


Republic of the Philippines }
FOURTEENTH CONGRESS }
First Regular Session }

7 JUL 17 P4:29

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Bill No. 1236

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates that the State constantly improves the standards of higher education to ensure that students get the best education possible from both the public and private higher education institutions.

Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution declares:

"The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all."

Likewise, Article II, Section 17 of the Constitution declares:

"The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development."

Towards this end, this Bill aims to strengthen the University of the Philippines which is its national university.

As the national university, a public and secular institution of higher learning and a community of scholars dedicated to the search for the truth and knowledge, the Bill proposes that the University of the Philippines shall perform its unique and distinctive leadership in higher education and national education development through its combined functions, as follows:

- (1) Set standards and initiate innovations in teaching, research and faculty development in philosophy, the arts and humanities, the social sciences, the professions and engineering, natural sciences, mathematics, and technology; maintain centers of excellence in such disciplines and professions;
- (2) Serve as a graduate university providing advanced studies and specialization for scholars, scientists, writers, artists, philosophers and professionals, especially those who serve on the faculties of state and private colleges and universities;
- (3) Serve as a research university in the various fields of its expertise and specialization by conducting basic and applied research, and research and development, promoting research in the various colleges and

- universities, and contributing to the dissemination and application of knowledge;
- (4) Lead as a public service university by providing various forms of community, public and volunteer service, and scholarly and technical assistance to the government, the private sector, and civil society;
 - (5) Provide opportunities for training and learning in progressive leadership and leadership for service, responsible citizenship, and the development of democratic values, institutions and practice; and
 - (6) Serve as a regional and global university in cooperation with international scientific unions and with networks of universities and scholarly and professional associations in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

In view of the foregoing, urgent passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'F' followed by a horizontal line and a small loop.

FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

Republic of the Philippines }
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Bill No. 1236

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AN ACT
TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
AS THE PREMIER STATE UNIVERSITY

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Title* - This Act shall be known as the "*University of the Philippines Charter of 2007*."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* - The State shall promote, foster, nurture and protect the right of all citizens to quality education. Toward this end, it is the policy of the State to strengthen the University of the Philippines as the Premier State University.

SECTION. 3 *Purpose of the University* - As the Premier State University, a public and secular institution of higher learning and a community of scholars dedicated to the search for truth and knowledge, the University of the Philippines shall perform its unique and distinctive leadership in higher education and national education development. The University shall:

- (1) Lead in setting academic standards and initiating innovations in teaching, research and faculty development in philosophy, the arts and humanities, the social sciences, the professions, and engineering, natural sciences, mathematics and technology; and maintain centers of excellence in such disciplines and professions;
- (2) Serve as a graduate university providing advanced studies and specialization for scholars, scientists, writers, artists and professionals, especially those who serve on the faculties of state and private colleges and universities;

- (3) Serve as a research university in the various fields of its expertise and specialization by conducting basic and applied research, and research and development, promoting research in the various colleges and universities, and contributing to the dissemination and application knowledge;
- (4) Lead as a public service university by providing various forms of community, public and volunteer service, and scholarly and technical assistance to the government, the private sector, and civil society while maintaining its standards of excellence;
- (5) Protect and promote the professional and economic rights and welfare of its academic and nonacademic personnel;
- (6) Provide opportunities for training and learning in progressive leadership, responsible citizenship, and the development of democratic values, institutions and practice, and the enhancement of nationalism and national identity;
- (7) Provide democratic governance in the university based on collegiality, representation, accountability, transparency and active participation of its constituents; and
- (8) Serve as a regional and global university in cooperation with international scientific unions and with networks of universities and scholarly and professional associations in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- (1) “University” refers to the University of the Philippines.
- (2) “University of the Philippines System (UPS)” refers to the University of the Philippines as composed by its existing constituent universities, as follows: University of the Philippines Diliman; University of the Philippines Manila; University of the Philippines Los Banos; University of the Philippines Visayas; University of the Philippines Mindanao; University of the Philippines Baguio; University of the Philippines Open University; and those that may be created in the future.
- (3) “University of the Philippines System Assembly (UPSA)” refers to an assembly of individuals representing the students, academic personnel (faculty and research, extension and professional staff), administrative personnel, and alumni of the seven constituent university (UP Diliman, UP Manila, UP Los Banos, UP Visayas, UP Mindanao, UP Baguio, UP

Open University) and other constituent university that may be created in the future. Members of the Assembly shall be elected pursuant to Section 17 hereof.

