

NEWS

Council elections slated Sept 10-11

But plebiscite needed to ratify 1984 Charter

ROGENE GONZALES

After five months of deadlock between UPLB student leaders and the administration, the University Student Council (USC) and College Student Council (CSC) elections will finally push through September 10-11, with the election process following the 1984 UPLB-Student Council Constitution (1984 Constitution).

Simultaneous with the USC-CSC elections is the conduct of a plebiscite to ratify the 1984 Constitution.

The council elections were initially set on Aug. 27, but were moved to Sept. 10-11 because student leaders needed more time to prepare for the conduct of the plebiscite.

'EXTRA-ORDINARY' CASE

A dialogue between UP President Emerlinda Roman, UP Vice-President for Legal Affairs Theodore Te, UPLB Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco, Student Regent (SR) Shahana Abdulwahid, Office of the Student Affairs (OSA) Director Severino Cuevas, USC Chairperson Leo XL Fuentes and USC Vice Chairperson Charisse Bernadine Bañez was conducted last Aug. 4 at Quezon Hall in UP Diliman to settle the issue of the delayed UPLB USC-CSC elections.

Also present in the dialogue are members of the political party Buklod-UPLB, representatives from the College of Development Communication-Student Council (CDC-SC) and the *UPLB Perspective*.

The dialogue was requested from Roman by the USC-UPLB during the July 31-picket rally outside Alvir Hall in UP Manila where the meeting of Board of Regents, the highest policy-making body of the university, was held (see related article on page 3).

In the said dialogue, Te suggested that the conduct of the UPLB USC-CSC elections is an "extraordinary case." He said all things pertinent to the elections will be agreed upon by those present in the dialogue, and that such agreement will be binding solely for the conduct of the coming elections.

He stressed that because of the lack of documents proving the confirmation of the BOR on the ratification of the 1984 Constitution, the UP administration considers the 1978 UPLB Student Organization Constitution (1978 Constitution) the only "legal" constitution.

However, he recognized the practicability of the 1984 Constitution, as it has governed the USC for more than 20 years now.

"The tension is there because [as of now] there is no student council in UPLB. Maybe what we can do [is to] look at a solution that is more practicable rather than legal," he said.

Student leaders were in a consensus in using the 1984 Constitution for the elections. Cuevas initially suggested conducting an election based on the 1978 Constitution and ratify the 1984 Constitution thereafter through a plebiscite.

SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS AND PLEBISCITE

Te proposed that UPLB shall proceed with the USC-CSC elections based on the 1984 Constitution simultaneous with its ratification through a plebiscite.

Council...ON PAGE 9

BACK TO THE GRASSROOTS.

UP President Emerlinda Roman confers with students who staged a picket during the Board of Regents meeting in UP Manila. This, and students' intensified campaign for the upholding of the right to representation, spawned the conduct of council elections on Sept. 10 and 11.

OSA holds recognition of religious, varsitarian orgs

Katrina Elauria

Members of various student organizations claimed that their right to organize has been jeopardized after Office of Student Affairs (OSA) Director Severino Cuevas underscored some provisions of governing university laws regarding recognizing organizations.

During the recognition rites conducted by the Student Organizations and Activities Division (SOAD) last July 9 at the Makiling Ballroom Hall, 23 organizations, mostly religious and varsitarian, still have pending status in spite of their compliance to initial requirements set by the SOAD.

As of press time, the only recognized organizations are the Students with a Purpose (SWAP) and Youth for Christ (YFC) for the religious organizations and the UPLB Mindoreños and Tubao for the varsitarian organizations. Other recognized organizations include 76 academic, 15 sororities, 11 fraternities, 20 socio-civic, five sports, seven cultural, one international and one political.

SOAD head Janet Dolor said while some organizations are still not recognized because of lack of documents submitted, other organizations especially religious and varsitarian organizations would still have their constitutions reassessed by Cuevas.

RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

University Student Council (USC) Vice Chairperson Charisse Bernadine Bañez disagreed on the non-recognition of some student organizations.

“Kaya ineencourage ‘yung mga organisasyon sa loob ng pamantasan ay dahil tinatanganan natin ‘yung vision ng UP na makapag-develop ng isang well-

rounded individual, na ‘di lang magaling sa akademya ngunit magaling pa sa ibang aspeto,” she said.

Moreover, Alexis, a fraternity member who refused to give his real name and affiliation, emphasized the liberty of the students to organize.

He said, “Kaya kasi may (student) org [ay] para magkatipun-tipon ang mga tao na may similar interests.”

DISCRIMINATORY

In an interview, Cuevas said he does not recognize organizations that he considers to be “discriminatory,” such as fraternities, sororities, and varsitarian and religious organizations, unless they agreed

on some changes like the revision of their constitution to make it less “discriminatory.”

Cuevas also said varsitarian organizations violated Chapter 72, Article 444 of the revised UP System Code which states that “organizations which are provincial, sectional or regional in nature shall not be allowed in the University System.”

Alyansa ng mga Kabitenyo sa UPLB (ANAK UPLB), is but one of the many varsitarian organizations that has not been recognized until now.

ANAK UPLB President Albert Penuis said, “Para sa ‘kin ang pagbabago ng consti(tution) ay pagtanggap ng identity ng org na matagal nang ‘andyan.”

Penuis even pointed out that

UP ANGGAN, the counterpart of their organization in UP Diliman, has been recognized despite being a varsitarian organization.

“Ang varsitarian orgs sa Diliman ay walang problema sa recognition. Hindi ba’t ang UP Code na ‘yun ay dapat sa buong UP System?” Penuis said.

PUBLIC AND SECULAR UP

Cuevas said that while he recognizes such student formations already in existence, he will not recognize newly formed fraternities and sororities to lessen, if not to fully wipe out, gender biases inside the university.

Cuevas stated, “Kung gusto nila, bumuo sila ng isang confraternity kung saan tinatangap parehong babae at

lalaki... As of now, ‘yung mga fraternities at sororities lang na binuo noon pa ng UP alumni, even before OSA has been established, ‘yun [ang] ni-recognize ko.”

Meanwhile, Alixandra Joy Vila, a member of Theta Epsilon Sorority emphasized that sexual differentiation should not be a basis to say that there is discrimination in an organization.

She said, “Kaya nga may frat at soro para mas organized. At pano nagkaroon ng discrimination kung may nag-eexist na frat for boys at soro for girls? Masasabing may discrimination kung isa lang sa kanila ‘yung nag-eexist.”

Emmanuel Victor Serrano, member of the Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, furthered that any

OSA...ON PAGE 9

On student council elections stalemate USC claims admin intervention

Estel Lenwij Estropia

While the University Student Council (USC) and College Student Council elections (CSC) are to be held Sept. 10-11 after almost five months of delay, the USC claims there might have been ‘administrative intervention’ involved in the process of resolving the deadlock.

USC Chairperson Leo ‘XL’ Fuentes pointed out that the administration initiated steps to conduct council elections using the 1978 UPLB Student Organization (UPLB-SO), although the issue has not even been resolved among the ranks of the studentry.

He said since the council election is a legitimate student concern, it should be up to the students to settle the matter.

“Nag-convene ang Central Electoral Board na puro administrasyon [ang pinatawag]... Ito ay seryosong usapin kaya bakit hindi naiinvolve ang student council? May mga plano na sila na nag-set ng election kaya sinasabi natin na isa itong pag-iintervene, kasi ang election ay student affair. So bakit pinangunahan nila ang mga estudyante?” he said.

In a memorandum dated July 7 (Administrative Order no. 119), the Office of the Chancellor instructed Office of Student Affairs (OSA) Director Severino Cuevas to convene the College Electoral Board.

“In your capacity as Chairman of the Central Electoral Board, and in coordination with the various College Electoral Boards, please convene the same for the conduct of elections for the College and

University Student Councils as soon as possible with due regard and in deference to duly approved and existing rules and regulations on the matter,” the memorandum read.

Fuentes claims that these “duly approved and existing rules and regulations” can only be the UP Code and the UPLB-SO Constitution. He said this memorandum authorized OSA to push through with the council elections using the 1978 Constitution.

He said the Student Organization and Activities Division (SOAD) has convened different organization by classification to elect the organization representative in the Central Electoral Board based on the 1978 Constitution.

He furthered that Cuevas and some college secretaries held a meeting last July 18 to plan the

conduct of the USC-CSC elections and have already set Aug. 15 as the target date for the elections, without informing the students of this decision.

Professor Benjamina Paula Flor, College Secretary of the College of Development Communication however said, “Ang intensyon is to have the elections. Ang problema naman natin, wala pa tayong Central Electoral Board.”

Fuentes added that after the meeting, Cuevas assembled several heads of various organizations to select their representative for the Central Electoral Board.

Cuevas said however that the meeting was not the meeting of the CEB, one of its agenda was to form the electoral board. “The meeting was a prelude to organizing the Central Electoral Board.” he said. [P]

Tornado wrecks houses, triggers commotion in Los Baños

Estel Lenwij Estropia

A roaring tornado hit Los Baños last Aug. 14 and swept several homes, alarming the town’s residents and the UPLB constituents.

The tornado originated from the southern part of Laguna de Bay, between Calamba City and Los Baños and lasted from 3 to 5 p.m. It passed through Barangay Anos and Barangay Batong Malake before it deteriorated near the International Rice Research Institute.

UPLB Main Library Administrative Aid Glicerio Anda, a resident of Barangay Anos, narrated how the twister wrecked his house.

It was Anda’s day-off when the tornado devastated some parts of Los Baños. While watching the twister from afar with his 4-year

old child, he said the last thing he expected was for it to hit his house.

But the tornado ripped through their roof, causing much damage inside the house. The twister has blown away the roof of their house as well as some of their clothes. Anda blacked out after he was directly hit by the twister.

Thankful that he and his child were unhurt, Anda with his child decided to flee for safety upon regaining consciousness.

Meanwhile, Anda was worried about the damages wrecked by the twister since he has not yet received any financial help from anyone as of press time.

“Paano ko ulit ipapatayo ‘yung bahay ko gayong gipit na gipit ako?” he said.

Meanwhile, reports say the tornado uprooted trees in Lopez

Elementary School and partly took off a roof in Collegio de Los Baños. Eyewitnesses also said the tornado brought with it paper wastes and garbage bags.

UPLB students and faculty members were able to take pictures and videos of the event.

Ciara Claire San Buenaventura, BS Nutrition ‘07 said, “Ngayon lang kasi nangyari ‘yung ganyan [tornado] kaya lahat talagang na-amaze and na-terrify at the same time.”

“Na-tense ako in a way kasi nakita kong bumababa ‘yung tornado. It was the first time I saw a tornado,” said Department of Humanities Prof. Elmer Rufo.

Some classes were suspended that afternoon due to the heavy rains with strong thunders that followed the twister. [P]



TOUCH DOWN

PHOTO STEPHANIE IVY MAPALAD

This tornado, which is just one of a group of twisters that ripped through Los Baños last Aug. 14, appears to be preparing to land. This rare weather phenomenon will later leave some houses and properties in the town in wreck.

