

[BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 392, May 18, 1983]

AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAGANGILANG AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE INTO THE ABRA STATE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY, EXPANDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ITS CURRICULAR PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURE, SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY.

Be it enacted by the Batasang Pambansa in session assembled:

SECTION 1. The present Lagangilang Agricultural College located in the Municipality of Lagangilang, Province of Abra, is hereby converted into the Abra State Institute of Sciences and Technology, hereinafter referred to in this Act as the College.

SEC. 2. The College shall primarily provide technological, professional, technical and vocational education and shall inspire leadership in the field of agriculture, forestry, home technology, agricultural education and industry, through scientific research and extension.

SEC. 3. In addition to its present secondary agricultural course, undergraduate courses leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education, two-year technician courses for agriculture and forest ranger, the College shall offer other courses leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Home Technology, Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering; post graduate courses leading to the degree of Master of Science in Agricultural Education and such other courses as the Board of Trustees may deem wise and necessary.

SEC. 4. No student, provided he qualifies in the National College Entrance Examination test, shall be denied admission to the College by reason of sex, ethnic considerations or religious beliefs. Those who do not qualify can be admitted in the two-year technical courses. All applicants for admission must have to pass the College entrance examination.

SEC. 5. The head of the College shall be known as the President of the Abra State Institute of Sciences and Technology. He shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

The powers and duties of the President of the College, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the president of a college.

SEC. 6. The governing body of the College shall be the Board of Trustees of the Abra State Institute of Sciences and Technology. It shall be composed of the Minister of Education, Culture and Sports who shall be the chairman, the Director of Higher Education, the Director of Secondary Education, the President of the College and the Member of the Batasang Pambansa coming from Abra, as *ex officio* members and two prominent residents of Abra who are distinguished leaders in agriculture, forestry and other industrial fields.

The non-*ex officio* members of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines. Of the first group appointed, the President shall

designate one to serve for two years and the other to serve for four years. Thereafter, persons appointed to succeed such members shall hold office for a term of four years and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified. In case of permanent vacancy, the position shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Philippines. Such appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term only.

When the Minister of Education, Culture and Sports is unable to perform his duties as Chairman of the Board due to illness, absence or other causes, or in the case of vacancy in the office, the Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sports shall temporarily perform the functions of the Chairman of the said Board. When both the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sports are unable to exercise the powers of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Member of the Batasang Pambansa coming from Abra shall act as temporary chairman thereof.

SEC. 7. The members of the Board of Trustees shall serve without compensation other than a per diem of one hundred pesos each per session of the Board and that expenses incurred either in attendance upon meetings of the Board or upon other official business shall be reimbursed as authorized by resolution thereof, subject to existing budget laws on honoraria and allowances.

SEC. 8. In addition to its general powers of administration, the Board of Trustees shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To receive and appropriate for the purposes specified by law such sums as may be provided for the support of the College;

(b) To confer degrees upon successful candidates for graduation of the College. It may also confer the usual honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of learning, statesmanship or eminence in science, agriculture, forestry, industry or public service related to such fields;

(c) Subject to Civil Service Law, rules and regulations, to appoint, upon recommendation of the President of the College, the registrar, the deans of the different schools of the College, the heads of departments, professors, instructors, lecturers and other employees of the College and to fix their compensation, subject to Presidential Decree No. 985 and other pertinent budget and compensation laws; to prescribe hours of service, duties and the conditions of work as it may deem proper; to grant to them, in its discretion, leave of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, and to remove them for cause after investigation and hearing pursuant to Civil Service law governing disciplinary action;

(d) To approve the curricula and rules of discipline drawn up by the College Council as hereinafter provided;