



OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

November 9, 2022

Dr. MAX P. GUILLERMO
University President

Re: Streamlining of Disability Support Services for Differently Abled TAU Students

Sir:

Warm greetings! I am writing this letter to propose the streamlining of disability support services for differently abled students of Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU). This initiative is a collaborative effort between TAU’s Medical and Dental Unit and the Office of the Student Services and Development (OSSD) through its student inclusion services arm.

Persons with disabilities are among the most marginalized groups who suffer from exclusion and lack of services and opportunities. They face barriers and disadvantages in many areas, especially in matters of education. In accordance with the national laws on persons with disabilities (e.g. Magna Carta for Disabled Persons and Accessibility Law), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) through memorandum order no. 9 series of 2013 has mandated all higher education institutions to include in its student welfare programs the services focused on students with special needs and persons with disabilities.

In this context, there is a need for the streamlining of support services for differently abled students in TAU so that the barriers to their academic growth can be addressed. We propose the following support services to be made available to all TAU students with disability:

SERVICES UNDER THE PROPOSED DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM	
Service	Office-in-charge
1. Accommodation of admission applicants with disability	OSSD
2. Detailed registration for TAU students with disabilities (via Google Form)	OSSD
3. Documentary Assistance in the Issuance of PWD ID (via Medical Certification for select conditions)	OSSD TAU Medical and Dental Unit
4. Reasonable Academic Accommodation (consultation with disability adviser, priority registration, mediation with instructors regarding alternative course requirements, permission to use devices during lectures and exams, etc.)	OSSD College SSD Officers
5. Mobility Support within the campus (wheelchair, ramps, reserved parking and other facilities)	TAU Medical and Dental Unit Planning
6. Mental Health Counselling (targeted mental health support for differently abled students)	OSSD
7. Scholarship Assistance for PWD	OSSD
8. Assistive Technology (accessibility software such as Text-to-Speech and live captioning applications)	OSSD TAU Library

By consolidating our efforts to assist differently abled learners in the university, we hope to address some of the persisting challenges they face such as: the lack of proper documentation which hinders them from claiming the support and privileges they are legally entitled to, inaccessibility of classrooms and other facilities within the campus, the rigid modes of instructions that do not accommodate their learning needs, and the overall mental distress they experience because of their condition.

This program is also the university's opportunity to improve the quality of education we extend to our students. Through practicing inclusion and positive discrimination towards differently abled students, we are able to increase their chances in becoming genuinely productive members of the TAU community.

Thank you very much and I hope that you will consider this proposal.

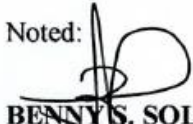
Respectfully,



ERIKA R. PRADO

Chair, Student Inclusion Services, OSSD

Noted:



BENNY S. SOLIMAN, Ph.D.


Director, Office of Student Services and Development



ARISTOTEL REYES, M.D.

Chief, TAU Medical and Dental Unit

Recommending Approval:



DANILO N. OFFICIAR, Ph.D.

Vice President, Student Affairs and Services



NOEL J. PETERO, Ph.D.

Vice President, Finance & Administration

Approved:



MAX F. GUILLERMO, Ph.D.

University President

NOV 10 2022

Jo Anne
RECEIVED

TAU - Office of the President

Date: 11/10/22 Time: 9:29