No tuition rollback-Roman

Rogene Gonzales

“There will be no [tuition] rollback.”

UP President Emerlinda Roman said this to the 200 students from UPLB, UP Diliman and UP Manila who protested outside the 1234th Board of Regents (BOR) Meeting held at Alvir Hall in UP Manila last July 31.

Roman addressed the issue on tuition rollback after former Student Regent (SR) Mark Terry Ridon inquired in the picket-dialogue about the submitted policy report that is part of the “general student demands” presented to the BOR.

Bearing placards and streamers, students chanted for the rollback of the 300 percent tuition rate and other fee increase (ToFI) to

provide “immediate economic relief to the Filipino people amidst chronic crisis.”

The BOR is the highest policy making body of the UP System.

‘MOVING ON’ WITH TOFI

Roman said tuition will be adjusted and implemented each academic year based on inflation rate, as approved by the BOR on

Dec. 15, 2006.

She stressed that there would not be any tuition rollback since the UP administration has already given aid to students amid the current socio-economic crisis by not implementing TOFI this past academic year, as requested by SR Shahana Abdulwahid and former SR Mark Terry Ridon.

Roman said students should no longer raise the issue of TOFI since it is already ‘closed’ and that the picket-rally was not the proper forum to discuss the matter.

“Tapos na yung usapin ng pag-i-increase ng tuition. Sa inyo [students] hindi pa tapos, sa amin [administration], we are moving on,” she said.

Roman suggested that to cope with ToFI, students should apply for Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program (STFAP) and

other scholarship grants. She also cited the allotted centennial fund for student scholarships.

CONTINUED CALL

In an interview with *Perspective*, Abdulwahid said the Office of the Student Regent (OSR) remains firm in its call for tuition rollback in spite of Roman’s statements.

She added that the OSR will be conducting a concrete study of student profiles that scholarship grants and the ‘flawed’ STFAP bracketing still do not suffice as solutions amid ToFI.

Meanwhile, Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Mag-aaral (KASAMA) sa UP, a system wide alliance of student councils of the UP system, Executive Vice Chair Kamille Pauline

No rollback...ON PAGE 9



FRIENDSHIP ARCH

Standing tall, the red arch erected near the Thai Pavilion will “serve as the gate to the pavement” that is being constructed as a sign of amity between the Philippines and Japan.

PHOTO PAUL ANDREW MANUALES

On the search for the next chancellor Nominees present mission, vision for UPLB

Katrina Elauria

A multisectoral consultation was conducted last Aug. 22 at the New College of Arts and Science (NCAS) auditorium where the three nominees for UPLB Chancellorship presented their vision, plans and goals for UPLB.

The nominees for the said position are Dr. Felino Lansigan from the Institute of Statistics, Dr. Candida Adalla, former dean of College of Agriculture who served for six years, and incumbent chancellor Dr. Luis Rey Velasco whose term will end on Oct. 31.

Adalla said she envisions UPLB as a “national university in pursuit of excellence in agriculture, biotechnology, and environment.”

Lansigan, on the other hand, envisions UPLB as a unified community with each of its sectors open not only to the needs of the university community but of the wider society as well.

Meanwhile, Velasco, who is aspiring for a second term, describes UPLB as a “national university making education, science and technology work for society through its distinctive excellence in agriculture,

biotechnology, engineering and environment.”

The said forum also served as a venue for faculty members, Research and Extension Personnel, administrative staff and students to raise their concerns like the decreasing number of senior faculty, promotion system and utilization of university’s idle assets.

University Student Council Vice Chairperson Charisse Bernadine Bañez, who is also the student representative in the search committee, said, “Ang hinahanap natin ay isang chancellor na tutulong sa holistic development ng isang studyante [at] ‘yung magsusulong ng democratic, consultative at participative style of work.”

As of press time, the USC is conducting a series of consultations with student organizations to collate students’ issues and create a list of students’ demands.

This list of demands will be presented at the deliberations of the Board of Regents (BOR) on the next UPLB Chancellor.

Joselito Armando Palanca, head of Human Resources Development Office (HRDO), after hearing the programs of the nominees said all of them are competent to fill the position.

He said, “Dapat ang chancellor, marunong makihalubilo sa [kanyang] constituents [at] nauunawaan ang mga pangangailangan tulad naming [nasa] labor groups.”

The search committee for the next UPLB Chancellor, which will assist the BOR in selecting the Chancellor of UPLB for the next three years was formed last July 21, when UP President Emerlinda Roman issued Administrative Order No. PERR 08-39.

The search committee is headed by Dr. Salcedo Eduardo of the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). Other members of the committee are Dr. Jessie Elauria of CEAT, Prof. Rose Jane Peras of College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR), Juanita Abrigo of Research and Extension, Erlinda Sanchez of College of Agriculture (CA), UP System Vice President Arlene Samaniego and Bañez of USC.

The search committee is scheduled to submit to Roman its full report on the search process on or before Sept. 12.

Roman will present the search committee’s report along with her affirmation at the BOR’s meeting on Sept. 29, when the board will be selecting the new chancellor. [P]

As part of ecotourism project Landmark to signify RP-Japan friendship

Mark Angelo Ordonio

Two years from now, a Japanese landmark will be catching the university’s attraction.

A pathway from the side of the Thai Pavilion up to the University Health Service (UHS) is being constructed as an alternative way to reach the upper campus.

The pathway is one of the parts of the Nihon Koen project proposed by the Philippine Association of Japanese Government Scholars (PHILAJAMES) Southern Luzon (SL) Chapter, in cooperation with the Japanese embassy.

PHILAJAMES, an international organization that promotes unity between UPLB and different universities in Japan, agreed to finance the two-million-peso project that started construction last June, in accordance with the Philippines-Japan Friendship Month.

Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development Dr. Fernando Sanchez Jr. conceptualized the said project fifteen years ago.

According to Sanchez, the

project is part of the ongoing beautification program for the ecotourism project of UPLB.

“As seen from the Palma Bridge, a red arch which will serve as the gate to the pavement will remind us of the camaraderie Japan offered us,” Sanchez said.

Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco initially allotted a space in the middle of Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Institute Dormitory and International House for the said project, but Sanchez suggested having the area moved beside the Thai Pavilion.

Sanchez said that open gazebos will be constructed inside the gate and that the preliminary end of the pathway will be well-lighted for security purposes.

He stressed that “the materials to be used here are from the Philippines, only the design is Japanese-inspired. Our only problem is hiring a Japanese architect.”

He also added that the pathway can be used as an area of interest for aesthetics, as the gazebos can be used venues for recreation purposes. [P]

Ipagtanggol ang Karapatan mo sa Representasyon!

**Bumoto sa plebisito.
Makilahok sa eleksyon.**

Dalhin lamang ang ‘yong FORM 5 at VALID ID sa mga voting precincts sa bawat kolehiyo.

The 10 People you meet during Elections

WORDS FAITH ALLYSON BUENACOSA
AND KAREN LAPITAN

LAYOUT PAUL ANDREW MANUALES
GRAPHICS CHINO CARLO ARICAYA

It is election time once again. Candidates and their supporters start to lurk around the university holding banners, shaking passers-by's hands and introducing themselves to people who don't really want to get to know them. Every year, a new personality adds him or her name to the list. But based on experience, chances are, you get to see, meet and even touch (if you really want to) these ever present personalities.

1. The supporter who (allegedly) steals the other party's tarpaulins, posters and other propaganda materials



He silently checks out bulletin boards all over the campus. He looks out for people who might see him, and if the coast is clear, he steals the other party's propaganda materials.

Although the stealing has not been proven, chances are, some die-hard supporters are doing "naughty acts" just to outsmart their "opponents" in the campus political arena - in the most unintelligent way.

Given the limited walls and bulletin boards within the perimeter of the campus, some supporters resort to removing posters or posting their posters over another party's poster. This is but a natural scenario during elections; find it strange when this does not happen.

2. The agitated candidate who seems to shout at his would-be constituents



During the candidates' room-to-room visits or during the miting de avance itself, she speaks her lungs out in stating her stand on certain issues. With her raised voice, she answers every question with confidence, appearing to be well-versed on what the student council is all about.

There are students who feel intimidated by this kind of candidate while some see this as a manifestation of conviction on campus and national issues. Delivery can be a crucial factor in communicating with the electorate, but content must also have bearing.

3. The supporters who asks "scripted" questions to their party-mates at the miting de avance to give them some limelight



The supporter asks for the candidate's favorite color, the candidate gives out his answer. The audience claps. Very well said.

Since limelight is a must during elections, desperate moves can also be observed. Like a movie scene where actors know what lines to throw, some candidates actually receive questions that they have been expecting. Thus, the audience could be deceived into believing that the answer was "very well said."

4. The naïve candidate who knows nothing but his name and his political party — nothing more, nothing less



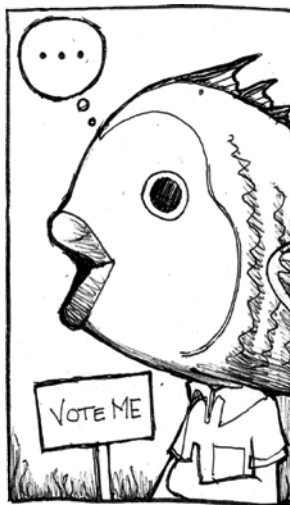
He speaks in class telling everyone to vote for him and his party mates in the upcoming elections. His classmate asks his stand on the commercialization of UP education. He reintroduces himself and his political party without giving out a relevant answer.

The most annoying fact about the elections is that one can garner a significant number of votes without having to exert effort in analyzing social and campus issues. Popularity is often the name of the game.

Unfortunate as it may seem, he actively campaigns for his party while he cannot even state the essence of the student council.

He is often seen mingling with people (some of whom he doesn't even know) trying hard to be a charismatic leader, but does not speak a single word when he is grilled during miting de avance.

5. The mutated goldfish who pretends to be a candidate



Recently, The Vatican added "genetically modifying organisms" to the long-standing list of the Seven Deadly Sins. A poor creature who was subjected to this grueling and "immoral" process of mutation can be chanced upon every time election comes.

The goldfish's three-second memory is tested to its limits in the miting de avance. Curious students take turns asking questions about GPOAs and campus issues that turn into long complex statements and the poor mutated goldfish suffers comprehending the inquiries.

Science may have succeeded in making the little fish look like a human being, but it failed in improving its intellectual capacity. The fish's brain explodes during the interrogation, failing to answer the questions. Then everybody shouts in chorus, "Blame it on short-term memory."

Campus politics proves the cruel effects of mutation. No wonder the Vatican took notice.

6. The candidate who runs in the wrong race



Frustrated Ms. UPLB contestant (who will be frustrated for her entire lifetime and the next because no such contest exists) joins the elections. She flashes in public her perfect smile and leaves people ogling with her milky smooth skin, not to mention her commercial-like straight, flowing hair. Some blatantly put it as "face value." Ms. UPLB attracts voters and fans (or maybe even suitors and stalkers) with her appeal. An age-old tactic tested by positions won in previous elections.

