

October 27, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

***Greetings!***

For the past weeks, the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Ultrasound Society of the Philippines has been in the center of attention regarding the Board Resolution 03-2017. Please allow me to explain as a member of the Ultrasound of the Society of the Philippines for 25 years and for being a Board Examiner of the Society.

It is disheartening to hear and be accused of something untrue and be labelled as a “corrupt” member of the Ultrasound Society of the Philippines (USP) and the Philippine College of Radiology (PCR). I vehemently oppose such accusation explicitly coming from senior members and pillars of our society. Let us all be reminded that these issues are brought about by the changing and needs of time for the organization to endure and not for the advantage and convenience of any person or group of individuals. The favourable effect of this action probably may not be felt by now, but I do believe that someday this will be understood as a good intention for the advancement of this organization. More so, I do hope when time comes, any future member of the board will not suffer from such perceived malicious or malevolent denunciation, whether is it uttered unintentionally or inappropriately posted on social media. We are all professionals and are expected to talk in reasonable manner, for respect begets respect.

The board welcomes and appreciates all comments and suggestions without prejudice to all and we continuously strive to be as impartial as we could be for the greater majority.

**The issue of reclassifying the membership category or grouping**

This reclassification of membership came about several years ago, from one leadership to another and it is only now that the board was audacious enough to handle the challenging task. It is an overdue answer for members whom we care about and observed to be **“drifting” outside the fold of the organization (USP/PCR)**. Before, many processes were attempted to help them but did not push through. The membership continue to dwindle and the practice of sonography became uncontainable. It may have less effect among sonologists practicing in Manila but its greater effect is felt by those practicing in the provinces and other regions in the country. It is a fact, that majority of our colleagues who are actively practicing sonography are not members of the society. How can we regulate them if they are not part of the organization? The DOH, up to now, has not come up this regulation process. This action, somehow, would help us address these ethical issues and protection of members in the practice of ultrasonology. It is also the goal of the Society to encourage and inspire members to pursue further education towards professionalism.

Based on records of the USP, we have a general membership of about 650 fellows, yet more than a thousand radiologists (excluding non-radiologists) who are practicing ULTRASOUND are not members of the Ultrasound Society of the Philippines. How can we control/regulate their practice isn't it thru diplomacy approach and by the governing rules of organization. If they belong to the group, it will be easier. It is not an accommodation but a solution by embracing fellow PCR members to be reclassified according to their expertise, qualifications, seniority and membership plus

endorsement from fellow members to be qualified. This privilege is subject for revocation anytime. Membership is not just given without basis.

### **Special member**

This recognition is bestowed **ONLY** to Fellow members of the Philippine College of Radiology whose expertise and practice are confined/limited to their subspecialties like Pediatrics, MSK, Interventional Radiology etc. These PCR members are willing to share their knowledge and skills for the professional growth of the members of the organization. They have no voting rights and such recognition may be revoked at any time if found guilty of violating the membership provisions set by the BOT. If Fellows or Diplomates of PCR can practice all imaging modalities, why can they not be recognized as distinguished members of the ultrasound society under such category ?

### **Associate member**

This recognition is given to Fellows or Diplomates of the Philippine of Radiology who have been in practise of ultrasound for the past 10 years and who have been trained in an accredited institution and endorsed by two Fellows of the Ultrasound Society of the Philippines. This is giving the endorser that prerogative to decide whom they believe deserve their authorization. By signing to such certification, we gave them the power to decide on their own volition. Without official endorsement from USP fellows, their application will be denied. Associate members have no voting privilege and their recognition is subject to the policies of any training institution under the Philippine College of the Radiology and USP. They are not allowed to use the title **Fellow** of the Ultrasound Society of the Philippines (FUSP) after their names which is only duly granted to **Regular Fellow members**. Associate members are encouraged to take the certifying examination conducted by USP Board to change their status to a REGULAR FELLOWS.

### **Affiliate member**

Sonographers play an important support part for the ultrasound team. Their membership is based on professional qualifications such as a graduate of Radiologic Technology, a PRC card holder and has undergone training in an USP accredited training hospital and his/her application should be endorsed by two active fellows of the society. Without any of these documents, their application will not accepted. Again, they have no voting rights, not allowed to sign reports, and part of their privileges is to attend \_ the scientific learning activities sponsored by the Society geared towards the idea of improving the quality of their services as sonographers. It is a revocable membership title. With the changing times in practice, sonographers are acknowledged in the medical imaging field as team players who ably assist us sonologists. Most of the international ultrasound bodies like AIUM, WFUM etc duly acknowledge such affiliate membership. Let's welcome them Instead of pushing them to other bodies like PSUCMI. Their inclusion in our original constitution would fall under "sustaining members, ". ***Isang miyembro na dapat ituring na totoong kasapi ng pamilya at dapat ay inaalaagan at hindi kinakaligtaan***" cannot be underscored.

I believe that one way of improving the membership is by increasing its number into one unified and strong organization.

The selection process is not solely on the hands BOT but to fellow members as well who are allowed to issue certificates without coercion and with no question on their personal integrity as endorser.

The resolution on membership reclassification is within the bounds of the original constitution of USP approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under sustaining membership. I cannot further elaborate on this and I am aware that other bodies may have question on its validity.

This action of the Board of Trustees is non-partisan, and its wisdom in the issuance of Board resolution 3-2017 is with objectivity and done in GOOD FAITH.

As members of the BOT, we believe to the best of our good faith and mind that the crafting of BR 03-2017 is a positive move to the best interest of present and future members of the USP.

**My thanks, our thanks.**

May I extend my sincere gratitude to all who understood us and otherwise, my utmost thanks goes to them as well. **Your outpouring of responses is a good sign that USP is alive.** Rest assured, the BOT will recognize all your comments and suggestions.

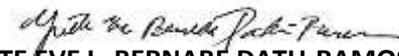
The BOT will always strive for the professional growth of our members and will remain steadfast to support, provide and create activities for the benefit of everyone.

I do hope that this sad situation will not divide us and no feeling of animosity will reside in each one's heart.

Remember, at the end of the day, we should all work hard **together** for the good of the society.

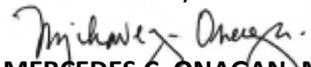
Gratefully yours,  
  
**IGNACIO S. VALERIANO, MD**  
**Chairman- Membership Committee**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – USP

Concurred :

  
**YVETTE EVE L. BERNABE DATU-RAMOS, MD**  
President- USP

  
**NORBERTO NOREL F. SANTOS, MD**  
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Member-USP

  
**VIRGILIO JOSE A. EVANGELISTA, MD**  
Member-USP