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**Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs**

28 September 2020

**OVPAA Memorandum No. 2020-110**

**For:** All Faculty and Students

Through the Chancellors  
Cc: Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs

**From:**   
Maria Cynthia Rose Banzon Bautista  
Vice-President for Academic Affairs

**Re: Advisories from Internet Providers and Class Activities on 28-30  
September 2020**

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The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the Telecommunication Companies (TELCOs) have issued the following statements:

1. National Telecommunications Communications: A clarification that “*The emergency repair works on AAG (Asia-American Gateway) submarine fiber cable system is being undertaken outside Philippine waters.*”<sup>1</sup>
2. PLDT and Smart: An Advisory dated 24 September 2020 on the scheduled Asia-America Gateway (AAG) emergency maintenance activities from 25 – 30 September 2020 in which they assured the public of “*continued internet activity throughout*”<sup>2</sup>; and
3. Converge ICT Solutions Inc.: The following statement: “*In line with the planned maintenance activity on the AAG international submarine cable, we would like to inform our subscribers that our services will not be impacted.*”<sup>3</sup>

To manage the level of anxiety of students and faculty despite the assurance from internet providers and NTC that the country’s Internet connections will not be affected, the faculty is enjoined to conduct only asynchronous activities from 28-30 September 2020, and to avoid scheduling synchronous sessions. The faculty is further urged to adjust deadlines of class requirements that are due on these dates.

Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.qmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/757244/internet-traffic-within-philippines-not-affected-by-aag-cable-maintenance-ntc/story/> [accessed 27 September 2020]

<sup>2</sup> [https://smart.com.ph/About/newsroom/full-news/2020/09/24/asia-america-gateway-\(aag\)-emergency-maintenance-activities](https://smart.com.ph/About/newsroom/full-news/2020/09/24/asia-america-gateway-(aag)-emergency-maintenance-activities) [accessed 27 September 2020]

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.qmanetwork.com/news/money/companies/757138/converge-says-services-will-not-be-affected-by-planned-maintenance-activity/story/> [accessed 27 September 2020]