



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

3F, Quezon Hall, Diliman, Quezon City

Tele/Fax: (632) 8962-6345; 89818722;

89818500 local 2528

Email: ovpaa@up.edu.ph

Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

18 April 2021

Ms. Renee Louise Co
Student Regent
University of the Philippines

Dear Student Regent Co,

Thank you for your letter dated 12 April 2021, which called for a system-wide response to the rise of COVID-19 cases nationwide.

We share your observation that the surge, as well as the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila, Laguna, Rizal, Cavite, and Bulacan, has adversely affected the well-being of the University of the Philippines (UP) students and their families, a number of whom have reported contracting, or are living with someone who has contracted, the COVID-19 virus. We agree that the lack of adequate assistance and healthcare facilities for individuals who have contracted the virus, including our students and their family members, further compounds the already challenging demands of daily life during a pandemic. We reiterate UP's commitment to upholding the general welfare of its students and the practice of compassion and flexibility during these difficult times. However, we also remain committed to ensuring the continuity of learning despite the challenges of the current situation.

In consultation with the UP System Academic Affairs Committee and the Presidential Advisory Council, our response to your five-point call for System-wide Academic Ease are as follows:

1. No to Stringent Deadlines

The UP System cannot proscribe faculty from setting deadlines across the board. However, it will instruct faculty to ensure that students may submit work after the deadline until the end of the semester, through the LMS and/or through email. Moreover, given the extraordinary stresses we are all under at this time, faculty should, on a case-to-case basis, grant consideration to students who are unable to meet deadlines due to their particular context. We are enjoining the faculty to consult their students regarding their current status.

2. Lessen Academic Requirements

In light of the University's iterative planning process and given the impact of the pandemic on remote teaching and learning, the faculty are enjoined to review and recalibrate the course requirements and deadlines for the remainder of the semester.

Upon learning that some students enrolled in 18 to 21 units this semester—even if the regular student load has been reduced to 12 units from 15 units—program and registration advisers are reminded to be mindful of the impact of the number of units on student workload in the time of COVID-19.

Students who are unable to cope with the workload of the courses they enrolled in are urged to seek advice from their adviser/instructor. They may opt to drop the course. 'DRP' will be annotated in the Transcript of Records as a grade obtained in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. No Required Attendance for Synchronous Classes

This is already an established policy. The faculty will be reminded that attendance in synchronous classes should not be required and that recordings of the synchronous classes should be made available to the students for the whole semester. Departments or Institutes will discuss reports of required attendance in synchronous classes with the faculty involved.

4. Genuine Reading Break

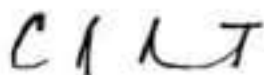
The faculty will be reminded that a reading break means no synchronous classes, no submissions, requirements and deadlines. This short time-off is meant to give both our faculty and students time to catch up with their work or much-needed relief from burnout and stress that they may have been experiencing the past weeks

5. No Fail Policy or Drop

A faculty member may DROP a student whose status is failing or whose performance is unsatisfactory but **no student shall receive a grade of 4 or 5** for the Second Semester AY 2020-2021. As stated in 2 above, 'DRP' will be annotated in the Transcript of Records as a grade obtained in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic to reflect the conditions under which the student opted to drop or was dropped.

Our students' wellness is paramount. As the country's National University, we will make every effort to ensure that they will thrive during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista
Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of the Philippines System