But a word of warning: Janina San Miguel-question-and-answer-portion horrors can come to life in the miting de avance when the beautiful is grilled about the UP Strategic Plan of 2008 or her stand on Food vs. Fuel debate on Biofuels.

7. The candidate who takes time to undergo a major makeover just for the elections



He walks around campus unshaved wearing those old baggy shirts paired with his khaki cargo pants and slippers. He carries this huge backpack while everyone wonders what the contents of his backpack are. His skin is sun-burnt and most of the time, he looks as if he hasn't bathed. He is just an inch away from being a bum.

But come election time, he gets a new wardrobe that boasts of polo shirts, black slacks and newly polished leather shoes. And as if the change of wardrobe is not enough, he shaves all his facial hair and goes to the barber for a clean cut. Just like the friendly neighborhood politician.

10. The student who refuses to vote during student council elections



He has his ID and Form 5 with him. He knows that it is election time and his participation is badly needed. But then, he doesn't want to get involved, simply because he thinks it is nonsense.

Exercising one's suffrage is, perhaps, the most evident form of democracy. In the context of the University Student Council-College Student Council (USC-CSC) elections, participation of the students hardly reaches 50 percent almost every year. While there is a prevalent notion that this is due to mere apathy, this can also mean that he has not grasped the importance of his participation in the USC-CSC elections.

Reasons vary why he refuses to select those who will constitute the USC and CSCs. He claims that all of the candidates are not worth his vote and that campus politics is just similar to the political landscape of the country - rotten and nonsense. Thus, he does not see any valid reason to participate, but ironically, he actively laments the faults of the elected student council.

8-9. A candidate who vows to give you the moon and the stars, and another who promises you, well, some trashcans



She offers her resolute stance on issues, claiming to be the genuine vanguard of students' rights and welfare. She discusses issues like the Tuition and Other Fee Increases, UP Strategic Plan of 2008 and other anti-student policies. She vows to take action on these issues. Some students think her plan of action is just too abstract that she appears to promise you once again the moon and the stars. Meanwhile, another candidate promises to provide additional trashcans to the university.

A party's platform or plan of action is summarized in its General Plan of Action (GPOA) usually distributed during the campaign period. For voters who are intelligent enough, the GPOA serves as one of the concrete criteria to test if candidates deserve getting a vote.

With the elections coming in a few weeks, you have surely met one of these student council elections characters. They may appear as mere laughing stocks, but they actually reflect the realities of the elections.

Our standards and preferences on the candidates to vote are expected to be different. However, one thing must be common: our precious votes should be given to those who will fulfill their promises during the campaign period and who will genuinely advance the interests of the students. On September 10 and 11, we have the power to decide, so go out and vote. [P]

*The idea of this article was adapted from Jessica Zafra's *The 500 People You Meet in Hell* (Anvil Publishing Inc., 2006)

Intertwined

*pseudoalkyl

"It couldn't be," Patricia grabbed the paper I was holding. They were all speechless. As she scanned the paper, I know she refused to believe what Ian was thinking - that Sid did not commit suicide.

Patricia confronted Ian, trying not to show she was on the verge of crying. "Where on earth did you get the idea that my Sid would take his own life?" She was convincing him with her frightening glares.

Patricia sighed as she dropped the paper and left. Silence again filled the room.

Ian, of all the band members, was uncomfortable with Sid's girlfriend. I knew what Ian feels especially when Patricia is bumming around with the band. It's like some repelling charges are introduced every time they are together, yet Ian does not evidently show his antipathy towards her.

I picked the paper, desperate to look for more tell-tale parts in Sid's letter.

I was about to read a suspicious handwriting, which doesn't look like Sid's, when my phone buzzed thrice, bearing a single message.

"Three stabs on the right chest, possibly made by a blunt knife, were observed. A large amount of blood was lost, could have been the reason why Sid arrived dead in the hospital."

It was Patricia who texted us. She might have passed by the hospital after she left us for the medico legal, having that specific number and site of stabs that ended the life of the band's vocalist.

In capital letters, Patricia sent us another message. "AND I AM SURE THAT IT'S NOT SUICIDE."

Janus stepped back.

"What's the problem, Janus?" Ian asked. Janus was shivering as he stared at me.

"You don't know what the problem is?"

I thought you were Sid's brother," Janus replied all of a sudden.

"I'm thinking what you are thinking," I uttered.

"I wish you thought so, Megan," Janus answered.

"Don't tell me that one of us really killed Sid. Impossible," Glen asked.

It appeared that Patricia was trying to convince us that one of us killed her Sid.

Then it felt like someone whispered and pleaded me to say something just to end the conversation. But, as I was to open my mouth, I was controlled by my ego - some supernatural force that held me.

Glen patted my shoulder. He was again, trying to tell me something. This time, I wasn't able to read his gray eyes. It was blank, as empty as our minds looking for an answer.

Was it, again, a suicide? Or someone killed him? If yes, who? And for what reason?

Janus was still looking at his phone, probably at Patricia's last message. He still feels nervous; I see it in every drop of his sweat as he made a sound with his knuckles.

Even though Ian was Sid's brother, it was Janus with whom Sid shared most of his time (before Patricia came later in college). They have been classmates for almost eleven years, way back when they were in nursery. That could have given him such agony for Sid's loss.

After some moment of stillness, Glen asked me to hand her Sid's paper. I was not aware that someone saw me hid it.

As I was handing it to him, Glen stood up and stretched his shirt, and he said, "I'm not sure, but I think I knew someone who could have likely killed Sid, and I have ways to prove it. He's here."

Abruptly, I sheered. "He? Who's he?"

"Actually, 'she'," Janus responded.

"Megan?" Ian muttered.

"It's you, Megan," Janus lowered his voice.

SKETCHHEAD

Sid's dead and it's definitely not suicide. The question left now is: WHO did the crime? Was it really Megan who did it?

**Bumoto.
Makilahok.**

Meeting de Avance
SEPTEMBER 9 (CSC - 4 p.m., USC - 7 p.m)

Election/Plebiscite Proper
SEPTEMBER 10 - 11

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES [at] LOS
BAÑOS STUDENT COUNCIL**

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of the Philippines [at] Los Baños, cognizant of the vital role of the youth in nation building, and conscious of its historical role in contributing to the task of social transformation, desirous [as] of establishing an autonomous, representative and democratic Student Council that will unite the whole UPLB Studentry [and will] promote its closer relationship with other sectors of [the] society in order to instill nationalist consciousness for the advancement of the Filipino people, bind ourselves in commitment to these [ends] ideals and hereby ordain and promulgate this constitution.

**ARTICLE 1
GENERAL PROVISION**

Section 1 This constitution shall be known as the "constitution of the UPLB Student Council".

Section 2 This constitution shall govern the University Student Council and the various College Student Councils at [the] UP [at] Los Baños.

Section 3 For purposes of this constitution, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- a. "University" signifies the [UP at] University of the Philippines Los Baños.
- b. "University of the Philippines [at] Los Baños" or "UPLB" includes all colleges, institutes, departments and units [located in the Los Baños campus of UP] under UPLB.
- c. "UPLB Student Council" or "Student Council" refers to the University Student Council in the UP [at] Los Baños campus.
- d. "University Student Council" [or "Council"] refers to the University Student Council as distinguished from any College Student Council in [the] UP [at] Los Baños campus.
- e. "College Student Council" means the duly-constituted central student organization of a college or unit that offers at least a bachelor's degree program.
- f. "University Administrators" signifies the duly-constituted authorities or officials of the UP [at] Los Baños in so far as the UP [at] Los Baños is concerned or affected.
- g. "[Chairman]", "[Vice-Chairman]", "[Chairperson]", "[Vice-Chairpersons]", "University Councilors", and "College Representatives" refer, respectively, to the officers and members of the University Student Council (USC) so designated; as distinguished from the set of officers of the College Student Council (CSC).
- h. "Council Members" or "Members of the Council" means the duly elected members of the University Student Council including its officers.
- i. "University Councilors" or "councilors" refers to any of the University Councilors as distinguished from the College Representative.
- j. "College Representatives" means the duly-elected representatives to the University Student Council of the constituents of a college [to the University Council].
- k. "College Councilors" refers to the councilors of the College Student Council elected by the constituents of the College.
- l. "Permanent Vacancy" exists when the Office of an Officer or member has been vacated by reasons of death, resignation, impeachment, permanent illness, or any other reason preventing him from performing the functions of his office on the remaining period of his term.
- m. "Temporary Vacancy" exists when the

office of an officer or member has been vacated by reasons of temporary mental or physical incapacity, or any other reason that leaves the possibility of his resuming his duties before the expiration of his term.

n. "Majority vote" refers to fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of the total number of votes cast by voting members during the voting process provided that a quorum exists.

**ARTICLE II
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND
OBJECTIVES**

Section 1 The UPLB Student Council subscribes to the following principles:

- a. That education is a right and not a privilege and it should be afforded to everyone;
- b. That education should develop man's physical, mental, social and cultural potentials in order to realize his part in social change;
- c. That education should enhance critical thought and ability to make informed judgment, free of dogma and myths;
- d. That UP, as a state university, is an educational institution [and] supported by the wealth of the Filipino people [and] and therefore it should carry out its foremost obligation to promote and advance a humane Filipino Society;
- e. That UPLB, as part of the UP system pursuing its thrust for rural development should carry out its responsibility towards the genuine upliftment of the people's condition in the country side;
- f. That in pursuing the tasks of the UP system in general, and [in] the UPLB in particular, the university community should first and foremost uphold a meaningful education that is nationalist, scientific and pro-people in orientation.
 - i. Nationalist because it must liberate our thinking and values from the bonds of colonial mentality and advance the genuine aspiration of the Filipino people;
 - ii. Pro-people because it must promote an education attuned to the real needs and interest of the majority of the society; and
 - iii. Scientific because it must develop and enhance critical and objective thought responsive to actual conditions in the present Philippine Society.
- g. That through collective effort and cooperation, we can effectively work for the fulfillment of our goals, of the educational sector [particularly] in particular and the large society in general.

Section 2 The UPLB Student Council shall, at all times, strive:

- a. To uphold a truly representative, autonomous and democratic Student Council;
- b. To serve as an active forum for student ideas and sentiments;
- c. To uphold and ensure democratic participation and representations in any policy-making body which directly affect student rights and welfare particularly in the university;
- d. To promote and safeguard the rights and welfare of [the] UPLB students in particular and the Filipino people in general;
- e. To uphold the ideals and principles of the university that are geared towards ensuring [a] well-rounded students in intellectual, social, cultural and physical development. [for very students];
- f. To develop social awareness and responsibility geared towards the development of a nationalistic spirit [bounded on] rooted in democratic principles;
- g. To seek and engender educational reforms

for the full development of human potentials that respond to social realities and promote academic freedom;

h. To forge unity with other sectors of the university and society towards the fulfillment of these objectives.

