

# 2017-2018 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:

The Urban Environment theme paper was completed by Dr Gina Mapua-Lim and subsequently approved by the FPPC Board in early 2018. The paper outlines FPPC's research agenda in this core theme. FPPC has also forged a partnership with UrbanisMO, a group of young urban design professionals. Initial projects are an investigation into issues of urban renewal and a database of traffic inputs affecting mobility in Metro Manila.

Dean Lorelei De Viana, formerly of the Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts, has also joined the FPPC as a Research Fellow. She is currently working on an Urban Memory project, which will propose urban renewal schemes based on the city's identity, as culled from narratives, and a historical reconstruction of the way its structures have evolved over time.

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

In an effort to engage the broader FEU community in issues surrounding media and the responsible consumption of information, the FPPC held a forum in cooperating with Student Development on fake news and digital citizenship featuring journalists Maria Ressa of Rappler and Nikko Dizon of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Privacy Commissioner Raymond Liboro. As a result of this forum, the Communications Society embarked on a student-led campaign against fake news called *Tama Raw?* The campaign has since been institutionalised as a part of *Tatak Tamaraw*, the regular orientation for incoming freshmen.

FPPC is also collaborating with the Communications Department on research initiatives around effective ways of tackling substantive issues among college-age students, and Martial Law and EDSA from the point of view of FEU Communications students.

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

The Education, Productivity and Life Skills Theme Paper was completed by FPPC Research Coordinator JC Punongbayan and subsequently approved by the Board in January 2018.

The FPPC also conducted a one-day workshop to present updated results from the College Experience Survey to all participating schools. The workshop was opened by FEU President Michael Alba and results were presented by the FPPC team led by Research Coordinator JC Punongbayan. The workshop also allowed the schools to provide feedback on the survey process and results, and to suggest improvements moving forward.

#### IV. Law and Business Theme Paper

FPPC hosted two interns from the Institute of Law to work on the Law and Business Theme Paper draft and a proposal to investigate the impact of occupational licensing in the country. The latter has been submitted to Atty Anthony Goqingco and the former is still with the intern for final revisions based on comments provided by JC Punongbayan.

FPPC is also working with IL to conduct a Forum on Prospects for Constitutional Change, featuring experts who will discuss the following aspects of pending proposals: a) Impact on the Bangsamoro b) Economic provisions c) Political provisions d) Human Rights provisions. The results of the Forum will form the basis of a special edition of the FEU Law Journal, drafted by the panelists and select IL students.

#### Other Matters:

##### Financial Management

FPPC is in the process of finalising and filing its first ever Financial Statement, with the help of audit and accounting firm Reyes Tacandong. It also engaged the services of WeSolve, Inc., to keep track of the FPPC's expenses and assist in the filing of reports with concerned entities.