I. Policy Statement

Universidad de Manila recognizes poverty as a multidimensional condition that affects access to education, health, adequate nutrition, decent employment, housing, basic services, social protection, digital resources, economic opportunities, and meaningful participation in society.

As a public higher education institution serving the City of Manila and the broader Filipino community, the University shall actively contribute its academic expertise, research capacity, extension services, institutional resources, and stakeholder networks to the development, implementation, evaluation, and improvement of policies and programs intended to reduce and ultimately end poverty in all its dimensions.

The University shall actively seek and participate in appropriate policy-making processes at the local, regional, national, and, where opportunities are available, global levels, particularly those concerning poverty reduction, educational access, social protection, livelihood and employment, health, food security, housing, community development, gender equality, digital inclusion, resilience, and access to basic services.

Such participation shall be evidence-based, inclusive, nonpartisan, socially responsive, and consistent with the University's academic mandate and commitment to sustainable development.

II. Rationale

Poverty cannot be addressed through isolated interventions alone. Effective poverty reduction requires coordinated policies, reliable evidence, participation from affected communities, cooperation among government, educational institutions, civil society, industry, and other stakeholders, and continuous assessment of whether interventions meaningfully improve people's lives.

Universidad de Manila recognizes that universities have responsibilities beyond instruction. Through research, community engagement, technical expertise, policy analysis, and public service, the University can contribute to the formulation of sound and responsive policies that address the social, educational, economic, environmental, and institutional dimensions of poverty.

This Policy consequently establishes a formal institutional framework through which UDM shall contribute to poverty-related policymaking and program development.

III. Legal and Development Framework

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This Policy shall be implemented consistent with the principles and objectives of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, particularly the State's commitment to promote social justice, improve quality of life, expand access to education, and free people from poverty.

It shall likewise support the objectives of Republic Act No. 8425, or the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act, which promotes area-based, sectoral, participatory, gender responsive, and multidimensional approaches to poverty alleviation and emphasizes meaningful participation in governance and policy development.

The Policy shall also be interpreted in relation to applicable provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991, relevant national social protection and poverty reduction legislation, the Philippine Development Plan, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty, and other applicable national and international development commitments.

IV. Objectives

Through this Policy, Universidad de Manila seeks to institutionalize its participation in formulating, consulting on, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating policies and programs that address poverty.

The University shall contribute research findings, technical expertise, policy recommendations, community-based evidence, and academic perspectives to government agencies, local government units, policy bodies, development organizations, civil society organizations, professional associations, and other relevant institutions.

It shall promote policy approaches that recognize poverty as multidimensional and that address barriers involving education, employment, income, health, nutrition, housing, social protection, technology, basic services, gender, disability, vulnerability to disasters, and other forms of social and economic exclusion.

The University shall further ensure that its policy contributions are informed, where appropriate, by the experiences and needs of students, families, communities, vulnerable groups, and other stakeholders directly affected by poverty and socioeconomic disadvantage.

V. Scope

This Policy applies to all colleges, institutes, academic departments, research units, extension and community engagement units, administrative offices, faculty members, researchers, and other University personnel participating in institutional activities related to poverty reduction and public policy.

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Student participation may be encouraged where appropriate and consistent with academic, ethical, legal, and institutional requirements.

Activities covered by this Policy may include policy consultations, public hearings, technical working groups, advisory councils, development councils, research collaborations, legislative or administrative consultations, policy conferences, stakeholder dialogues, preparation of policy briefs and position papers, program evaluations, technical assistance, community consultations, and other legitimate mechanisms through which the University contributes to policy development or implementation.

VI. Institutional Participation in Policy Making

Local Level

UDM shall actively engage, where appropriate, with the City Government of Manila, barangays, local councils, local government offices, local development bodies, community organizations, and other local stakeholders in addressing poverty and its underlying causes.

The University may contribute research, policy analysis, technical advice, program assessment, community data, training, consultation, and recommendations relevant to local programs involving educational access, livelihood, social welfare, health, housing, food security, youth development, employment, digital inclusion, disaster resilience, and other poverty-related concerns.

Particular attention shall be given to issues affecting residents and communities within the City of Manila consistent with the University's mandate as a city-funded public institution.

Regional Level

The University shall participate, where relevant opportunities exist, in policy consultations, research initiatives, development planning activities, technical working groups, conferences, and partnerships addressing poverty and social development within the National Capital Region and other appropriate regional settings.

UDM shall make its academic and technical expertise available to regional government agencies, councils, educational institutions, research networks, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders working on poverty reduction and inclusive development.

National Level

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The University shall seek appropriate opportunities to contribute to national consultations, research initiatives, technical discussions, policy reviews, legislative consultations, national development programs, and other policymaking processes involving poverty reduction and social development.

Faculty members, researchers, administrators, and designated University representatives may provide research evidence, expert opinions, policy recommendations, technical papers, position papers, program evaluations, and other forms of academic or professional assistance to national government agencies, legislative bodies, commissions, councils, professional organizations, and national networks.

Global Level

UDM shall participate, where appropriate and feasible, in international partnerships, policy dialogues, research networks, conferences, consultations, and development initiatives concerned with poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Such engagement may include collaboration with universities, international organizations, development agencies, international professional associations, civil society networks, and other institutions advancing SDG 1 and related Sustainable Development Goals.

International participation should contribute substantive knowledge, evidence, recommendations, collaborative programs, or policy dialogue rather than participation for representation purposes alone.

VII. Evidence-Based Policy Contribution

University participation in poverty-related policymaking shall, as far as practicable, be supported by credible evidence.

Faculty members and researchers are encouraged to translate relevant research findings into forms that can be effectively used by decision makers, including policy briefs, technical reports, recommendations, socioeconomic assessments, community needs assessments, program evaluations, research syntheses, and presentations.