- (4) "University Assembly (UA)" refers to an assembly of individuals representing the students, academic personnel (faculty and research, extension and professional staff), administrative personnel, and alumni elected by the constituent particular constituent university of the University of the Philippines.
- (5) "Research, Extension and Professional Staff (REPS)" refers to university personnel who perform academic non-teaching duties. These include university researchers, extension personnel, law reform group, law education group, science education, guidance service group, library service group, development management group and museum research group.
- (6) "Academic freedom" refers to the right of every constituent of the University to express one's ideas, to write, research and publish and act in accordance with one's viewpoint inside and outside the classroom in the pursuit of academic ideals and in service to the Filipino people;
- (7) "Professional chair awards" refers to awards given to faculty members for meritorious performance in teaching, research, creative writing; one of the highest forms of recognition for achievement in the academe; holders of these awards deliver a lecture or publish a paper in a scholarly journal within the period of award and may be named after the donor or after a person that the donor may wish to honor.
- (8) "Established religious beliefs" refers to mandatory spiritual and theological practices, convictions and faith of the University population to make them God-fearing, patriotic citizens conscious of their values and cultural heritage.
- (9) "The Board of Regents" or the "Board" refers to the governing body of the University being referred to in Sections 10 to 12 of this Act.

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SECTION 5. *The University System* - The University of the Philippines is a university system and shall be composed of constituent universities established solely by its Board upon the recommendation of the president of the University.

SECTION 6. *Academic Freedom* - The University has the right and the responsibility to exercise academic freedom.

SECTION 7. *Academic Excellence* - The University has the responsibility to maintain and enhance its high academic standards in the performance of the functions of instruction, research, and extension and public service.

SECTION 8. *Social Responsibility* - The University is committed to serve the Filipino nation and humanity. While it carries out the obligation to pursue universal principles, it must relate its activities to the needs of the Filipino people and their aspirations for social progress and transformation. The University may provide venues for student volunteerism.

SECTION 9. *Democratic Access* - No student shall be denied admission to the University by reason of age, gender, nationality, religious belief, or political affiliation or for being differently-abled physical. The University shall take affirmative steps to enhance the access of disadvantaged students to its programs and services while maintaining its standards of excellence.

SECTION 10. *The Board of Regents* - The government of the University is vested in a Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board of the UPS, which shall be composed of:

- (1) The chairperson of the Commission of Higher Education as chairperson;
- (2) The president of the University of the Philippines as vice chairperson;
- (3) The chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture;
- (4) The chairperson of the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education;
- (5) The president of the U.P. Alumni Association, to serve as Alumni Regent during his or her incumbency in that position;
- (6) One academic regent representing full-time permanent teaching (faculty) and non-teaching REPS chosen in accordance with the rules and qualifications set by the constituent university councils composed of full-time tenured faculty members of the University and the REP's duly recognized organization, to serve for a term of two years;
- (7) One student regent to serve for a term of one year chosen in accordance with the rules and qualifications set by the general assembly of recognized university student councils;
- (8) One staff regent representing the full-time administrative personnel chosen in accordance with the rules and qualifications set by their duly recognized organizations, to serve for a term of two years; and

- (9) Three other regents representing the private sector, at least one of whom should be an alumnus of the University, who have distinguished themselves in their professions or fields of specialization chosen from a list of five persons for every vacancy as recommended by a search committee constituted by the president of the University based on standards and guidelines approved by the Board, and appointed by the Board and shall each serve for a term of two years: *Provided, That* the regents holding office as members of the Board at the time of the effectivity of this Act shall continue to serve until the expiration of their appointments as provided for in Executive Order No. 204-A issued by the President of the Philippines on July 15, 1987.

