

## **CTU ANTI-POVERTY POLICY**

Poverty remains a global challenge as approximately 0% of the world's population live in extreme poverty, unable to fulfill the most basic needs (food, health, education, access to clean water, and sanitation). In the Philippines, there are still many Filipinos that are considered poor. The National Poverty Rate was 16.7 % in 2018 and has increased to more than 20% in 2020. Poverty is a multidimensional problem, and focusing on income may not be not enough to capture poverty's actual reality. United Nations Development Program (2020) reported that poverty and deprivation prevail due to shortages and inequalities in non-income regions. Other reports have shown that inequality, power, and privilege in societies, ethnic structure, season, and region contribute to poverty dynamics. To alleviate poverty and spur economic development, the role of education cannot be undermined. Hence, the Cebu Technological University (CTU), as among the leading higher educational institutions in the Philippines, is fully committed to helping the country in its drive to reduce or eliminate poverty. It recognizes its essential role in reducing poverty in the communities. CTU shall strive to implement anti-poverty programs within its scope, especially with its faculty, staff, and community stakeholders. Poor students and community stakeholders will be given priorities to address intergenerational poverty.

### **Article I. General Provision**

Section 1. Title. This document shall be known and cited as "**CTU Anti-Poverty Policy.**"

Section 2. Definition of Terms. The following terms shall mean and be understood as indicated:

- a. "Students" refer to undergraduate and postgraduate students studying for higher education programs, including bachelor's, master's, doctoral or other equivalent degrees or components of those programs.
- b. "Financial aid" refers to the long- and short-term support provided or directed by CTU to students, including tuition fees (with no repayment), stipends, financial aid packages including low-interest loans, student assistantships, or any form of grants or scholarships (with no repayment), vouchers for study-related expenses, and support for food, housing, transportation, legal services.
- c. "Household income" refers to the combined total income of family members from different sources in a household.
- d. "Basic services" refer to health and standard of living (including cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets).
- e. "Sustainable business" refers to economically sustainable businesses in the long term, will have a positive social impact and provide real opportunities for the community.

## **Article II. Coverage**

**Section 1.** The policy applies to all CTU officials, faculty, staff, students, potential students, and community stakeholders.

## **Article III. University anti-poverty programs**

Section 1. CTU shall continue to create and implement programs that will address the poverty of students and potential students.

Section 2. CTU shall prioritize the recruitment of students who are categorized as low-income.

Section 3. The household income level or category of the students or their parents shall be asked during recruitment and enrolment to identify probable recipients of student support.

Section 4. Through Guidance Offices and/or Offices of Student Life, Student Support Centers shall be provided per campus to support the needs of the underprivileged students. These support centers shall cater to the needs of the students to facilitate education sustainability instead of dropping out.

Section 5. CTU shall not discriminate student recruitment and enrolment based on age, sex, income category, ethnicity, religion, or region,

Section 6. CTU shall provide a mechanism for guidance to low-income or underprivileged students who want to enroll in board courses but fall short of specific academic requirements.

Section 7. Each campus shall annually report to the Office of the University President or a designated office the proportion of low-income students and the scholarships these students availed. The University Office of Student Life can facilitate this.

## **Article IV. Community anti-poverty programs**

Section 1. CTU shall endeavor to support the wider community in alleviating poverty within its scope and resources.

Section 2. CTU shall endeavor to support community-led activities through its extension efforts. This shall be anchored on the expertise of the different faculty members and available resources of CTU.

Section 3. CTU shall aid start-ups in the local community to become financially and socially sustainable businesses. This can be provided through relevant education or resources, including mentorship programs, training workshops, access to university facilities). The Office of the University Extension, Office of the University Technology Business Incubation and Development, Office of the University Resource Generation, and the Campus Technology Business Incubation Offices shall offer these services in select locations.

Section 4. CTU shall provide financial assistance to start-ups in the local community through joint partnerships in conducting research and extension programs. CTU may provide supplies, services, and resources to develop products that will support the business development of the local start-ups.

Section 5. CTU shall endeavor to develop and conduct programs and activities that promote access to basic services (including medical missions or the like).

Section 6. CTU shall participate in policymaking at the local, regional, national, and/or global levels to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

#### **Article V. Research and Extension on Poverty**

Section 1. CTU shall encourage research and extension activities that will contribute to poverty alleviation.

Section 2. CTU shall allocate annual budget and resources for research and extension activities on poverty alleviation, with priorities on communities surrounding the different CTU campuses.

Section 3. CTU shall provide mechanisms to recognize outstanding faculty members doing commendable research and extension works in the communities.

Section 4. Outputs from research and extension activities shall be converted into scientific papers for proper dissemination to relevant agencies, researchers, and interested institutions.

Section 5. Annual reports from research and extension activities of concerned offices must highlight poverty alleviation endeavors.

Section 6. Research assistantships with pay shall be offered to low-income students, together with free tuition. Research assistants shall be required to submit evidence of low-income status to the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Development to become eligible.

Section 7. Research publication outputs where one or more co-author is associated with a higher educational institution is based in a low or lower-middle-income country is encouraged.

Section 8. Through the Campus Research Directors, Campus Directors shall provide an annual report to the Office of the University President or the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Development the scientific publications relevant to poverty alleviation.

#### **Article VI. Offenses and Corresponding Sanctions**

Section 1. Violations of this policy may result in the imposition of sanctions as determined by the appropriate CTU officials.

#### **Article VII. Final Provisions**

Section 1. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any part of this policy shall be held invalid, other sections thereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 2. Effectivity. This CTU Policy on Discrimination and Harassment shall take effect immediately as approved by appropriate authorities of CTU.