Where appropriate, research and policy recommendations should use disaggregated data to identify differences associated with socioeconomic status, sex, gender, age, disability, geographic location, educational status, employment status, and other relevant conditions.

The University shall encourage interdisciplinary approaches because poverty involves interconnected social, economic, educational, health, environmental, technological, and governance concerns.

VIII. Meaningful Community and Stakeholder Participation

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Policy recommendations concerning poverty should not be developed solely from institutional assumptions. Where feasible, UDM shall incorporate consultation with communities and stakeholders affected by the issue under consideration.

Community participation may include consultations, focus group discussions, needs assessments, participatory research, stakeholder forums, surveys, community dialogues, and other appropriate mechanisms.

Special consideration shall be given to the meaningful participation of economically disadvantaged persons and communities and other vulnerable or marginalized groups.

IX. From Policy Participation to Program Implementation

Where consistent with its mandate and available resources, UDM shall complement policy participation with programs that translate policy recommendations into practical interventions.

These may include educational assistance and access programs, community education, skills development, livelihood and entrepreneurship initiatives, employment preparation, research based extension services, digital literacy, health promotion, food and nutrition initiatives, legal and civic education, technical assistance, and other activities addressing the multidimensional causes or effects of poverty.

Programs shall, where practicable, identify intended beneficiaries, expected outputs, expected outcomes, responsible units, partners, resources, and appropriate measures of effectiveness.

X. Partnerships and Collaboration

UDM recognizes that poverty reduction requires coordinated action. The University shall promote partnerships with government agencies, local government units, barangays, educational institutions, civil society organizations, community organizations, industry, professional bodies, development organizations, and international partners.

Partnerships should move beyond ceremonial agreements. Where applicable, partnerships addressing poverty shall identify substantive activities, responsibilities, beneficiaries, outputs, and intended results.

XI. Institutional Responsibilities

The Office of the University President, or its designated office, shall provide institutional direction for the implementation of this Policy.

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The office designated to coordinate sustainability, planning, research, extension, or institutional development shall maintain coordination among participating academic and administrative units and facilitate the documentation of University participation in poverty-related policy processes.

Colleges, academic units, research units, and extension offices shall identify relevant expertise, research, programs, and representatives who may contribute to policy-making activities.

University representatives participating in external policy processes in their institutional capacity shall provide appropriate documentation and a brief report of their participation to the designated coordinating office.

XII. Documentation and Public Evidence

UDM shall maintain systematic records of its participation in poverty-related policymaking.

Acceptable institutional records may include official invitations, appointment or designation documents, membership in councils or technical working groups, attendance records, meeting minutes, consultation records, policy briefs, position papers, technical reports, research reports, resolutions, memoranda of agreement, correspondence, photographs accompanied by documentary context, program reports, published recommendations, proceedings, and evidence showing that UDM's contributions were considered or incorporated into policy or program development.

Documentation shall clearly identify, whenever possible, the level of policy participation as local, regional, national, or global.

The University shall make appropriate evidence of its poverty reduction policy participation publicly accessible through its official website, subject to data privacy, confidentiality, intellectual property, security, and other legitimate restrictions.

Public documentation should state the nature of UDM's participation, the partner or policy-making body involved, the issue addressed, the date or period of participation, the University's contribution, and the resulting output or outcome where available.

XIII. Annual Reporting

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The designated coordinating office shall consolidate an annual report on UDM's participation in poverty-related policymaking and program implementation.

The report should identify activities at the local, regional, national, and global levels and distinguish between participation in policymaking, implementation of poverty reduction programs, research contributions, community engagement, and partnerships.

The report should include available quantitative and qualitative evidence of outputs and outcomes and shall contribute to the University's institutional sustainability and SDG reporting.

XIV. Monitoring and Evaluation

Implementation of this Policy shall be reviewed periodically to determine whether University participation produces meaningful contributions to poverty reduction policy and practice.

Monitoring shall consider the extent and quality of UDM's participation in policymaking, the number and nature of partnerships established, research or technical contributions produced, policy recommendations submitted or adopted, communities or beneficiaries reached, programs implemented, and documented outcomes arising from these engagements.

The University shall use evaluation findings to improve subsequent research, extension programs, policy engagement, and institutional planning.

XV. Principles of Integrity and Nonpartisanship

UDM's participation in public policy shall remain scholarly, evidence-based, transparent, ethical, and nonpartisan.

Institutional engagement under this Policy shall not be used to endorse political candidates, political parties, or partisan electoral activities.

Faculty members and researchers shall retain academic freedom in conducting research and expressing scholarly conclusions, subject to applicable laws, ethical standards, and University policies.

Data involving individuals and communities shall be handled in accordance with applicable ethical requirements and data protection laws.

XVI. Resource Support

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Subject to applicable government accounting, budgeting, procurement, and auditing rules, the University may allocate or mobilize appropriate resources to support research, policy engagement, community consultation, technical assistance, dissemination, monitoring, and other activities necessary to implement this Policy.

External grants, partnerships, and collaborative resources may likewise be pursued provided that these arrangements protect the University's independence, integrity, and public mandate.

XVII. Review of the Policy

This Policy shall be reviewed periodically, or whenever substantial changes occur in national legislation, government poverty reduction strategies, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, applicable higher education policies, or institutional priorities.

Amendments shall be subject to the appropriate University approval process.

XVIII. Effectivity

This Policy shall take effect upon approval by the appropriate University authority and shall remain in force until amended, superseded, or revoked through an authorized institutional action.

Ma. Felma Carlos-Tria, ED. D.
President

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PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:		
NAME POSITION	NAME POSITION		

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