

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'22 AUG 25 A 8 :18

RECEIVED BY: _____



SENATE

P.S.R. No. 157

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO STRONGLY URGE THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES TO ADMINISTER THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST (UPCAT) STARTING ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024 WHICH MAKES THE ADMISSION PROCESS MORE HOLISTIC

WHEREAS, the University of the Philippines (UP), the country's national university and the premiere state university, is the leading higher education institution (HEI) in the Philippines, setting academic standards in philosophy, the arts and humanities, the social sciences, engineering, natural sciences, mathematics and technology;

WHEREAS, UP is among the top choices for college;

WHEREAS, to maximize its resources, and to make its student population more representative of the nation's population, socio-economic, and geographic considerations, UP has had to limit slots for freshman admission to each campus and to its various degree programs. This is done through an admission process;

WHEREAS, until Academic Year 2021-2022, the University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT) had been a part of the admission requirements of UP. Prior to the pandemic, the basis for admission into UP had been the University Predicted Grade (UPG), which generally consists of 40% high school grades and 60% of UPCAT score;

WHEREAS, for Academic Year 2018-2019, over 103,000 applied for admission to UP, out of whom more than 80,000 actually took the UP College Admission Test (UPCAT), while about 14,000 were offered admission.¹ The following year,

¹ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/986329/breaking-news-university-of-the-philippines-upcat>

140,593 applied for admission but only 90,408 took the exams, and 11,821 qualified;²

WHEREAS, for Academic Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, the University Councils of the UP System unanimously decided that there will be no UPCAT for the intake of first year students in said Academic Years, citing logistical issues amid the uncertain trajectory and uneven spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the UPCAT is an objective and standardized measurement of a high school student's aggregate learning in different aptitude zones, namely Language Proficiency, Science, Mathematics and Reading Comprehension;

WHEREAS, in the absence of UPCAT, a composite of the final grades in Grades 8, 9, 10 and 11 were used as basis for admission to UP;

WHEREAS, in 2021, there were several reports of numerous students from top schools such as the Philippine Science High School not making it to UP, despite having good grades and being admitted to top colleges abroad;

WHEREAS, while some schools have improved their quality of instruction and education, others have been reported to have had only an upward shift in grades;

WHEREAS, unlike the UPCAT which is standardized among all aspirants, several factors affect high school grades, including different grading systems in different types of high school, teachers' and schools' standards, among others;

WHEREAS, going to UP is a dream of many Filipinos. It is not the student-applicant's fault that the high schools they attended do not have the habit of giving relatively higher grades. Without UPCAT, we are killing the dreams of these highly qualified students without giving them a chance;

WHEREAS, other schools such as the Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) and the De La Salle University (DLSU), which also did not conduct entrance examinations, use a more holistic admission system;

WHEREAS, for AY 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, AdMU based its admission on past academic performance, recommendations of teachers, essays, extracurriculars, disciplinary records, among others. Apart from high school grades, DLSU considered recommendations from subject teachers/high school principals and guidance counselors, class rank, leadership, extracurriculars, community involvement, and other pertinent information;

² <https://up.edu.ph/infographic-tips-for-upcat-2020-examinees/>

WHEREAS, a more holistic admission system which considers a number of factors not usually included in a traditional process creates a more equitable system for evaluating potential students;


WHEREAS, UP has been receiving a lion's share of the budget for State Universities and Colleges. In 2022, the UP System, including the Philippine General Hospital, received a total appropriation of Php 24,392,029,000, or about 23.41% of the total new appropriations for SUCs;

WHEREAS, as the country's national university and recipient of a lion's share of budget for SUCs, it behooves upon UP to maintain its high standards of academic excellence by, among others, admitting only the best and the most deserving high school graduates through a more holistic admission process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to express the sense of the Senate of the Philippines to strongly urge the University of the Philippines to administer the University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT) starting Academic Year 2023-2024.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, to urge University of the Philippines to consider for the next Academic Years a more holistic admission process in order to continue to attract and admit the best of the best.

Adopted,



ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO