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OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

23 March 2026

MEMORANDUM NO. ECLV-26-013

To: All Unit Heads, Faculty, Staff and Students

Subject: UP Diliman's initial response to the crisis brought about by the Iran war

1. As the Iran war rages and wreaks unjustifiable losses to people and nations, the world's fuel supply is experiencing significant stress, and prices are rising. These effects have reached our shores, and government institutions are attempting to address the situation by mandating reductions in energy consumption.

2. Thus, Malacañang issued Memorandum Circular No. 114, s. 2026, on 6 March 2026, directing all agencies and instrumentalities of the national government to adopt and implement energy conservation measures set forth therein, while state universities and colleges and other government instrumentalities were encouraged to do the same.

3. In response, the University's Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (OVPA) and Office of the Vice President for Administration (OVPA) issued Joint Memorandum 2026-01 to serve as guidance to all constituent universities (CUs) and UP Tacloban College on the implementation of Memorandum Circular No. 114 of Malacañang. The said OVPA-OVPA Joint Memorandum 2026-01 stated, among others, that:

"While the University supports these national energy conservation efforts, the uninterrupted delivery of teaching, learning, research, and other core academic functions shall remain the University's primary consideration in the implementation of these measures. Energy conservation measures shall therefore be implemented without prejudice to the uninterrupted delivery of the University's core academic functions and essential services."

4. For UP Diliman, and guided by feedback from consultations with the various sectors in our community, a response that is least disruptive of our core activities in the University but at the same time supportive of the welfare of our constituents will be our path moving forward. We will undertake energy conservation measures because these will also support the continuity of our activities or operations in the long run, but we should be mindful not to transfer costs to or burden our constituents as a result. We should also be vigilant and monitor how the Iran war and the resulting increase in

the cost of living are affecting our constituents, and come up with appropriate measures to address these.

5. In line with the foregoing, classes and other academic activities shall proceed as before. On-site course activities are still preferred, with alternative modalities still available as programs allow or as circumstances warrant. As we are experiencing another crisis, however, our faculty must prepare for eventualities that would require shifting to remote learning modalities.

6. The heads of our different colleges, units, and offices are urged to review the alternative work arrangements of their staff and seek ways to maximize these setups when possible, consistent with continuity of operations and the convenience and welfare of our personnel. A compressed-work week (i.e., four days of work with longer hours) or a common work-from-home (WFH) day (i.e., all staff members having the same WFH schedule) for an office may be implemented, as long as essential and student-related services are available as usual, considering, among others, that we aim to minimize disruption of academic activities. New alternative work arrangements must still comply with the existing relevant memos/advisories. Units performing essential functions may maintain their usual operations.

7. We will undertake measures that will address our energy conservation goal. We will take steps that directly reduce energy consumption and costs, such as the early powering down of air conditioners and other electrical appliances, and the minimization of official travel. Concerned offices of the UP Diliman administration will work with our various units to map out energy conservation strategies that will take into account each unit's circumstances. Detailed guidance on energy conservation measures will be given in a separate issuance. In the meantime, units are urged to be conscious of our energy conservation thrust and help in any way possible.

8. Needless to state, the Iran war is not and should not just be about energy conservation measures. As the national university of *mga Iskolar ng Bayan* and public servants, our university must lead in examining and engaging the issues exposed by this most recent act of international aggression. The issues are diverse, ranging from those involving fundamental human rights and the world order to those involving our ability as a nation to respond to such conflicts and their effects, especially in light of the Filipino diaspora in the conflict area and our still heavy reliance on fossil fuels. The UP Diliman administration is open to supporting opportunities to discuss these issues and ways we, as a community, can help address them. In this time of crisis, our community must work together and remain vigilant, critical, and responsive.



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