**ARTICLE III
CONSTITUENTS, RIGHTS AND DUTIES**

Section 1 All bona fide graduate and undergraduate students of the University of the Philippines [at] Los Baños [and] duly enrolled and pursuing any of the academic degree/certificate/program offered by the university shall be the constituents of the UPLB Student Council.

Section 2 The constituents shall have the following rights:

- a. To enjoy freedom of expression;
- b. To elect the officers of the University Student Council and cast his vote in the UPLB-USC plebiscite [and] referenda initiated by the Student Council;
- c. To file candidacy for any position contested in the USC or CSC elections subject to provision of the Article on election and installation, [Article VII, B] Sec. 6 of this constitution;
- d. To have their grievances heard and speedily redressed;
- e. To have their academic records and clearances speedily processed, and confidentiality of such records be maintained;
- f. To organize and assemble for purposes related to the promotion and advancement of the people's and students' rights and welfare;
- g. To present their views to appropriate bodies before any policy or decision affecting their rights, interests and welfare are promulgated;
- h. To be free from exploitation, involuntary servitude and cruel or unjust punishments; and
 - i. To be accorded due process of law.

Section 3 It is the duty of every student and other constituents to:

- a. Support and participate in the activities and projects of the Student Council, cast his vote in plebiscites, referenda and elections initiated by the Student Council;
- b. Exercise his rights responsibly;
- c. Pay necessary dues and fees;
- d. Abide by all the provisions of this constitution.

**ARTICLE IV
THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL**

Section 1 The University Student Council shall be the highest governing body of all UPLB students.

Section 2 It shall be composed of a [Chairman] Chairperson, [Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson, ten University Councilors and one College Representative for each college. The Chairman or any duly recognized representatives of the Freshmen Block Assembly (FBA), the Textbook Exchange and Rental Center (TERC) Board, [the UPLB Samahan ng mga GIA at TFD Grantees (UPLB SAGISAG)], Alliance of Dorm Association and Student Alliances shall be the ex-officio members of the USC without voting power.

Section 3 The college representatives to the University Student Council shall serve as a liaison between the University Student Council and the College Student Councils. They shall, at all times be free from the control of the College Student Councils with regards to the performance of their duties, functions and activities as members of the University Student Council.

Section 4 All officers of the University Student

Council shall compose the Executive Council. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council to:

- a. Make decision on matters requiring immediate actions;
- b. Make recommendations regarding policies, rules and management;
- c. Coordinate the programs of the council; and
- d. Form ad hoc committees and task forces and appoint the [chairman] chairperson thereof as it seems necessary.

Section 5 The officers of the council shall be the [Chairman] Chairperson, [Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and [Chairman] Chairperson of Committees to be formed by the general assembly of the council from time to time. All University Councilors are eligible to become officers of the University Student Council, should this not be practicable, College Representatives may be elected as committee head.

Section 6 The [Chairman] Chairperson shall be the chief executive officer of the Council. It shall be his duty to:

- a. Head the Executive Council;
- b. Sign all resolutions, communications and papers of the council;
- c. Preside over all meetings of the Council, provided that in case he desires to take part in the debate or discussion he may name the [Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson, or in the absence of the latter, any member of the Council to take the chair;
- d. Represent the Council in his official capacity as [Chairman] Chairperson on occasions and events where the organization needs the representation;
- e. Perform such duties as may be necessary or incidental to the discharge and performance of the functions of his office.

Section 7 The [Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson shall:

- a. Assist the [Chairman] Chairperson in all matters where his/her assistance is required;
- b. Take over the function of the [Chairman] Chairperson whenever his/her office is vacant by the reason of his death, resignation, removal, suspension, illness, absence, or physical or mental incapacity or his failure to qualify for office; and
- c. Head the External Affairs Committee.

Section 8 The Secretary shall:

- a. Keep journal of the proceedings of the Council;
- b. Keep all correspondence and papers of the same;
- c. Certify all acts of the same; and
- d. Perform such other duties as the council or the [chairman] chairperson may assign him/her from time to time.

Section 9 The Treasurer shall:

- a. Keep the records of the funds of the Council;
- b. Disburse the same in accordance with an appropriation [of] authorized by the Council;
- c. Submit a financial report at the end of each semester to the Council which shall be published in the UPLB Perspective or any publication widely circulated;
- d. Perform such other duties as the Council or the [Chairman] chairperson [may from time to time] may assign him/her from time to time; and
- e. Act as a property custodian of the Council.

Section 10 There shall be a Secretariat composed of the [Chairman] Chairperson, [Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Secretariat to:

- a. Coordinate day-to-day activities of the Council; and
- b. Prepare the agenda of the meetings of

USC CONSTITUTION

the Council after consulting the different committees.

ARTICLE V COLLEGE STUDENT COUNCIL

Section 1 Each college shall have a College Student Council.

Section 2 The College Student Council Shall:

- Serve as the highest governing body of all students in a particular college;
- Initiate, organize and implement student activities of college-wide concern in line with the general policies of the Student Legislative Chamber;
- Coordinate with the designated college authorities regarding student matters, affairs and activities;
- Serve as a feedback information center for the mass of studentry in their respective college;
- Adopt its own budget which will become operational upon the approval of the Student Legislative Chamber.

Section 3 The constituents of the College Student Councils shall be students duly enrolled in their respective college.

Section 4 The College Student Council shall be composed of the **[Chairman] Chairperson, [Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson** and a number of College Councilors relative to the actual number of college population to be determined by the Central Electoral Board.

Section 5 The College Student Council shall coordinate with the USC [;], provided [;} that it shall be autonomous in the management of its own internal affairs and in the implementation of **their** programs and activities.

ARTICLE VI THE STUDENT LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER

Section 1 There shall be a Student Legislative Chamber to be composed of the following:

- From the University Student Council; the **[Chairman] Chairperson, [Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson**, Secretary, Treasurer and one University Councilor;
- From the College Student Councils; the **[Chairman] Chairperson, [Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson** and one College Councilor for every college.

Section 2 The Student Legislative Chamber shall:

- Serve as the highest policy-making body of the UPLB Student Councils;
- Serve as a constitutional body; and
- Coordinate the programs of the **various** Student Councils.

Section 3 The Student Legislative Chamber shall have its Presidium to be composed of the Presiding Officer (USC **[Chairman] Chairperson**), Secretary and three (3) Floor Leaders. The Secretary and three Floor Leaders shall be elected from among the members of the SLC. It shall be the duty of the Presidium to facilitate the discussion during the session as it seems necessary and to prepare the agenda for such session.

Section 4 The members of the SLC may be divided into different committees during its regular sessions for the purpose of the speedy formulation of policies/ rules and regulations.

Section 5 The Student Legislative Chamber shall convene at least two times a semester.

Section 6 It shall formulate its own house rules which will govern its internal operation.

Section 7 The SLC shall publicize its proceedings.

ARTICLE VII ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION

Section 1 Election for the University Student Council and the College Student Councils shall be held every academic year in accordance with the rules promulgated by the Central Electoral Board.

Section 2 Election for the USC and CSC shall be synchronized and held not later than **[eight (8) weeks after the start of classes of the first semester]** five (5) weeks before the final examinations of the second semester.

Section 3 For the University Student Council:

- The **[Chairman] Chairperson, [Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson**, and the University Councilors shall be directly elected by the whole studentry in the university;
- The College Representatives to the USC shall be elected at large in their respective college. If the students of a college failed to elect their representative to the University Student Council, the Central Electoral Board shall determine whether a special election **[may or]** should be held **[therein]**, and **[it should so determine]** shall take immediate steps for the holding of such election.

Section 4 For the College Student Councils: the **[Chairman] Chairperson, [Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson**, and College Councilors shall be elected at large in their respective college.

Section 5 Every member shall hold office for one academic year or until his **[predecessor] successor** has been duly elected, qualified and **[has]** assumed office, provided that any qualified candidate who will fill vacant seats shall hold office only for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 6 Every candidate for membership in the Student Council, **[must]** before the general elections **must**:

- have at least one semester residence in the University of the Philippines **[at]** Los Baños;
- [must]** not be a graduating student at the school year of his candidacy.
- [Have]** not been found guilty of any **misconduct with** disciplinary notice from any act involving moral turpitude.

Section 7

- Any permanent vacancy in the office of the **[Chairman] Chairperson** shall be filled by the **[Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson**, provided that if the permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the **[Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson**, the Council shall elect from among the Councilors a new **[Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson**;
- Should both the **[Chairman] Chairperson** and the **[Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson** of the Council be temporarily incapacitated, the remaining members shall elect from among themselves an acting **[Chairman] Chairperson** and an acting **[Vice-Chairman] Vice Chairperson** both whom shall relinquish their positions upon return of the permanent officials. In no case shall the Student Council be dissolved or rendered inoperative.
- If vacancy occurs in the office of the university/college councilor, the candidate who obtained the next highest number of votes in the last general elections of the student council shall take place.
- A vacancy in the office of College Representative to USC shall be filled, in so far as practicable in the manner provided above for the university councilor. Should this not be possible, then the College

Student Council[,] shall expeditiously select his replacement in consultation with the University Student Council until the students have elected their new representative.

e. When the vacancy is temporary, the Student Council may choose replacement **[who] that** shall discharge the duties of the member until he returns.

Section 8 The induction of members shall take place within a week after the proclamation by the Central Electoral Board, the oath to be administered by the UPLB Chancellor or his duly authorized representatives.

Section 9 No member shall hold office as corps commander of UPLB CMT, or Editor-in-Chief of the UPLB Perspective without forfeiting his seat in the council.

Section 10 There shall be a Central Electoral Board to be composed of the following:

- Director of Office of Student Affairs as ex-officio **[Chairman] Chairperson**;
- Present **[Editor-in-Chief] Editor in Chief** of the UPLB Perspective[;] or **[his] the** duly authorized **[representatives.] representative**;
- Present **[Chairman] Chairperson** of the University Student Council or the duly authorized **[representatives.] representative**;
- Present **[Chairman] Chairpersons** of the College Student Council or **the** duly authorized representatives.
- College Secretaries of the different Colleges.
- Head of the Student Organizations and activities Division.

Section 11 The Central Electoral Board shall formulate an Election Code.

ARTICLE VIII DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Section 1 The USC and CSC shall have a committee that will take charge of its erring members.

Section 2 Any constituent may file an impeachment or suspension procedure against any Council Member to the committee.

Section 3 Any member may be impeached/ suspended for any of the following reasons:

- Any willful violation of this constitution and the USC/CSC formulated house rules;
- Gross neglect of duty;
- Any disciplinary behavior during any session of the USC/CSC.
- Falsification of documents and malversation of funds.
- Any other forms of misconduct which undermine the integrity of the Student Council.

Section 4 Any suspension/impeachment will take effect after a 2/3 affirmative vote from the body.

Section 5 **[No member shall have no] All members have the right to vote in any of the disciplinary proceedings.**

Section 6 No member shall be subjected to disciplinary measures without due process of law.

