

# PAASCU Visits Letran's Engineering and Hospitality Programs

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Last February 19-20, accreditors from the leading independent professional association in the country, Philippine Accreditation Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), arrived at the Colegio to formally appraise, examine, and evaluate the objectives, conditions, and systems of Engineering Programs under the College of Engineering and Information Technology (CEIT), and Hospitality Management Area under the College of Business Administration.

As they continue to stand to equip their students in embracing an integral formation, the Colegio's said two programs received the formal visit with a positive outlook for its constant commitment to the caliber with bolder adherence to innovation and development. And although challenges are inevitable to be faced, there is an assurance that efficiency, productivity, and competence will prevail in the end.

## **It all starts with capable faculty members**

In an interview with the dean of the College of Engineering and Information Technology, Assoc. Prof. Jacqueline Reynoso on the 22nd day of February, she answered, when asked about ways and approaches their department do in ensuring the quality of education, that the top priority of the department is to hire qualified faculty members to handle different courses being handled in the Engineering programs.

*"We're doing everything to hire... when you say qualified, of course as much as possible and minimum requirements namin for the engineering programs are licensed of course; and then as much as possible we would really like the faculty members to be already through with their master's degree,"* said Asst. Prof. Reynoso.

Like many other roads to development and accomplishment, challenges and quandaries come along the way not to put down the pleasant plan but to strengthen the will to achieve the goal. *"...unfortunately it's very difficult to find faculty members that already have a masters degree,"* the dean of the CEIT program added. *"So that's where we're trying our best to encourage them to take the master's degree because that's the minimum qualification eh. The problem kasi is yearly, every semester, there are courses being offered. What if we cannot hire a faculty member without a master's degree, ang tendency, you'll be simply looking for qualified, when you say qualified, minimum requirement and as much as possible licensed."*

Asst. Prof. Reynoso assured that there are genuine efforts that their faculty members are exerting and expressing in regards to their responsibility, and they are being guided properly. *"We keep monitoring how they perform so nakikita naman namin yung efforts nila, diba even if its beyond their scheduled times, most of them actually are what we called contractual so teach-and-go yan so after ng oras nila dito they can already leave, pagka gawi I see it that most of them, after their classes they still stay for a little while just to be able to answer some of the students queries. So may effort naman."*

### **Passion and dedication**

Aside from the guidance and aid that the department is providing, the dean of the CEIT program strongly believes that there is more important than the formalities of qualification and this is where the traits of their faculty members will enter that makes their college department in Letran satisfactory in delivering caliber educational services.

*"Kami we do attend seminars, we encourage faculty members to attend training, to attend seminars, and they do impart this to the students, iyon lang siguro. Even if wala kaming mga master's degree yung mga faculty namin, nakikita namin yung dedication and the passion, at ipinagamalaki ko na hindi sila madamot,"* Asst. Prof. Reynoso proudly stated.

*Although masteral and doctorate degrees are principal requirements and salient points in terms of achievements and credentials, Asst. Reynoso principal requirements and salient points in terms*

of achievements and credentials, Asst. Prof. Reynoso gave emphasis on the matters of good character that are necessary to impart quality education.

*"Syempre it's important noh for the Institution [master's degree], it's a come on for the students na ang mga faculty members ng school na yan ay masters degree and doctorate degree holder pero yun ba ay natratranslate? kasama kasi sa pag-improve or pag-impart ng quality education is yung character, you build these two: Knowledge and the Character, so importante yon..."*

Molding students to become successful with character

Currently, the major goal of the department is to have more enrolled students that will be trained to be better practitioners by means of shaping them through caliber methods of teaching and training with authentic cause.

*"As far as the facilities are concerned, these were already provided naman na by the college and that's the first plan, to make sure that the enrollment would increase,"* said Asst. Prof. Reynoso.

The dean of the CEIT program also highlighted that even if there are several schools offering the program that the Colegio is also presenting, Letran commits itself in giving more than what they can offer, and that lies in molding the students in transforming into someone who is relevant in the society upholding moral values.

*"Hindi lang naman tayo quality education but as far as we are concerned we also consider fostering values with the students, Catholic school tayo eh so dapat sabay yun, kumbaga you're trying to mold them to become future engineers but at the same time you should try to mold them to be of good character, to become a good citizen that's why DEUS, PATRIA, LETRAN."*

The results of the PAASCU accreditation for the Engineering Programs and Hospitality Management Areas are still yet to be known but there is an assurance that, not just the CEIT and CBAA courses, but the whole Colegio itself will never cease in maintaining the satisfactory system, and improve the things that needed be in the name of high quality standard and promise of innovation for this day and years to come.