In case of vacancy in the representation of the private sector in the Board, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Board, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Board as provided in the preceding paragraph, and such appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term. In case of vacancy in the position of sectoral regents, the successor, who shall serve for the unexpired term, shall be chosen in the same manner as provided for the predecessor: *Provided, That* in the case of a sectoral regent, membership in the Board ceases upon suspension, separation or recall from the University.

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation other than actual and necessary expenses incurred in attendance of meetings of the Board or other official business authorized by the Board.

SECTION 11. *Powers of the Board of Regents* - The administration of the University and the exercise of its corporate powers are vested in the Board.

The Board shall exercise the following specific powers and duties:

- (1) To define in general terms the thrusts of the University and adopt broad policy guidelines to ensure their implementation;
- (2) To preserve the integrity of the UPS;
- (3) To approve the creation, institution, merger or abolition of academic units and programs, and adopt the necessary measures to enable students to exercise their established religious beliefs consistent with the accepted norms and morals of society. Student shall be given options to fulfill their academic responsibilities such as, but not limited to, make-up classes/examinations on missed school days/examinations which coincided with the exercise of their established religious beliefs, all upon

the recommendation of the university council of the constituent university concerned through the president of the University;

- (4) To approve the graduation of students and grant of honors, as recommended by their respective university councils through the president of the University;
- (5) To confer honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of learning, statesmanship, or eminence in literature, science, or art, upon recommendation of a committee created by the president of the University: *Provided*, That such degrees shall not be conferred in consideration of any payment, gifts or other valuable consideration;
- (6) To approve the rules on student discipline recommended by the university councils through the president of the University, with the Board retaining the power to review and pass final judgment on student disciplinary cases;
- (7) To create, organize, reorganize, merge or abolish constituent universities, colleges, institutes, and other academic and administrative units of the University;
- (8) To establish professional chair awards in the colleges and to provide for the maintenance or endowment of such chairs;
- (9) To provide fellowship and scholarships and to award the same to faculty, staff and students giving special evidence of merit;
- (10) To elect the President of the University for a term of six (6) years without re-election following a process of democratic consultation with the University community based on the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board. In the event of a vacancy for whatever reason/s, the Board shall elect a new president who shall serve the unexpired term of predecessor within six months from the occurrence of the vacancy;
- (11) To appoint faculty members and other officials and employees, to draw up a position classification and compensation plan for its faculty and staff and to fix and adjust salaries and benefits of the faculty members and other employees subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws, to determine their hours of service, and such other terms and conditions as it may deem proper; to grant to them, at its discretion, leave of absence, under such regulations as it may promulgate, and other provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding; and to

remove them for cause as provided by law after due investigation and proper hearing;

(12) To extend, with their consent, the tenure of faculty members of the University beyond the compulsory retirement age, any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, on recommendation of the units, upon endorsement of the president of the University, whenever their services are specially needed: *Provided, however,* that no extension of tenure shall be made beyond the age of seventy (70).

(13) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, after due consultations and consent of the various student councils of constituent university as provided for in Section 22 of this Act. Such fees and charges, including government support and other incomes generated by the University, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank. Any and all interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the University. Any provisions of the existing law to the contrary notwithstanding, all incomes generated by the University or by its own subsidiaries may, at the discretion of the Board, be disbursed for the professional growth and development, health, welfare and other benefits of the faculty members and other personnel: for the acquisition, construction, maintenance and repair of urgently needed instructional and auxiliary facilities, equipment buildings and other infrastructure: and for expenses necessary for the attainment of its purposes under this Act. *If the University, for reasons beyond its control, shall not be able to pursue any project for which funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which it deems necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the University: Provided, That funds collected from students for specific purpose shall not be reprogrammed to other expenditures;*

(14) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided by law for the support of the University to the ends specified by law, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;

(15) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real and personal properties, including the necessary supplies, materials and equipment;

