

Report of the Student Regent to the Board of Regents

1273rd Meeting of the Board of Regents

29 September 2011

Students' Strike

The University community – students, faculty and some administrators who were part of or supporters of the UP Kilos na Laban sa Budget Cut – declared campus strikes starting 21 September 2011, in protest over insufficient budget for state colleges and universities, as well as public hospitals and health facilities.

Among the highlights were an interactive fashion show in Diliman, a dodgeball event in Manila, and a campfire gathering in Baguio. Other units had alternative social discussions with classes, organizations, and groups. There were several fora conducted: in Pampanga; in Diliman with President Pascual, Chancellor Saloma and other Diliman officials; and in Baguio with Kabataan party-list Rep. Raymond Palatino.

UP students agreed to culminate with massive protests on the last day of the strike, Friday, 23 September. Some 3,000 students left UP Diliman for a historic march to Mendiola. Thirteen kilometers after, the Diliman contingent (with 1,200 left) met Manila (1,000) in Morayta. Tacloban (400), Baguio (700), Pampanga, Visayas Miag-ao and Iloilo went to the city centers. Los Banos (700) and Mindanao held programs within the campus.

Students deem the strike a success because of the wide media coverage, positive publicity and heightened interest in the budget of state colleges and universities; however, these have yet translated to approved proposals or amendments to the National Expenditure Program in Congress.

Students' Congress

The **2011 UP Students' Congress** put attention to local and general concerns among UP students across the system. The island-wide events were held in UP Los Baños, UP Mindanao, and UP Tacloban College over three weekends in September. A consultation with President Pascual was conducted the day before the Mindanao congress, where some of the major problems were raised by the UP Mindanao University Student Council.

The congresses approved the following resolutions for collective engagement:

On state subsidy to UP

- Intensify the UP system-wide campaign against budget cuts on education and other basic social services
- Calling upon UP President Alfredo E. Pascual to support students' campaigns against budget cut.
- Pagpapaigting ng panawagan sa pinakamalawak na bilang ng lahat ng sektor sa loob ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas na makiisa sa malawakang welga laban sa nakaambang kaltas sa pondo ng UP at iba pang pampublikong pamantasan

On social services

- Mataas na suporta at pinansiya sa agham at teknolohiya
- Fight for a sufficient state funding on health, education and other basic social services
- Advance the people's right to quality and affordable healthcare as a social service

On human rights

- Amnesty and immediate release of Maricon Montajes, Ericson Acosta and other political prisoners
- Condemn the arbitrary arrest of Aloguinsan 39
- Reaffirm the commitment of the UP Visayas* to fight against human rights violations and to uphold justice (against red-tagging, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, illegal arrests)

On infrastructure, equipment and facilities

- Systematic system-wide campaign for the construction of the UPDEPP campus and corresponding relocation plans
- Support in soliciting books, medical equipment and computer for UP Manila School of Health Sciences
- Immediate resolution of the Sitio 17 land dispute and the subsequent construction of the UP Mindanao main library

On student fees and services

- Oppose the limiting/removal of UP Manila School of Health Sciences allowances
- Against the abolition of varsity teams in UPLB and to develop further the sports and recreation program in UP
- Genuine and comprehensive consultation on the proposed collection of physical education (PE) laboratory fees in UP Mindanao

On democratic governance

- Support for the institutionalization of a student representative in the executive committee of UP Cebu
- Calling for the UP Mindanao Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to immediately hold elections and establish the College of Humanities and Social Sciences student council
- Calling for the UP Mindanao Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to immediately hold elections and establish the College of Science and Mathematics student council

On student publications

- Support Himati in its assertion for financial autonomy and have full control of the publication fee being paid by all students every semester