ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

05 Aug 2026

TO	The University Community
SUBJECT	Leadership Transition and the Search for the Next University President

Following the memo dated 17 June 2026 regarding the term of the University President, the Board of Trustees would like to share its key decisions made at its meeting on 1 August 2026.

Term Extension of Fr Roberto C Yap SJ and Recognition of Leadership

To provide stability and continuity for Academic Year 2026-2027, the term of Fr. Roberto "Bobby" C. Yap, SJ as President, has been extended until 31 May 2027. This will allow the University to address the concerns arising from the events of June 8, begin urgent reforms, and provide sufficient time for an orderly leadership transition. The Board also sees this as an opportunity to strengthen succession planning in the University so that leadership and Trustee appointments are decided well in advance of assumption of office, allowing proper handovers and completion of priority work.

The Board expresses its deep appreciation to Fr. Bobby for his six years of service and leadership. Under his leadership, Ateneo navigated the pandemic; undertook the university-wide AMDG 2030 process and articulated the Magis aspirations that will continue to guide the University; advanced the integration of Higher Education and co-education; established the Gokongwei Brothers School of Education and Learning Design; secured transformational gifts and the future Cavite campus; and strengthened financial stewardship, sustainability, and the University's national and international standing. The Board also recognizes as an enduring legacy, his close collaboration with the Trustees in strengthening governance structures—a work that called for humility and resilience amid significant institutional change.

The Board also recognizes Fr. Bobby's readiness to accept leadership responsibility for recent events and the University's response to them. We appreciate his willingness, in the true Jesuit spirit of mission, to accept reassignment and a new ministry should this best serve the University and the Society of Jesus.

Leadership Transition and the Search for the Next President

As Fr. Bobby completes his extended term, the Board of Trustees has resolved to begin a leadership transition and to constitute a Search Committee for the next President of Ateneo de Manila University. This decision was reached after prayerful discernment, careful consideration, and having listened to voices from across the University community.

Xavier Hall, Ateneo de Manila University
Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, 1108 Quezon City, Philippines
+63(2)8426-6001 ext 4000, fax +63(2)8426-6079 ● president@ateneo.edu

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Further details on the Search Committee and the process for selecting the next President will be announced in due course.

The Board recognizes the pain and difficulty of recent months. In its discernment, it has sought to ensure accountability and continuity, renewal and care for persons, guided by Ateneo's Jesuit mission and by the concerns, hopes, and aspirations expressed by members of the community. The Board has reviewed all pertinent information concerning the events of June 8 and will release its report and statement on the incident shortly. The Board will continue to exercise its governance and oversight responsibilities throughout the transition.

As Ateneo enters this period of transition, we do so with gratitude for what has been accomplished, humility about what must be learned, and confidence in the strength of our community and the mission that continues to guide the University. The Board is committed to pursuing the reforms needed in the aftermath of the crisis and to strengthening the University's governance, culture, and care for all members of the Ateneo community.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

(Sgd) Bernadine T. Siy
Chairperson