

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Manay City

Fourteenth Congress

First Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 51

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO HONOR THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN ITS CENTENNIAL YEAR AS THE NATION'S PREMIER UNIVERSITY, AND TO CALL FOR HIGHER BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS AND THE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF THE UP CHARTER BILL TO AID THE UNIVERSITY IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT 100 YEARS

WHEREAS, the University of the Philippines (UP), the nation's premier university, is celebrating its centennial this year, with the theme "Excellence, Service, and Leadership in the Next 100 Years";

WHEREAS, UP President Emerlinda R. Roman, in a speech during the festivities to kick off the university's centennial celebration, said that the UP Centennial offers "an opportunity to assess the university's performance for its first century of existence, and to imagine what its role would be in the next century";

WHEREAS, established in 1908, UP started as a small campus in Manila with a few colleges; today, UP is comprised of seven constituent universities located in 12 campuses around the country;

WHEREAS, UP offers 246 undergraduate and 362 graduate programs; no other academic institution in the country can match the scope and range of UP's course offerings that include almost all disciplines;

WHEREAS, UP's student population of over 50,000 thrives in the liberal atmosphere that is part of the tradition of a UP education; UP graduates have become leaders in politics and governance, law, the sciences, and the arts;

WHEREAS, throughout the years, UP has maintained an exemplary performance record in professional licensure examinations in fields such as law, accounting, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, chemistry, geology, engineering, environmental planning, education, library science, social work, nutrition and dietetics, interior design, architecture, fisheries, and agriculture;

WHEREAS, UP is internationally recognized as the leading educational institution in the country; UP is the only Philippine university in the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) and the ASEAN-European University Network (ASEA UNINET), and is one of two Philippine universities in the ASEAN University Network (AUN);

WHEREAS, according to a Philippine Daily Inquirer editorial, "UP has played a very important role in the social, economic and political development of the nation in the last 100 years";

WHEREAS, UP has produced seven out of 14 presidents, 12 chief justices of the Supreme Court, 30 out of 31 national scientists, and 36 out of 57 national artists; of the close to 250,000 UP alumni, 15,000 are doctors, 8,000 are lawyers and 23,000 are teachers;

WHEREAS, in her speech, UP President Roman quoted UP alumna and educator Belinda Aquino as saying, "It is not possible or even realistic to look back at our university life along a specific tendency. UP has been the setting of many dominant themes and explorations of whatever sort — intellectual, political, personal, moral, even spiritual. Themes of innocence, discovery, freedom, search for truth, enlightenment, joy, loneliness, irony, beauty, crisis, pain, resistance, passion, conversion, obsession, morality, continuity and change have pervaded the university scene at successive or simultaneous stages";

WHEREAS, in recent decades, UP has seen an unfortunate decline in standards for which budgetary constraints are to be blamed; UP has suffered a "brain drain" because talented professors have moved to other universities that pay bigger salaries; the university cannot even purchase modern teaching aids and laboratory equipment due to lack of funds;

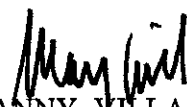
WHEREAS, for the next century, UP strives to rationalize its program offerings, strengthen its position as the leading research university, firm up its science and technology programs, and develop a community of scholars with academic credentials comparable to their counterparts in the best universities in the world;

WHEREAS, UP aims to further improve its academic and research programs across the System and work towards strengthening its units outside Metro Manila; by streamlining functions, encouraging innovation and creativity in its course offerings, as well as developing its technological and physical infrastructure, UP hopes to meet the demands of the changing times and take its place as one of the best in the region, and eventually, the world;


WHEREAS, the executive and the legislature can aid UP fulfill its mandate by allocating a bigger budget for the university; the legislature should also speed up the passage of the new UP Charter to help the university meet the challenges of the next 100 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Philippine Senate, That it is the sense of the Senate to honor the University of the Philippines in its centennial year as the country's premier university, and to call for higher budgetary appropriations and the immediate passage of the UP Charter Bill to aid the University in meeting the challenges of the next 100 years.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
R President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 30, 2008.


EMMA LIRIO-BEYES
Secretary of the Senate
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