ARTICLE IX FUNDS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Section 1 The general funds of the Student Councils shall **[consists a] consist of the** P10.00 semestral fee collected by the Administration during every regular registration period and shall deposited in a special fund in accordance with agreement between the University Administration and the Student Council for a direct collection scheme.

Section 2 All money collected by authority of the Student Council for a special purpose shall **be** treated as a special fund and shall be paid out for such purpose only.

Section 3 The Student Council shall formulate and adopt a budget which shall embody the work plan of **the** programs and projects together with estimated expenditures for the coming year. A copy of the budget shall be sent to the **[Office of Student Affairs Director] Director of the Office of Student Affairs** for notation. No money shall be paid out of the funds of the Student Council except in pursuance of an appropriation authorized by the same.

Section 4 All expenditures of the Student Council shall be audited by the ex-officio Auditor which shall be the ex-officio Auditor of the Student Council.

Section 5 The balance of the **funds of the** Student Council for a specific term shall be returned as the funds of the Student Council for the next succeeding terms.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Any constituent/member has the right to propose any amendment for **the** revision of the UPLB Student Council.

Section 2 Any proposal shall be endorsed in writing one month before the regular session of the Student Legislative Chamber for the purpose of discussion and further deliberation and to facilitate the amending/revising process.

Section 3 Amendment/revision will take effect after an affirmative vote of 50%+1 of the total number of votes cast during a University wide plebiscite to be held for this purpose.

ARTICLE XI EFFECTIVITY

Section 1 The constitution of the UPLB Student Council shall take effect upon ratification in a university-wide plebiscite called for this purpose by a majority of 50%+1 of the total number of votes cast by constituents. It shall take precedence over all **by-laws** of College Student Councils **[by-laws]** in the University.

These alterations (phrases in strikethrough are to be deleted and phrases in boldface are to introduced) on the 1984 UPLB Student Council Constitution, as certified by Office of Student Affairs Director Severino Cuevas, will be put on a plebiscite this coming September 10-11. The votes for the plebiscite will be counted first and the ballots for the council elections will be set aside. As Atty. Theodore Te explained to the University Student Council, the plebiscite will only be valid and democratic if at least 50 percent plus one of the total student population (or 5,148 students) will participate in it. It is only when this condition is satisfied that the canvassing of the ballots for the USC-CSC elections can proceed.

For the constitution to be ratified, on the other hand, it must garner a total affirmative vote equal to or greater than 50 percent plus one of the total voter turnout (at least 2,575).

The UP administration has not given any concrete scenario in the eventuality of the plebiscite failure. But what is certain is that if this should happen, the council would have to revert to the 1978 UPLB Student Organization Constitution - something the students can really ill afford.

Forestry dorms implement semestral payment

Nikko Angelo Oribiana

This semester, the Makiling Residence Hall (MAREHA) and Forestry Residence Hall (FOREHA) implemented a per semester payment scheme, which earned the approval of some parents but gained objections from dorm residents.

The said dormitories retained the monthly payment scheme, with fees up to P 320 per month, while implementing the per semester payment scheme, which amounts to P 1,400 per semester, to give students and parents a choice on the mode of paying dormitory fees.

Priscilla Ramirez, FOREHA dormitory manager, said,

“Kinausap ko ‘yung parents nung nagpareserve, sinabi ko sa kanila ‘yung problema ng mga bata pagdating sa pagbabayad, [tinanong ko sila] kung pwede magbayad na sila ng buo [para sa buong semestre].”

“Ngayon mas marami [nang magulang] ang nagustuhan iyong semestral magbayad kasi wala na silang [intindihin]. Nagustuhan nila iyon kasi minsan may mga bata[ng] nabigyan na ng [pambayad ng] parents [pero] hindi naman nagbabayad sa dorm,” added Nicanor Flores, dormitory manager of MAREHA.

Meanwhile, Virginia Alinsunod, dormitory manager of New FOREHA, said students can opt to pay on a

monthly basis if they cannot pay a lump sum amount at the start of the semester. She clarified that students will not be kicked out of New FOREHA if they cannot pay based on the new scheme.

However, Roy, a BS Industrial Engineering ‘05 student and resident of MAREHA who refused to give his full name, said since last semester, students who cannot pay the dormitory fees regularly are “pressured” to pay on a per semester basis.

“Iyong fact na hindi pa siya implemented dapat pinag-uusapan pa lang siya, proposal pa lang dapat tapos ginawa na sa amin agad,” he added.

“Nawalan ng pagkakataon iyong ibang tao na makapagdorm dahil mabigat sa balsa ang bayaran nang isang bagsakan ang [dormitory fee na pang] buong sem,” Allison Baldemor a BA Communication Arts ‘07 and resident of FOREHA, said.

Pura Beatriz S. Valle, College

of Forestry and Natural Resources Student Council councilor, said, “Sa MAREHA, hindi bibigyan ng susi hangga’t hindi fully paid, sa FOREHA binigyan ng susi pero ‘yung statement of account na ibinigay ay 1408.40 Php agad at paulit ulit talaga kaming nireremind ng dorm manager [na magbayad].”

Among the dormitories of the university, only the MAREHA and FOREHA dormitories implemented the per semester payment scheme. [P]

Bilang pagkumenda sa SONA

Sektor ng TK nagdaos ng kilos-protesta

Karen Lapitan

ulat mula kay Sugar Marie Baula

Kasabay ng State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo noong ika-28 ng Hulyo sa Batasan, Lungsod ng Quezon, isinagawa ng iba’t ibang sektor mula sa Timog-Katagalugan (TK) ang State of the Region Address sa Crossing, Calamba City upang ilahad umano ang tunay na kalagayan ng bansa.

Mahigit dalawampung organisasyon ang dumalo sa nasabing pagkilos, kabilang ang Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-TK, GABRIELA-TK, KARAPATAN-TK at ANAKBAYAN-TK.

Bilang bahagi ng programa, inilahad ng mga lider ng mga organisasyon ang mga problema ng iba’t ibang sektor kasama ang panawagang pagpapataalsik kay Arroyo.

Ayon kay Rolando Minggo ng Southern Tagalog Region Transport Sector Organization

(STARTER), ang SONA ni Arroyo ay “puro kasinungalingan lamang.” Panawagan ng STARTER ang pagtatanggal ng 12 porsyentong Value Added Tax sa mga produktong petrolyo at ang pagbasura sa Oil Deregulation Law. Ang nasabing batas ay nagtanggap ng kakayahang ng gobyerno na kontrolin ang presyo ng mga produktong petrolyo.

“Hindi naman talaga naramdaman ng mga mamamayan ‘yung sinasabi ni Gloria na pag-unlad ng ekonomiya lalo na sa hanay ng mga kababaihan,” saad ni Helen Asdolo, pangkalahatang-kalihim ng GABRIELA-TK.

Ayon kay Asdolo, kabilang sa mga suliranin ng mga kababaihan ng rehiyon na dulot ng proyekto ni Arroyo ay ang pagsasa-ayos ng Philippine National Railways. Mahigit limang libong pamilya ang mawawalan ng tahanan dahil sa demolisyong kakabit ng proyekto, kaya mahigit limang libong kababaihan din ang apektado nito, dagdag pa ni Rasdolo.

“Kung sa hanay ng mga kababaihan, hindi na [namin] gugustuhin na manatili pa si Gloria hanggang 2010,” saad niya.

Si Doris Cuario, pangkalahatang-kalihim ng KARAPATAN-TK, ay nagpahayag ng hinaing sa patuloy ng pagdami ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao sa ilalim ng rehimen ng Arroyo. Ayon sa tala ng KARAPATAN-TK, may 167 na biktima na ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao sa rehiyon at karamihan ay hindi na nabibigyan ng hustisya.

Sa hanay naman ng kabataan, kinundena ni Mark Velasco ng ANAKBAYAN-TK ang “kawalan ng kongkretong solusyon sa krisis sa sistema ng edukasyon” sa ilalim ng pamamahala ni Arroyo. “Lalo niyang itinutulak ang kolonyal, komersyalisado at represibong edukasyon,” dagdag pa niya.

Nagtapos ang programa sa pagsunog ng effigy ni Arroyo, kasabay ang panawagan ng mga sektor na pagpapataalsik sa pangulo. [P]

BAYAN: VAT sa langis, Oil Deregulation Law basura

Yves Suiza

ulat mula kay Rogene Gonzales

Isang forum ang idinaos ng mga progresibong mamamayan mula sa iba’t ibang sektor ng Timog Katagalugan upang iswalat umano ang pagkaka-ugnay ng polisyang gobyerno sa patuloy ng pagtaas ng presyo ng mga batayang bilihin na nagpapalala sa kahirapan ng bansa.

Pinamagatang “On the Verge of Cliff: The Philippines under Crises,” ang forum ay ginanap noong ika-17 ng Hulyo sa New College of Arts and Sciences Auditorium at dinaluhan ng ilang mamamayan ng Laguna at mag-aaral ng UPLB.

Tinalakay dito ang mga isyu kagaya ng 12 porsyentong Value Added Tax (VAT), patuloy na pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at iba pang krisis pang-ekonomiya.

“Kapag tumaas ang petrolyo at tumataas ang presyo ng mga bilihin, bumababa ang antas ng pamumuhay ng mamamayan,” saad ni Arman Albarillo, Pangkalahatang Kalihim ng Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Timog Katagalugan (BAYAN-TK).

Ayon kay Albarillo, ang gobyerno umano ang nakikinabang kapag tumataas ang presyo ng produktong petrolyo dahil tumataas ang nalilikom na pondo mula sa 12 porsyentong VAT. Ayon sa kanya, hindi naman umano tiyak kung ang pondong ito ay nagagamit sa mga wastong proyekto para sa mamamayan.

“Kapag ibinasura ang 12 porsyentong VAT, may automatic na six to seven pesos na bawas sa [presyo ng] produktong petrolyo,” dagdag pa niya.

Aniya, ang pagtatanggal ng dagdag na VAT ay magdudulot ng kagyat na “economic relief” para sa mamamayan. Gayunpaman, nananawagan ang BAYAN-TK sa gobyerno upang ibasura maging ang Oil Deregulation Law, na nagpapawalang bisa sa gobyerno

na kontrolin ang presyo ng langis. Sa kasalukuyan, nangangalap ang BAYAN-TK ng suporta sa porma ng signature campaign laban sa 12 porsyentong VAT sa langis at Oil Deregulation Law.

Pinangunahan rin ng BAYAN-TK ang mga kilos-protestang kumukundena sa patuloy na pagtaas ng presyo ng iba’t ibang batayang bilihin. Isa rito ay ang tigil-pasada na naganap noong ika-25 ng Hulyo na nagparalisa sa biyahe ng mga pampasaherong dyip sa ilang bahagi ng Timog Katagalugan.

“Kinukulang na talaga kami [ng kita] ngayon kasi dati kumikita kami ng P600 maghapon, ngayon P200 na lang,” saad ni Ramil Karunungan, isang tsuper ng jeep na may rutang UPLB-Crossing.

