

## **Report of the Student Regent on the General Assembly of Student Councils**

Third GASC for Academic Year 2011-2012

24 May 2012

The Student Regent Selection was conducted over the last two months of academic year 2011-2012. It was concluded at the system-wide level on 23 March 2012 at the Electrical Engineering Theater of the College of Engineering and Agro-industrial Technology, UP Los Baños. It was hosted by the student councils of UP Los Baños, who exerted first-rate efforts to organize the event.

There were only three nominees endorsed to the General Assembly of Student Councils (GASC), one each from the largest autonomous units of UP. After deliberations, the GASC endorsed the nominees, in ordered preference

- 1) Cleve Kevin Robert V. Arguelles, fourth year BS Political Science, UP Manila
- 2) Marjohara S. Tucay, fourth year BA Broadcast Communication, UP Diliman
- 3) Maria Elena B. Carlos, fifth year BA Sociology, UP Los Baños

### **Attendance**

Forty-five out of 52 student councils were represented at the assembly, with some 150 individuals attending. Again, this is consistent with the attendance in the previous GASCs. The roll was called at 11:35 am on 22 May 2012. The student councils absent were:

- UP Diliman Asian Institute of Tourism Student Council
- UP Diliman College of Music Student Council
- UP Manila College of Dentistry Student Council
- UP Manila School of Health Sciences in Baler Student Council
- UP Manila School of Health Sciences in Koronadal Student Council
- UP Mindanao College of Humanities and Social Sciences Student Council
- UP Mindanao College of Science and Mathematics Student Council

No student council had trouble confirming their attendance. The secretariat however noted the instances that some have exploited loopholes in the system by confirming all members of the council but sending only few.

### **Agenda**

The substantive agenda proposed by the Student Regent is two-part: the Student Regent report, and then the Student Regent selection.

The report of the Student Regent covered general and specific policy issues:

- Declaration of Student Rights
- Code of Student Conduct
- Deposit and insurance fee
- Credit card payment of tuition
- Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program (STFAP)
- Joint Monitoring Group (UP agreement with the Department of National Defense and/or Department of Interior and Local Government)

### **Student Regent Report and subsequent unities**

The report consisted of updates and plans regarding the specific campaigns (discussed in separate SR reports and guidelines). Student councils moved to adopt resolutions that committed the assembly to

- 1) Help save the trees on Luneta Hill (sponsored by the University Student Councils of UP Baguio, UP Manila, and UPLB, and the college student councils of the UPLB College of Development Communication, College of Forestry and Natural Resources)
- 2) Heighten and intensify the budget campaign, to set 21 June 2012 as a day of action, and to create avenues of action with UP Kilos Na Laban sa Budget Cut (sponsored by the University Student Council of UP Manila)
- 3) Extend financial, moral and other forms of support to Lordei Hina (sponsored by the University Student Council of UP Diliman, and supported by 15 other student councils)
- 4) Call for the scrapping of the deposit fee and the rechanneling of accrued funds to student services and scholarships (sponsored by the UP Cebu College Student Council and the UP Pharmaceutical Association)
- 5) Support a democratic and pro-student Student Manual and assert student participation in the crafting of important documents such as the declaration of Student Rights and the Code of Student Conduct (UP Diliman College of Mass Communication and College of Arts and Letters)
- 6) Campaign to protect UP students against military harassment and other threats to security, to file countercharges against violators, and to establish the Joint Monitoring Group between UP and law enforcement authorities (sponsored by the University Student Councils of UP Manila, UPLB and UP Mindanao)

### **Student Regent Selection**

The three nominees each were given one hour to individually address the assembly. Ms Carlos laid her vision of a Student Regent that advocates proactive leadership that actively and constantly addresses people's issues; Mr Tucay, his plan "Toward Greater Victories", and Mr Arguelles, his pledge to "Carry on and Intensify the Fight".

A ranking of the nominees by each autonomous and regional unit was taken to determine if there is consensus. A clear trend and preference was established by the majority, but two units had dissimilar views. No consensus was reached by the assembly.

Thus, per the rules, the GASC will resort to a casting of votes as follows: two for every autonomous unit, and one for every regional unit.

Out of the 16 votes on the floor, 15 were cast for Mr Arguelles and one for Mr Tucay. Mr. Arguelles was declared the Student Regent-nominee at 10:35 pm on 23 May 2012.