this is to provide financial support to both undergraduate and graduate students whose research or papers have been accepted and are due to be presented to both local and international conferences. This is also to further encourage UPLB students to further engage in researches in their respective fields as well as publish their work.
- 3) Increase the Number of International Visiting Professors – so that UPLB students can learn from more internationally renowned educators and scholars, and in the process, guide them with their existing theses or dissertations. In addition, our faculty can also benefit from this by enhancing their capacity for research and increasing their network.
- 4) Increase the number of UPLB faculty with PhD degrees and Encourage the annual "One Publication per Faculty/REPS" Initiative - This is a long-term plan. We believe this is important so that UPLB can be really at par with our ASEAN university counterparts especially in the imminent realization of the ASEAN Economic Community.
- 5) Enhanced Capacity Building for SUCs – this component shall be a crucial part of UPLB's mandate as it aims to capacitate other SUCs so they can be effective partners with the University in implementing endeavors that are geared towards inclusive growth and national development.

THRUST #2:

To promote the use of UPLB knowledge and technologies towards inclusive growth

During my term as Chancellor, UPLB has secured a total of 1.4 billion pesos from various government agencies to fund the University's various research, extension, and public service activities. We have also provided enhanced support for UPLB's current interdisciplinary programs as well as actively spearheaded and participated in high impact research, extension, and policy development endeavors—and we hope to do more through the following:

- 1) Addition of New Interdisciplinary Centers – that shall specialize in *Regional Water Resource Center* to ensure water security for all and *Low Carbon Initiatives* towards environmental health.
- 2) Intensify and Expand Industry and National Government Agency Partnerships – as conduits in promoting the technologies and to further strengthen our research programs on PGC-Agriculture, the Nanotechnology Program, and the Natural Product Development (such as the development of medicines).
- 3) Enhanced Capacity Building for National Government Agencies – this component shall be a crucial part of UPLB's public service thrust as it aims to capacitate NGAs in the niches of excellence of UPLB so they can be effective agents with the University in inclusive growth and development.
- 4) Policy Formulation and Development - enhance provision of decision-support for policy development and formulation in agriculture and other niches.

THRUST #3:

To create an enabling environment for creativity and innovation

We envision UPLB to be a university where not only the most promising and brightest minds can learn and interact with one another, but also an environment where one can truly be inspired to pursue one's personal and professional goals. As such, we have been hard at work from securing funding amounting to 2.1 billion pesos to fund all 87 of UPLB's infrastructure projects to support UPLB's numerous instruction and research programs, increasing UPLB's Internet bandwidth to 2.25 gbps, to engaging in ventures that are geared towards the efficient use and management of UPLB's resources (power and water supply). And we were only getting started, we believe that we can achieve more by doing the following in the next three years:

- 1) Expedient Implementation of the UPLB Master Plan – this includes the development of the *Global Academic Zone*, the *Copeland Commons*, the *UPLB Special Economic Zone*, and the planned *UPLB Train Station*.

- 2) Enhanced Operational Efficiency – this includes the significant improvement in the delivery of various *Student Services* such as TCG, TOR, diploma requests, etc..
- 3) Capacity Building for UPLB Administrative Staff through the UPLB HRDO – this shall include the conduct of various capacity building programs and continuing education programs for all UPLB administrative staff (e.g. computer literacy programs, etc.)
- 4) Explore the Formation of a UPLB REPS Council – a proposal for this was recently submitted, and we are seriously looking into the potential of this proposal so that our REPS shall have better representation in tracking university research directions and decisions.
- 5) Enhanced Student and Staff Welfare – for years we have been wanting to provide a space where UPLB students can stay for long periods of time (while waiting for their classes) and where they can also hold other activities, and we have decided to develop the Student Union Building to cater to our students' need for that space.

We are also seriously considering areas in the campus where we can also construct similar facilities. Likewise, we also want to develop a *UPLB Clubhouse and Fitness Center*, where UPLB employees and students can have access to and hold fitness and wellness activities. We are also planning to change how we pay our Individual Contract of Service and Job Order Personnel to a monthly basis.

- 6) Enhanced Environmental Programs – we also intend to create a *UPLB Environmental Unit* in collaboration with SESAM and the Disaster Risk Reduction Center.
- 7) Establishment of a Holistic University-wide Program for the Arts - we recognize the value of art in the holistic development of individuals, as such we want to develop a university-wide program that shall be open to all UPLB constituents wherein art activities will not only serve as an outlet for their creative expressions, but also help them get through a difficult time or help them become better problem solvers.

We are all here today with one goal in mind, to make UPLB reach its full potential, to make UPLB the best university that it can be. Hence, it is hardly surprising that my mission and vision for UPLB remains the same, albeit with a few enhancements.

If given the chance, I am strongly committed to continue providing the leadership that has helped the UPLB community attain the positive changes that my team and I have provided for the past three years. I know that it will not be easy, as there will be always hurdles along the way, but we have been unwavering in our resolve to keep pushing forward. The benefits far outweigh the sacrifices we all have to make. “I am not afraid of

an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion”—Alexander the Great.

Let our achievements speak for itself. As Chris Hadfield would have it, “leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It is about keeping the team focused on your goal and motivated enough to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others’ success and then standing back and letting them shine.”

UPLB is blessed with a collegial spirit – a thread of community and family that continues to bind our alumni, students, and staff – amidst diversity and the challenges of a fast changing world.

My mission is to continue to bring together everyone in the University to actively participate and collaborate with us so that we can achieve our vision for UPLB.

Let us all make UPLB the best university that it can be.

Working Together for Excellence: Towards a Globally Competitive Graduate and Research University Contributing to National Development