Ayon naman sa Tagapangulo ng University Student Council-UPLB (USC-UPLB) na si Leo ‘XL’ Fuentes, hindi na kaya ng mga estudyante na mamasaha dahil dagdag ito sa mga pinansyal na problemang kinahaharap nila, katulad ng pagtaas ng presyo ng bigas at iba pang bilihin, partikular ng matrikula.

Ilan sa mga nagpahayag ng pakikiisa sa naganap na forum ay ang League of Filipino Students-UPLB, National Union of Students of the Philippines-Timog Katagalugan, Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa ng Timog Katagalugan, Southern Tagalog Region Transport Sector Organization (STARTER), Samahan ng Kabataan para sa Bayan, ANAKBAYAN-TK at USC-UPLB.

Labing isang araw pagkatapos ng forum, pinangunahan ng BAYAN-TK ang State of the Region Address (SORA) sa Crossing, Calamba, kasabay ng State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Kasama ang iba pang organisasyon na nauna nang nabanggit, nagsagawa rin ang BAYAN-TK ng isang kilos-protesta sa Halang, Calamba noong ika-11 ng Hulyo upang kundenahin ang pagtataas ng presyo ng langis. [P]

Proposed rental hike alarms Staff Housing residents

Appeals to be passed to Velasco, Roman

Estel Lenwij Estropia

and Jarienill Daquioag Namit

Residents of the UPLB Staff Housing objected to the rental hike proposed by the UPLB Staff Housing Committee to the Presidential Advisory Committee of UP President Emerlinda Roman.

Two appeals from the residents of the UPLB Staff Housing asking for a moratorium on the hike of rental fees will be forwarded to Roman and Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco as soon as the residents gather enough signatures from their co-lessees who support the appeal. Honoring the existing contract is one of the agenda of the appeal.

“Hindi ba pwedeng i-honor nila (Housing Committee) ‘yung existing contract namin? Tapusin muna nila ‘yun [bago mag-implement ng pagtaas ng renta],” Dr. Danilo Mendoza, resident of the UPLB Staff Housing, said. He furthered that if the administration wants a rental hike, they can try it after the said contract expires.

He said “the contract cannot be changed easily.” Professor Emanuel Dumlao, a resident of the UPLB Staff Housing, said the rent can only be changed if both the Housing Committee and the lessees agreed.

Meanwhile, Dumlao said the housing committee moved the date of the implementation of the increase from August to December.

“Hindi nagtaas ang sweldo namin. Ang pamasaha at bilihin ay nagtaas, so ‘pag tinaasan ‘yung rent namin, ang laki-laki na nung [gastos] para sa amin,” Dumlao said. Dumlao added that he is willing to pay for the increase but not now amid successive economic difficulties.

He added that the houses will be measured again by the Housing Committee.

Dr. Danilo Mendoza said the increase will depend on the floor area of the house per square meter since the floor area of the houses varies.

Meanwhile, Dr. Teodoro Mendoza, president of the All UP Academic Employee’s Union, said this issue was

raised during the University Council (UC) Meeting last July 22.

“To my surprise, nang idaan sa division of the house, hindi... nanalo [yung discussion of the issue],” he added.

He said that out of 150 members of council present in the meeting, only 50 voted for the rental hike issue to be discussed.

According to Mendoza, someone from the Housing Committee formed by Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco said it was already discussed in a forum so there was no need for further discussions in the UC.

“Sana bago pumasok dun sa Presidential Advisory Committee ‘yung recommendation... kinunusulta muna kami,” Dr. Danilo Mendoza said, talking about the lack of normal notification from the Staff Housing Committee about the rental increase issue.

As of press time, the Staff Housing Committee, however, refused to give any statement regarding the matter due to “unsettled issues” concerning the rental increase. [P]

Council...FROM PAGE 1

He stressed, however, that the schedule for the elections works on the premise that the ratification will succeed so that the BOR can immediately approve the said constitution.

Though the question what will happen next if the plebiscite fails to earn the required majority vote was raised by Fuentes three times during the dialogue, Te refused to give any categorical answer because he needed a legal study on the matter which, given the time constraints of the dialogue, was not feasible.

However, in the Aug. 11 follow-up dialogue, Te clarified that the 1978 Constitution would govern the USC-CSC if the plebiscite did fail.

Meanwhile, Te in a legal opinion stated that the University Code will govern the qualifications for candidacy.

FLEXIBLE MEMO

Te prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stating the resolutions made by those present in the dialogue. He said the MOU is flexible to allow for any arising changes as agreed upon by students.

The said MOU will serve as an agreement between the USC, Student Regent, CDC SC, Buklod-UPLB,

SAKBAYAN, and *Perspective* as signatories.

ADJUSTMENTS IN SCHEDULES

The change in the schedule of the elections was brought about by a request from student leaders to move the elections from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10-11.

Fuentes explained that historically, UPLB has not yet breached the 50-percent-plus-one voter turnout. He stressed that it would thus be "safer" to hold the elections and plebiscite at a later date to give ample time for "in-depth and comprehensive information dissemination" and encourage the most number of students to cast their "intelligent and principled" vote on the plebiscite.

Te had declined the proposal raised by the USC, CDC SC and *Perspective* to push for the USC-CSC elections on Aug. 27 and hold the plebiscite afterwards.

On Aug. 14 the CEB convened and agreed to move the schedule of elections prior to their meeting last Aug. 8.

The USC has consulted various student organizations and assembled them in Council of Student Leaders meetings to inform and gather suggestions from students on matters concerning the USC-CSC elections and plebiscite. [P]

OSA...FROM PAGE 2

organizations formed have set their own parameters based on their goals. "Masyadong mababaw na rason ang [pagiging] gender-biased [ng fraternities at sororities] para mapatungan 'yung benefits ng frat at soro both sa members at sa community," he said.

On the other hand, Cuevas stressed that any student organization that is biased in race, gender, age, social status, geographical location and religious beliefs is strongly discouraged.

Cuevas also cited Section 3 of the UP Charter of 2008 which states that "As the national university, [UP is] a public and secular institution" to explain why he has not recognized most of the religious organizations.

"Discriminatory ito (religious organization) since it alienates 'yung 'di mga Christians," Cuevas said.

Wilbert Lirag, head of Students of Destiny, a religious organization that has not yet been recognized, said however, "Di kami nang-didiscriminate... Timatangap naman namin ang mga estudyante kahit ano pa ang religion nila. At kung sinasabing against kami sa pagiging secular ng UP, paano naman 'yung sinasabing freedom of expression dito sa UP?" he said. [P]

No rollback...FROM PAGE 3

Deligente said they would help the OSR in forming this "comprehensive tuition policy review."

UPLB University Student Council (USC) Vice Chairperson Charisse Bernadine Bañez said the issue on ToFl is never closed since UP should always assert for higher subsidy for education from the government.

"Tbig sabihin nito, meron at patuloy 'yung intensyon ng UP na magtaas ng matrikula... hindi parin ligtas ang mga Iskolar ng Bayan na nasa loob ng UP sa pagtataas ng matrikula," Bañez stressed.

She said Roman's refusal to rollback the tuition "amid chronic economic crisis is in it by itself a disservice to the Filipino people."

SYSTEM-WIDE SUPPORT

The UPLB-USC primarily campaigned for the immediate conduct

of the USC and College Student Council Elections in the picket rally.

Also part of the protests of students during the BOR meeting were issues such as tambayan phaseout, rental fees for facilities and equipment, and organization recognition procedures as part of the proposal for "general student demands."

The BOR, however, was not able to discuss the said proposal in their meeting. Roman instead forwarded the demands to the respective chancellors of UP units concerned.

Prior to the BOR meeting, a vigil and cultural night was held last July 30 at Vinzons Hall in UP Diliman where various UP units shared their local issues to fellow students.

UP Manila USC Councilor Marikris de Guzman said the ongoing problems faced by students of different UP units are but a "system-wide scheme on campus

repression."

"Regardless of the degree of repression, mas malala man sa UPLB or sa ibang UP units, ang punto naman diyan ay kailangan talagang kumilos ang mga kabataan para sa kanilang karapatan," she said.

Also, UP Diliman-USC Vice Chairperson Airah Cadiogan said their League of College Councils fully supports the campaigns of other UP units through the aid of KASAMA sa UP and SOLIDARIDAD, a system wide alliance of student publications, to launce immediate actions on the issues at hand.

"Hindi lang kami nakikiisa, talagang kikilos kami para suportahan ang laban ng UPLB," Cadiogan stressed.

Also present in the picket rally were members of the All-UP Workers Union demanding for the added Philippine General Hospital centennial bonus. [P]



CAMPUS FORUM

Ano ang masasabi mo sa SONA ni GMA?

"Sa SoNA, madami na naman siyang ideas and promises, and dapat mag-stick na lang siya sa mga masses and focus (sa bansa). Parang boring ng SoNA. At kung totoo na minurahan niya ang mga cellphone companies, nakiusap siya sa mga cellphone companies, na P 0.50 na lang ang text. Thank you! Thank you!"

~ Freddie Balasan Jr. | BS Computer Science '05

"Sa SoNA, since eighth SoNA na ito ni PGMA, kung irereview mo 'yung seven [SoNA] na nakaraan, meron pa rin siyang mga promises doon na hindi pa rin natutupad, and yet, may bago na naman siyang mga promises ngayon, at imbes na iimprove niya 'yung mga promises niya, parang pinapatungan na lang niya ngayon ng mas clear na promises at nakakalimutan na ng masa ang mga pangakong hindi niya natupad."

~ Real Ramos | BS Development Communication '07

"Sa akin, sira na 'yung kredibilidad ni PGMA kaya sa tingin ko, 'yung mga agenda niya sa SoNA, sa tingin ko, words na naman 'yun, and sa tingin ko, mga 20% lang doon sa mga sinabi niya ay magagawa dun. At saka, hindi na ganon kaganda ang image niya."

~ John Jeffrey Gadiche | BS Human Ecology '08

"Hindi naman si Gloria ang may dahilan kung bakit ganyan ang ekonomiya natin eh. Pero ginagawa naman ni Gloria ang lahat, para lang maibsan ang krisis na dinadala ng ekonomiya natin. Challenge na rin para sa atin ang maki-cooperate sa kanya."

~ Justin Jacob David | BS Electrical Engineering '08

"Paulit-ulit lang ang mga sinasabi ni GMA sa SoNA niya. Parang same lang siya nung sa last year and hindi niya talaga finatackle ang mga problema sa ekonomiya natin."

~ Hazel Ramos | BS Agricultural Engineering '08

Ano ang masasabi mo sa maiden centennial issue ng UPLB Perspective?

"Simula ng pumasok ako nung nakaraang taon, ginawa ko ng koleksiyon ang issue ng [P] at sa lahat ng issue na nakuha ko, sa lahat ng issue na nakuha ko so far, ang maiden centennial issue ang pinakamabigat sa lahat. Bawat article ay napakainit at mapagtaas kilay. Parang umakyat muli ng isa pang lebel ng pagpapahayag ang publication. More power."

