

Report of the Student Regent to the Board of Regents

1274th Meeting of the Board of Regents

27 October 2011

Campaign for democratic governance

Student Code

The UP Diliman administration in 2009 presented a draft Student Code of Conduct, which will replace the Rules on Student Conduct and Discipline (as approved by the BOR at its 1123rd meeting on 27 August 1998) and Revised Rules and Regulations Governing Fraternities, Sororities and Student Organizations (as approved by the BOR at its 1091st meeting on 24 October 1995).

Students took issue with first, the manner in which the Code was presented, and second, the extent of the participation of students. The students were not involved in the drafting of the proposed Code, and were summarily consulted thereafter. Initial reaction was largely opposed to the administration's initiatives. Even as students eventually put forth specific changes, very few of advocated amendments were reflected in the final draft.

Much of the antagonism stemmed from the philosophy of the Code: with the emphasis on stricter and one-sided discipline students felt they were all looked upon as wayward truants; with the restrictions on student organizations they felt the University was inhibiting their growth as persons.

The administration's draft reached the Diliman University Council, but has not been put on the agenda since late last year.

Chancellor Saloma in March allowed the students through the University Student Council and the Office of the Student Regent to create an alternative code. This draft, dubbed the Students' Handbook of Rights and Responsibilities, took a rights-based approach to student conduct.

The Student Regent, the Diliman Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, and the chairperson of the University Student Council are currently writing a third draft that reconciles the two Student Code versions.

STFAP

The Vice President for Academic Affairs convened this year's workshop on the Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program (STFAP) and invited student participants. The chairpersons of the University Student Councils, as well as that of UP Cebu, are presently working with the administrative staff of scholarships offices in different units.

Special concerns: Legal issues involving UP students

A. People v. Montajes

The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Office of the Student Regent sent official delegations to the hearing of Maricon Montajes on 14 October 2011. Although the hearing did not push through as the judge had a convention, the group was able to visit Maricon in jail. The group was composed of Maricon's mother and brother, former faculty regent Judy

Taguiwalo, OSA director Rommel Rodriguez, and several students including the Student Regent.

Maricon will be represented by private counsel Mario Pangilinan of Lipa City and a public attorney assigned by the Department of Justice.

Projects

Tulong Kabataan

The Office of the Student Regent, as part of UP Kilos Na Alliance partnered with Kabataan Partylist for UP KILOS NA TULONG KABATAAN, a relief drive for typhoon victims of Pedring (international codename:Nesat) which lashed the country in October.

The main objective of the relief drive is to consolidate efforts among the UP community in gathering immediate relief for the affected communities. We also aim to reach out to other communities affected by the floods that are not currently covered by ongoing relief and rescue operations.

Over two weekends, the volunteers went to Calumpit, Bulacan, Pampanga, Pangasinan, and Tarlac.

Lorena Barros Hall

The Office of the Student Regent, the University Student Council and the Student Alliance for the Advancement of Democratic Rights in UP (STAND UP) solicited P3 million from Kabataan Party-list last year for the rehabilitation of the Lorena Barros Hall.

The building previously housed four organizations, but the approved plan was for one office only, and a larger conference center for the use of any organization. The proposed memorandum of agreement, between the University and beneficiary-project manager STAND UP, has been submitted to the Diliman Legal Office for review.

Construction began in July 2011. The scheduled turn-over is mid-November.

Lorena Barros is a poet and activist who founded Makibaka, the first underground organization for women which is fighting to change society's attitude towards women and women's empowerment. She was radicalized during the First Quarter Storm, while an anthropology major in UP Diliman.