

II. **MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD** (cont'd)

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B. **FISCAL MATTERS**¹ (cont'd)

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3. **BAC Resolution, Notice of Award, Purchase Order ...** (cont'd)

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Board Action: APPROVED. The Board increased the ceiling for the President's authority to approve and sign negotiated contracts from P10 Million to P25 Million. The Board directed the President to study the existing thresholds for approval of contracts of relevant University officials.



4. **Amendments to the Enhanced Hospitalization Programme (eHOPE)**

- 4.1. Assistant Vice President for Administration Ariel S. Betan presented the proposed amendments to the Enhanced Hospitalization Programme (eHOPE), particularly on three (3) provisions, namely: (1) the increase in the amount of eHOPE benefits from P80,000/year to P100,000/year; (2) the increase in covered hospitalization expenses for professional fees of PhilHealth-accredited physicians and specialists, which is based on the Relative Value Unit (RVU) set by PhilHealth for specific medical cases up to a maximum of twice the amount of RVU; and (3) the inclusion in eHOPE coverage of UP contractuels who have rendered at least one year of continuous service to the University, have an employer-employee relations with the University, and whose salaries are charged against the Revolving Fund//Trust.
- 4.2. Regent Go inquired about the utilization rate of the eHOPE and the basis for the proposed amount of increase, including the percentage of claimants whose total hospitalization expenses exceeded the eHOPE coverage of P80,000. He said that this data will help the Board see the overall picture of the eHOPE benefit. Assistant Vice President Betan replied that the actual utilization from 2017-2021 is about 3,370 claimants or an average of 674 claimants over a 5-year period, which translates to an average cost to the University of P18 Million-P22 Million per year. In addition, Vice President Balmores reported that based on the data of UP Diliman, around 4% of its total eHOPE claimants had claims in excess of P80,000, which when projected to the entire UP system, would result to an average of 27 claimants whose claims exceed the P80,000 threshold per year. She added that the UP System can afford the additional cost of Php16,000,000.00, which was based on the average number of claimants from 2018 to 2021.

¹ In all resolutions involving the disbursement of funds, it is understood that the same must be subject to all existing government accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations.

II. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD (cont'd)

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B. FISCAL MATTERS¹ (cont'd)

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5. Amendments to the Enhanced Hospitalization Programme (eHOPE)

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- 5.1. Regent Pagdanganan explained that considering medical inflation of 30% to 40%, the proposed P20,000 increase in eHOPE is warranted.
- 5.2. Regent Belegal informed the Board that the proposed amendments stemmed from the proposal of the two (2) Unions (AUPWU and AUPAEU) for equalization of eHOPE benefits with the UP Manila and UP-PGH employees who have been enjoying a P100,000/year eHOPE coverage since 2017. She said that there were two technical working groups that studied and recommended the proposal. She added that the approval of the additional benefit will give assurance to the UP employees that they have financial support when they need medical attention, especially for the CUs that do not have access to infirmaries or tertiary hospitals.
- 5.3. On the query of Regent Go regarding the inclusion of UP contractuels to the eligible employees, Assistant Vice President Betan responded that there are about 220 UP contractuels who were excluded from the eHOPE coverage because their salaries are sourced from the Revolving Fund or Trust Fund (RF/TF) of their respective units. Under the current rules, only UP contractuels whose salaries are charged against the General Appropriations Act (GAA) are covered by eHOPE. The proposed amendment before the Board is to include in the eHOPE coverage the UP contractuels whose salaries are charged against the Revolving Fund//Trust Fund.
- 5.4. Vice President Balmores clarified that the funding for eHOPE is sourced from the income of the University, and not from the GAA or reimbursements from UniFAST. She also assured that the eHOPE benefit for the 220 UP contractuels will be subject to availability of funds of the offices to which they belong. UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla explained that most of the UP contractuels requesting to be included in the eHOPE coverage are from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Institute of Human Genetics (IHG) in UP Manila. She emphasized that the income of the NIH and IHG are all internally generated and do not come from the government.
- 5.5. After further clarifications and discussions, Regent Pagdanganan moved for the inclusion of the UP contractuels whose salaries are charged against the Revolving Fund/Trust Fund, in the list of eligible staff covered by the eHOPE. For point of order, Regent Ramota moved that the Board approve all amendments as proposed. Regent Belegal seconded the motion, and there being no objections, the same was approved.



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- 5.6. On a related matter, Regent Pagdanganan suggested that the University strengthen its primary care, particularly the UP Health Service, to support the health care of its employees which is consistent with the objectives of the Universal Health Care (UHC). He shared that the PhilHealth is trying to reach out to the infirmaries or health services of the University across the UP system to avail of the UHC benefits. Under the Universal Health Care Law (RA 11223), all Filipinos shall be registered to a Konsulta provider for primary and preventive health care services through the PhilHealth. President Jimenez instructed Vice President Cubillan to coordinate with PhilHealth regarding the matter.

Board Action: APPROVED

III. MATTERS FOR CONFIRMATION BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS

1. **Approval by the UP President of the Graduation of Students whose Names are included in the Lists submitted by the following Constituent Universities, who have Completed All the Requirements for their Respective Degrees/Titles as of the end of First and Second Semesters/Trimesters, and Mid-Year AY 2022-2023, or as of the End of Term Specified, and Recommended by their Respective University Councils:**
 - a. **UP Diliman** (*approved by UP Diliman University Council at its 176th regular meeting held on 20 March 2023*)
 - b. **UP Los Baños** (*approved by UP Los Baños University Council at its 151st regular meeting held on 14 March 2023*)
 - c. **UP Manila** (*approved by UP Manila University Council at its 119th regular meeting held on 15 February 2023*)
 - d. **UP Manila** (*approved by UP Manila University Council at its 119th regular meeting held on 15 February 2023*)
 - e. **UP Visayas** (*approved by UP Visayas University Council at its 130th regular meeting held on 22 March 2023*)

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