~Speechless | BS Applied Mathematics '07

"Of course, kung freshman ka, maiimpress ka talaga sa first issue ng Perspective kasi colored at hitik na hitik sa balita, features, maiimpress ka talaga. Pero, kung matagal ka na rito, magugulat ka kasi kung bakit naglabas ng issue ang Perspective ng ganitong issue (colored). So that's a good start for them and sana tuloy-tuloy 'yung quality ng dyaryo because the students deserve the best from [P]."

~ Maryse | BS Development communication '05

"Yung frontpage (na may picture) na kumpanya (ng langis), parang unfair kasi kung mag-tetestify ka ng isang kompanya na industry as a whole, 'wag lang siya. 'Yan lang yun ha. Pero sa view point namin, sa viewpoint ng mga estudyante, OK lang siya, parang sign siya ng isang industry na malaki, na kumpanya, parang unfair talaga."

~ Noreen Garcia | BS Agricultural Economics '05

"Ok siya, maganda 'yung approach niya. Thumbs up for the first issue! Magaling!"

~ Paul Angelo Santos | BS Biology '08

"Maiden Centennial issue: Ok ung layout panalol. Kaso sana 'yung map binuo niyo na lang lahat ng details, hindi 'yung piling buildings lang. Salamat sa pagbubukas ng kamalayan ng mga isko't iska."

~Gei | 09273960***

"Hindi ko akalain na ganoon pala kadami ang nangyayaring campus repression. Namulat ako bigla sa realidad dito sa UPLB."

~09272398***



Opinyon mo'y mahalaga.

Itxt ang <pangalan> <course> <batch> <sagot>
sa 09164298055/09107463168

1. Ano ang masasabi mo sa termino ni Chancellor Velasco?
2. Ano ang inaasahan mo sa mga mahahalal na opisyal ng konseho ng mag-aaral?



HODGEPODGE

Makialam

ROGENE GONZALES

Sa dami ng mga nakatenggagawain ay halos wala nang oras matulong ang mga Elbizen. Kung sakaling nagtago ka man sa ilalim ng bato nitong mga nakaraang linggo, narito ang mga ilang paalala na hindang-hindi mo dapat ipagsawalang bahala sapagkat (gustuhin mo man o hindi) malaki ang magiging epekto ng mga bagay na ito sa iyong pamamalagi sa unibersidad.

POST-IT # 1: ELEKSYON 2008

Sa wakas at matutuloy na ang University Student Council (USC) at College Student Council (CSC) elections matapos ang halos kalahating taong pagkaantala.

Sa bandang huli, ang pakikibaka sa lansangan ang pinamakamahalagang salik upang magwagi ang hanay ng mga estudyante. Sa UP Manila Board of Regents (BOR) meeting noong ika-31 ng Hulyo, nakausap ng mga estudyante ng UPLB si UP President Emerlinda Roman sa gitna ng isang picket-rally. Kung nanahimik at nakuntento lamang ang mga estuyante ay malamang nasa "deadlock" pa rin ang isyu ng eleksyon at walang naganap na dialogue noong ika-4 ng Agosto bilang pagtugon ng UP system admin.

Huwag sana nating sayangin ang nabawing pagkakataon para tayo ay makaboto dahil ito ang paraan natin upang magkaroon ng kaukulang boses sa mga polisiyang ipinapatupad sa UPLB na direktang

nakakapapekto sa atin. Siguraduhin lamang natin na ang pipiliin nating mga bagong lider-estudyante ay tunay na magtatanggol sa ating mga karapatan.

POST-IT # 2: BUMOTO PARA SA PLEBESITO

Hindi pa rin matatawag na "lubos na tagumpay" ang pagsasagawa ng eleksyon base sa 1984 UPLB Student Council Constitution dahil kasabay ng mga araw ng pagboto ay ang pagraratipika din ng nasabing konstitusyon upang ganap na itong maging legal.

Ang mabigat na kondisyong nakakabit sa eleksyong ito ay ang hindi pagbibilang ng mga boto para sa mga kandidato kung mas mababa sa 50 percent plus one na boto ng kabuuang populasyon ng UPLB ang makukuha ng plebisito.

Ayon sa datos mula sa Office of the University Registrar, ang plebisito ay dapat makakalap ng mahigit 5,148 na boto, samantalang 50 percent plus one naman nito ang dapat nasa "yes vote" upang maratipika ang konstitusyon.

Sa kasaysayan ng UPLB, hindi pa kailanman naaabot ang 50 porsyento ng voter turnout. Sa halip, lumalaro ito mula 30 hanggang 40 porsyento.

Ito ngayon ang malaking hamon sa ating mga estudyante - ang higitan ang naabot sa kasaysayan pagdating sa voter turnout. Kaya't kailangan nating bumoto, at higit

of the most dangerous places for journalists and activists to live (live? They are actually being killed!), and turned to a country where the quality of the basic services leaves much to be desired (who would think this could explain the growing illiteracy and hunger in the country?) - all thanks to the most infamous and corrupt post-EDSA Philippine president.

In fact, Arroyo's integrity is so shot that the lawmakers who at first expressed support to Resolution No. 10, filed by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel and aims to change the system of government to federalism, immediately laid their hands off it. The general

sentiment is that nobody wanted to be implicated in a scheme that will help extend Arroyo's term.

If Arroyo can use the legitimate issue of the Bangsamoro people's fight for self-determination to advance an illegitimate agenda of prolonging her illegitimate government, we can only shudder to imagine what length she can go if she pulls this skullduggery off scot-free.

Fortunately, this national disgrace lends itself very well to political satire:

The President is Lying

The President went ballistic yesterday afternoon after a reporter asked her outright, "Do you lie?"

The President's face flushed, "Are you accusing me of being a liar?"

pa, manghikaya't ng mga kaibigan, kaklase, orgmates at iba pang estudyante na makialam at bumoto. Nakasalang sa mga balotang ito ang representasyon nating mga estudyante.

POST-IT # 3: CHANCY SELECTION

Nasa proseso na muli tayo ng pagpili ng bagong chancellor. At ang kinabukasan ng UPLB ay nakasalalay sa pipiliin ng BOR mula sa tatlong nominado: sina Dr. Candida Adalla, dating dekanong ng College of Agriculture, Dr. Felino Lansigan ng College of Arts and Sciences at Dr. Luis Rey Velasco, ang ating kasalukuyang chancellor.

Kung nabasa niyo ang ika-20 ng Agosto issue ng Inquirer, tinalakay ni Rina Jimenez-David sa kanyang kolum ang pagpili ng susunod na UPLB chancellor at binanggit na binago na umano ni Velasco ang institusyon ng UPLB bilang isang "armed-garrison."

Tandaan nating sa termino ni Velasco napatupad ang pagtaas ng matrikula at ang pagka-antala sa eleksyon ng konseho ng mag-aaral. Sa parte ng iba't ibang sektor sa UPLB, nawalan ng hanapbuhay ang mga manininda dahil sa pagpapalayas sa kanila at nabawasan ang kita ng mga tsuper ng dyip dahil sa re-routing.

Subalit nagmukhang ginamit lamang ni David ang pagkakataon upang ma-endorse si Adalla upang maging susunod na chancellor.

Agad namang pinabulaan ng Office of Public Relations ang mga nakasaad sa artikulo ni David sa isang press release at inisa-isa ang mga nagawa ni Velasco sa

kanyang panunungkulan.

Kahit simula pa lamang ng pagpili ng susunod na chancellor ay nagkakaroon na ng pamumulitika sa pagitan ng mga nominado.

Sana lang ay isa-isip ng mga nominado hindi lamang ang pansarili nilang interes kundi ang tunay na interes ng UPLB, lalo na ng mga estudyante.

POST-IT # 4: UPLB STUDENT'S GENERAL DEMANDS

Dahil sa dami ng represyong kinakaharap ng mga organisasyon tulad ng hindi pagrerecognize, pagtatanggol ng tambayan, paghigpit sa paggamit ng mga pasilidad ng unibersidad at iba pang ka-haggardan, nagpasiya ang mga konseho ng bawat UP System na magsumite ng List of General Student Demands sa BOR.

Kasalukuyang kinakalap ng USC ang mga hinaing ng bawat organisasyon at kolehiyo upang pormal na mairehistro sa ating mga administrador na ang mga pangyayari sa UP system ay hindi "isolated

cases" lamang sa bawat UP unit.

Kaya huwag mag-atubiling iparating ang mga nararanasang problema sa loob ng unibersidad upang agad itong masolusyonan ng administrasyon ng UP.

POST-IT # 5: MAKIALAM

Ang pinakamainam na magagawa ng isang estudyante lagi't-lagi ay ang pakikialam. Sa pagmamatyag at pagiging mulat sa nangyayari sa loob at labas man ng campus ay natututo tayong maging mga ganap na Iskolar ng Bayan. [P]

If you think that war can only bring suffering and death to our already embattled country, you must think again. Aside from its usual wages, war can also be used as an excuse to extend the term of a pseudo-President, which is second to none in being a merciless murderer of an already struggling people.

Malacañang resurfaced the idea of changing the Constitution, just when we thought we have seen the last of this political maneuver. This is first time in two years since the Supreme Court gunned down a similar attempt from Arroyo's camp that this notorious proposition returned - fangs and all. Meanwhile, the palace said that federalism, which will be an offshoot of alterations in the 1987 Constitution, is "the way forward" to a lasting peace in Mindanao.

At least we have to congratulate Arroyo for the composure she has taken to bear hearing Press Secretary Jesus Dureza saying that and not laugh afterwards. If anything, Arroyo has wreaked more damage to our country than all civil wars that has existed in the nation's history combined. If you think this is an exaggeration, just look at what has become of our country.

Under Arroyo's reign, Philippines joined the ranks of the most corrupt countries in the world (we could never guess why, not with ZTE-NBN deal, etc. still around), became one

War can also be used as an excuse to extend the term of a pseudo-President

NOFURYSOLOUD

The wages of war

CHRISTIAN RAY BUENDIA

"No ma'am. It's just one of my unimpeachable (the President winced) sources said you were just using the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Ancestral Domain to extend your term," the reporter answered.

"Who said that? It has never been our intent to use the MOA to extend my term. In any case, I have always spoken the truth."

Another reporter jumped up and said, "But what about when you promised on December 2004, in front of national television, that you will not run again but did anyway? Ma'am, isn't that lying?"

"Lying? I just did what was good for the whole country."

"How about the various corruption charges against you, the National Broadband deal and the overpriced Macapagal Avenue for example?" he followed through.

"These are all publicity stunt by the opposition. It's all politicking," she said, walking out of the conference hall.

After the press conference, a flustered President had a small talk with her political adviser.

"Nobody believes me anymore. Anything I say is taken with a grain of salt," she complained.

"That's just normal. As the President, you often to have to make tough but unpopular decisions if you want the country to move

steadily forward."

