

## **Minutes of the Meeting of PACLAS Working Committee Members**

*Held on 13 April 2004 at the Office of International Programs  
Rm. 213, 2/F Bellarmine Hall, Ateneo de Manila University*

### **Attendees:**

Dr. Belen L. Tangco	- University of Sto. Tomas
Mr. Glenn de Leon	- Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU)
Ms. Mari-Len Macasaquit	- Philippine Institute for Development Studies
Mr. Rafael Luis Flores	- Foreign Service Institute
Dr. Francis Diaz	- University of the Philippines
Mr. Jose Capistrano, Jr.	- Athletics Director, AdMU
Mr. Em Fernandez	- AdMU
Mr. Emerson Co	- AdMU

### **Proceedings:**

The meeting started at 10:30 in the morning with Dr. Tangco presiding. The agenda for the meeting focused on the second COPA America Football Tournament being spearheaded by the Philippine Academic Consortium for Latin-American Studies (PACLAS).

1. Dr. Tangco set the context for the meeting by recalling some of the highlights of the first COPA America Football Tournament, which was held on May 10, 2003. She mentioned that this year's host is the Ateneo de Manila University. The meeting was intended to be a brainstorming session with regards the details of the second COPA, which would then be presented to the representatives of participating Latin American embassies. The body was informed that last year's participant, University of the East (UE) has not formally expressed yet its intention to participate for this year's activity. Meanwhile, according to Mr. de Leon, the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) has already begged off from participating this year.
2. This year's COPA would have the following universities as prospective participants: UP, AdMU, DLSU, UST, UE, and FEU (replacing UA&P). In case, FEU declines the invitation, San Beda would be asked to join. The teams from these universities would again represent the colors of the participating Latin American countries namely, Cuba, Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, Chile, and Argentina. Since Peru is no longer participating this year, UP would then represent the colors of Cuba, while FEU (or San Beda) would represent Chile.
3. Mr. Capistrano, AdMU's Athletics Director, presented his proposal for the tournament format. For the opening ceremonies, there would no longer be a motorcade. Instead, the opening ceremonies would have a cultural theme where the Ateneo's Blue Bubble Band could be requested to perform as well as a company of Ateneo dancers. The traditional entrance of colors would be held representing the PACLAS member institutions and participating embassies. The proposed venue for the opening ceremonies is the Blue Eagle

Gym where a reception would also be held. It was proposed that the opening ceremonies be held from 3 in the afternoon, to be followed by the opening game at 4. The body agreed that May 16, 2004 (Sunday), a week after the national elections, would be the tentative date for the opening of the COPA America.

4. As for the schedule of the games, it was proposed that two playing days per week be held where there would be two games per playing day. Should PACLAS and the embassies agree on Wednesday and Sunday playing days, all 15 games of the tournament would span from May 16 to June 13.
5. With regard the tournament format, it was proposed that only the top two slots would be contended. It was agreed that the usual flexibility in terms of players' eligibility would apply and may include alumni and nationals of Latin American countries represented in the tournament. Similar to last year's arrangement, the plan is to request the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) to officiate in the tournament. Meanwhile, Mr. Capistrano would later on suggest somebody to act as Commissioner for this year's COPA.
6. It was proposed that the COPA organizers would seek for more generous sponsorship from the Latin American embassies this year to include the whole set of uniforms, among others. According to Mr. Capistrano, he would try to contact Gatorade to supply power drinks, while Adidas could provide uniforms for tournament officials, PACLAS officers and focal points. In addition, he would be exploring the possible participation and contribution of the Spanish embassy. Dr. Tangco mentioned that one Mexican corporation and an Argentinean airline company provided support during the Semana Latina Americana in February and would most likely be willing to act as sponsors for the COPA as well.
7. In order to attract the interest of students in the tournament, it was proposed that on-going summer classes in the various universities be invited as well as the participation of other institutions, which may have something to do with Latin American languages or cultural promotion. Another suggestion was to hold an exhibit simultaneously with the tournament on the history of football. The plan was to seek the help of PFF in this regard. Meanwhile, the activity would be announced in the PACLAS website, including photos of last year's tournament. It was also suggested that regular announcements be issued through the newspapers. According to Dr. Tangco, this could be done through the alumni working in these newspaper companies to minimize costs.
8. The agreements during this meeting will be presented to representatives of the participating embassies. Tentative date for the meeting is April 21 at 3 in the afternoon at the Ateneo. Mr. Capistrano would be inviting Mr. Romualdez of the PFF to attend the meeting, while he would also be communicating with the FEU with regard their participation in the COPA.
9. Mr. Capistrano suggested meeting with the coaches of the various teams before the meeting with the representatives of the embassies.
10. Before the meeting was adjourned, Dr. Tangco informed the body of the forthcoming activities of PACLAS. This includes a probable visit to two or three Latin American countries by focal points of PACLAS member-institutions. She mentioned that this matter was already discussed with the Department of Foreign Affairs. A similar activity is the exchange visits of selected players and representatives of PACLAS member institutions with Latin American counterparts. Dr. Tangco likewise mentioned that PACLAS is

exploring a possible arrangement with the Inter-American Development Bank for financial support of PACLAS activities.

11. After Mr. de Leon has provided a recap of what transpired during the meeting, Dr. Tangco expressed his appreciation for AdMU's hosting of the first meeting for the COPA tournament. She extended her special thanks to Fr. Nebres and those who represented AdMU in the meeting. She likewise extended her regards to Dr. Ricardo Jose and Dr. Nemenzo of the University of the Philippines.

Adjournment: There being no other matters for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 in the morning.

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