

# 2016-2017 President's Annual Report

The FEU Public Policy Center (FPPC) is a private research foundation which aims to make a substantive contribution to evidence-based policy making through in-depth research and public discussion. The Policy Center hopes to cultivate a culture of inquiry within the FEU Community, and seeks to expose students and faculty to policy issues and allow them to contribute to policy discussions at the national and local levels.

FEU intends to develop a reputation as an innovator and thought leader in its four theme areas: Urban Environment; Media, Technology and Society; Education, Productivity and Life Skills; and Law and Business. The theme papers will serve as a research agenda for the FPPC, and will be the basis for the FPPC to issue calls for proposals from within the FEU Community and other potential partners.

## I. Urban Environment Theme Paper:

Dr. Regina Gina Mapua-Lim has signed on and begun work as Theme Head for the Urban Environment theme. Dr. Lim is an Associate Lecturer at the Joint Centre for Urban Design at Oxford Brookes University and is taking over the role of Theme Head from Architect Toti Villalon, who has resigned from his post, citing health reasons. Dr. Lim submitted an initial outline for the theme paper, which will include a proposed methodology for institutionalising student and faculty engagement. She was in Manila last August and had a series of meetings with FEU's Institute of Architecture to create a design class syllabus with the end goal of encouraging "evidence-based design" especially for public spaces. The first two classes that Dr. Lim is working with will be studying the design of public markets (see attached initial outline).

## II. Media, Technology, and Society Theme Paper

The FPPC recently concluded a well-received forum for the Media, Technology and Society theme, headed by Melinda De Jesus of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility. The forum, entitled The Moment of Truth: The Challenge of Social Media featured veteran journalist Vergel Santos, Interaksyon and BusinessWorld Editor-in-Chief Roby Alampay and Dean Mel Sta. Maria of the Institute of Law in a discussion on the theme, the challenges posed by social media, and the role for educational institutions in shaping responsible, discerning purveyors and consumers of information. The forum yielded quite an enthusiastic response from the students (from FEU and partner schools), many of whom stayed after the event closed in order to discuss questions they had for the panelists that the Policy Center did not have time to accommodate within the forum itself. The FPPC is hoping to work with FEU Department of Communication and Student Development on a student-led initiative in this area, and perhaps do a second forum in the Makati campus.

## III. Education, Productivity and Life Skills Theme Paper

Mr. Randy Bustamante, writer of the theme paper, has already submitted an initial draft. The final paper will be submitted to President Alba in October for his comments/review. President Alba, theme head of the Education, Productivity and Life Skills Theme Paper, will also conduct a research

study on the different licensure exams administered by the Professional Regulation Commission. Said study will look at how many students pass the board exams vis-a-vis those who fail.

## IV. Law and Business Theme Paper

Atty. Anthony Goquingco, writer of the theme paper, will work with working Dean Mel Sta. Maria to put together a draft within this quarter.

The FPPC and the Institute of Law in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President hosted a forum entitled: Elections and Democratic Process. Guest speaker Atty. Romulo Macalintal gave a special lecture on the integrity of the 2016 Elections as upheld by the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

### Other Matters:

#### FPPC's Digital Strategy

EON will develop a strategy along the Center's objectives (i.e., to promote FEU as a thought leader in public issues and engage the FEU community in discussions on issues affecting the public) rather than focus on the four theme areas per se.

#### New Member of the Board of Trustees

The Policy Center also welcomed a new member of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Astrid Tuminez. Dr. Tuminez is currently a Professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and Director of Corporate, External and Legal Affairs at Microsoft. Among others, she has been a fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a doctorate in Political Science and Government from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.