"But what will happen to my satisfaction rating? I'm already the most unpopular president since the post-Marcos era. I'm losing my mandate."

"A lost mandate is easy to find."

"How?"

"Rig the elections."

"But if somebody caught me?"

"We'll bug their phones."

"Okay. Then I only need to talk to Garci.

But what if the recordings got out?"

"Then we'll just say the CD's are manufactured. And if worse comes to worse, just apologize in front of national television. The people would buy that; they cast their sympathy on the underdog."

"I have an idea. I'll tell the public I'm going to resign to kill this talk about term extension."

Her adviser frowned, "Nobody would believe that."

"Right. What if I tell them I'll increase the subsidy for education and health? Then tell oil companies to roll back prices by five pesos?"

"They'd be more than disbelieving."

"So what will I tell them? I know. I'll tell them I lied through my teeth all this time. That I never told them the truth."

"That is a truth," her adviser said. "That the people would certainly have no difficulty believing." [P]





Too much of something is never good. But then again the lure of vices is too overwhelming to fight off more when you have already tasted it. A timeout in the parking lot to smoke could allow someone to reflect much of what has happened. When the past creeps back, it's hard to miss the opportunity of finally taking the time to look back. The past compared to the present most of the time never brings out positive realizations. Most of the time, one could only hope that the present was also the past.

It was the same place, the same environment, but the feeling of belongingness to this particular place was not the same for these three individuals, all of whom got hooked to the same vices, and on a deeper perspective regarded the same place as highly as they had held their ideals. Two generations back it was a fact that anyone could see the clear distinction the campus holds over any other academic institution; one generation added and the orientation was completely changed.

A timeout in the parking lot

could permit one to take a look at the picture which seems unchanged overtime but feels completely different from what it was. The picture seemed duplicated and it no longer holds the same emotions and even the same ideals that allowed for its existence in the first place. Perhaps it still has that certain appeal, but now it does not have that much impact as it did before.

The oldest of the three could only sigh as she tried to reminisce what it felt like walking for the first time inside the campus. Intimidating as it may have been during her time, the notion that she was part of the academe brought both fear and challenge that she was repeatedly told to live up to. As for the younger

two, they could only hope they have faced same passion and freedom as their seniors have always shared. Perhaps they would have had the same affection towards the place as these people had.

It may not seem much to yearn for the same emotion but they have seen how worthwhile it had been. The conviction these people uphold and

“But behind the deceptive demeanor, they don't know if the place they are willing to embrace really operates on their behalf.”

MUMBLINGS

Mocking Countenance

*littlemisspansy

the manner they critically view things are unparalleled. Sadly though, the unrelenting lure to become just like everyone else forfeits the very pride of what sets people like them from everyone else. This concept proves to be complex for their part and at times they often find it hard to comprehend. Continuously attempting to please the eyes of those who have no idea of what the institution stands for seemed unforgivable to them.

Puffing cigarette and standing in the parking lot - it may seem like the three of them have always been familiar and comfortable around campus. But behind the deceptive demeanor, they don't know if the place they are willing to embrace really operates on their behalf. None of them felt like they still know the place that brought them together. They all had the same impression when they arrived, but slowly, instead of identifying with the feelings they have before, they're drawing a blank as if all their hard work and pride of getting in was any different from those who have failed.

The cigarette nearly comes to

its end. Slowly it burns as the three continue to puff the life out of it. Three generations with different ideals share the same sentiments. Three people from different backgrounds, it's difficult to see if they hardly had anything in common, that one afternoon more than the cigarette they are holding, they all know that something is not right. Their back against an old battered car, they face the long expanse of land leading towards a certain individual who has long held his arms up high wide and open.

With one last puff, the light of the cigarettes all went out. They would have opted to light another if there were a couple more into the pack, but there was none. Unlike that lone man still standing with his arms wide open, they hardly see any reason now to stay. As they turned their backs to him, it was just easy to ponder, for a man to stand that long at the same spot letting generations pass by him, it would have been unbearable though there must be a reason why he was standing there all along. [P]

UNDERSCRUTINY

Besieged Scholar

LIBERTY NORTATE

Inside the walls of the university, a UP student, aside from weighing the hitch of paying tuition and lots of academic requirements, tries to fit himself in groups and chooses either to bear or struggle for his or her own growth and survival as a scholar.

Here in UPLB, students still have to balance loads from several policies from the administration that aim for change.

The College of Development Communication (CDC) is currently implementing a policy on security tightening and utilization of facilities, in line with energy conservation measures in all UP units encouraged by UP President Emerlinda Roman. In this light, the CDC Student Council (SC) and CDC-based student organizations received a memorandum from CDC administration setting limitations on the use of facilities inside the college.

The CDC SC and student organizations are currently undergoing discussions on the guidelines that squeeze the time for general assemblies and other organizational activities from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. only to align these with the “conservation measures.” With these guidelines from CDC, students and

faculty members will have to undergo securing permits from the Dean's Office and College Secretary's Office for organization-related activities as well as those that are not.

Of course, there should be moves for security tightening and energy conservation. The acceptability and validity of that move, however, depends on whether it will be done without sacrificing anything — may it be on the side of the governing body or on the side of the students.

The move that is being chosen, however, overlooks students' right to organize.

Most of organizations prefer to hold activities beyond 7 p.m. inside college premises. As we all know, most students have only this time to spend for matters outside the four corners of the classroom. Besides, that is the common time for members of organizations to conduct general assemblies and activities. But, as what the “conservation measures” require, students will have to depart from the schedule they used to follow.

The way the policy was implemented also tramples the right of students to

be consulted because it was passed without consulting students. This happened though they know for a fact that students, as the ones directly involved, should be the first to be consulted. Furthermore, the students were consulted only after the CDC SC sought for a consultation with the CDC administration in a bid to clarify matters regarding the policy.

With this problem, we can see a distinction of the students who bear from those who struggle with such kind of policy. Aside from just struggling to pass the subjects, there are those who abide with the policies from higher offices because they consider it one way to survive inside the academe. But, we should also realize that for us to survive, we, as students, should defend our rights.

It is true that the college only wants to protect the facilities and equipment inside their premises for the sake of the students. But in taking such kind of measure, isn't it that security of the students will be jeopardized when they hold activities outside the campus? How would this withstand their claim that they are implementing the policy for students' sake?

Now, we should look at the matter

in relation to UP's attempt to cut costs. Why limit the use of facilities to conform to it, when from our pockets we pay for a so-called energy fee? Where have all those payments gone that we are now bearing with such measures for the reason of having insufficient budget? Moreover, they should intensify the lobbying for an increase in the allocated budget for education since the budget

for energy falls under it. Also, consumption of electricity in an academic institution like UP is inevitable.

The call to cut costs in all UP units is not a blurry window screen full of dusts for us not to see the absence of a significant change after the 300% increase in tuition and other fees was passed.

Only a pathetic scholar would let himself be constricted by policies that he himself does not benefit from. Of course, there is always a need to choose whether to bear or struggle with the policies the administration imposes. One must, however, choose measures that do not step on his rights as a student and that will help him grow and continue to exist as a scholar. And, it is always best to stand upon one's existence as a besieged scholar. [P]

“But, we should also realize that for us to survive, we, as students, should defend our rights.”

EDITORIAL

What we deserve

After the long and arduous battle that we have to go through in pushing for democratic elections, it is imperative that we give our votes to student leaders who will unwaveringly advance our interests.

For five months, the University Student Council-College Student Council (USC-CSC) elections were delayed due to irreconcilable differences between the administration and the student leaders. The table battles proceeded to parliamentary of the streets as the initial calls of the students for the immediate conduct of the elections appeared unheeded by the administration. In the end, after a series of principled debates and negotiations, the student leaders, supported by their constituents, were favored.

While the administration was pushing for the 1978 UPLB Student Organization Constitution because of questions on the legality of the 1984 USC Constitution, student leaders pushed for the latter, asserting for a democratic, autonomous and representative character of the USC.

To resolve the issue on the legality of the 1984 USC Constitution, a plebiscite that will ratify the 1984 Constitution is scheduled simultaneous with the elections on September 10-11. The immediate conduct of the election is one of the concrete gains of the intensified campaign of the students. UPLB, as joined by other UP units, forged unity in conducting mobilizations and dialogues with the authorities concerned. The coming USC-CSC elections manifest another chance for us to prove the power of collective action. For us to end up completely victorious in this issue, the participation of at least 50 percent plus one of the student population must be registered, which means that 5, 148 students must go out and vote on the scheduled dates.

The annual low voter turnout does not necessarily spell apathy,

but the fact that there are students who remain misinformed and uninformed explains this. Thus, this requires each student's participation, as the opportunity to break this "traditional" low statistics is ours.

Now, we are again faced with another challenge—electing the student leaders that we deserve. At this point perhaps, we have appreciated the essence of the student council and its pivotal role in upholding students' rights, especially in university policies that affect us most. Different sectors of the university are consistently bombarded with issues that require representation in the university's policy-making body. There have been issues regarding the phase out of some student organization's *tambayan*, restriction on the use of university facilities, non-recognition of organizations, among others.

These and more are clear justifications of the need for student representation. As one of the university's stakeholders, we have the right to air concerns on whatever policies that the administration imposes. Amid our clamor for pro-student administrators, we deserve a council that will not yield to any demands that will sacrifice our rights and welfare.

Getting our nod entails a substantive plan of action giving the heaviest bearing on the

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JACOB LABITA

candidates' defined stance. What lies in the USC-CSC elections is our democratic representation as this is the main reason behind the conduct of such. The campaign period is indeed a perfect venue for us to scrutinize intelligently the set of hopeful candidates, all of them claiming to be the ones who will

amplify the voice of the student and embody democratic leadership.

We cannot afford to vote for those who promise that they will forward the students' interest but will leave us hanging in the middle of critical student issues. Amid the string of claims of these candidates, who are expected

to put their best foot forward during the campaign period, their fate depends on the electorate. Apparently, we will primarily shape the fate of student representation.

In these times when the university is faced with issues of blatant commercialization, we need a set of student leaders who will stand firm in championing

the rights and welfare of the students without any form of compromise. Commercialization issues still hound the university like the Tuition and other Fee Increases, renting of idle assets, and other partnerships with private companies to generate funds. These, if not responded immediately, will mean allowing education to be a plain piece of commodity that can be bought only by those who can afford.

It goes without saying that facing these issues require student leaders who will be assertive enough to be at the forefront of our every struggle. We do not need a student council that will only wallow in the mud of apathy or even tolerate the existence of such. As the university celebrates its centenary, we deserve a student council whose leadership will not fail us in whatever circumstance. Lest we forget, the student council is an autonomous student institution fought for by the past students, even in exchange of their own lives.

The student elections serve as the greatest bequest that the earlier students has granted us, giving us our hard-won democratic rights that we exercise up to this day. Thus, it is but appropriate for us to get what we really deserve—nothing more, nothing less. [P]

UPLB Perspective

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