- (16) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal property of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the University and subject to the instructions of the donor, if any;
- (17) The provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, to authorize its faculty and staff to travel abroad in order to study, deliver paper, attend conferences and disseminate research; *Provided*, That the fellowship, scholarship or grant is authorized by the Board;
- (18) To exercise the general powers set out in the Corporation Code;
- (19) To delegate any of its powers to the president of the University or any other official or officers as it may deem necessary;
- (20) To prescribe rules for its own government and the discipline of the faculty and other personnel and to enact for the governance of the University such general policies, rules and regulations, not contrary to law, as are consistent with the purposes of the University; and
- (21) To exercise such other powers as may be necessary and proper to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 12. *Quorum of the Board of Regents* - A simple majority of the actual members of the Board of Regents shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 13. *The University President* - The University President is the chief academic officer and head of the University Faculty and the chief executive officer of the University elected by the Board. Upon the election of the president by the Board, he/she shall immediately be issued appointment papers by the presiding chair of the Board which elected the president. The president shall preside over the meetings of the constituent university councils, if he/she is in attendance. The President shall exercise the powers specifically provided for in this Act, those which usually pertain to the office of the president of the University, and those which are related or necessary to its functions. The compensation of the president shall be determined by the Board.

SECTION 14. *The Secretary of the University and of the Board of Regents* - There shall be a secretary of the University appointed by the Board, who shall also be the secretary of the Board, and who shall keep such records of the University as may be designated by the Board.

SECTION 15. *The University Council* - There shall be in each constituent University a council consisting of the chancellor as chairperson, and of all the faculty members in the University holding the rank of assistant professor and higher and a representative of non-tenured teaching personnel.

SECTION 16. *Powers of the University Council* - The university council shall be the highest academic body of each constituent university and shall exercise the following powers:

- (1) Fix the requirements for admission to any college or unit or any academic program or course offering and for graduation and conferment of a degree, and the grant of honor subject to the minimum system-wide requirements;
- (2) Prescribe the academic program including their institution, revision, abolition and merger, subject to the approval of the Board;
- (3) Recommend to the Board the graduation of students and the grant of honors;
- (4) Exercise disciplinary power over the students, through the chancellors or their appropriate committees, subject to review by the president according to the limits prescribed by the system-wide rules on student discipline;
- (5) Undertake the periodic review of academic courses, programs, standards, thrusts and policies; and
- (6) Adopt the necessary measures to enable students to exercise their established religious beliefs consistent with the accepted norms and morals of society. Students shall be given options to fulfill their academic responsibilities such as, but not limited to, make-up classes/examinations on missed school days/examinations, which coincided with the exercise of their established religious beliefs; and

SECTION 17. *The University Consultative Assemblies* - There shall be established for the whole UPS, consultative assemblies as follows:

- (1) There shall be a college assembly for every college, other degree-granting institute composed of representatives coming from the students, academic personnel (faculty and REPS) and administrative personnel. The dean of the college/director of the institute shall be the presiding officer of the college assembly.

- (2) There shall be a university assembly in each constituent university composed of elected members from college assemblies, representing the students, academic personnel (faculty and REPS), and administrative personnel. Vice chancellors, deans of colleges and directors of degree-granting institutes who have not been elected as delegates by their respective college assemblies shall be *ex officio* nonvoting members of the university assembly. The recognized unions for academic, administrative personnel and university student council shall have representation in the university assembly and the chancellor of each constituent university would be the presiding officer.
- (3) There shall be a University of the Philippines System Assembly (UPSA) for the whole UPS composed of at least twenty-eight (28) members to be elected from the university assemblies of seven existing constituent university with each constituent university entitled to four members representing the students, academic personnel (faculty and REPS), administrative personnel and alumni.

The members of the UPSA shall elect from among themselves the executive committee to be composed of a chairperson and a vice chairperson and an executive board composed of a representative from each constituent sector, the students, faculty and REPS, administrative personnel alumni.

The term of office of all representatives in the consultative assemblies shall be for one year without prejudice to their re-election.

SECTION 18. *The Role and Functions of the Consultative Assemblies* – The consultative assemblies as consultative, consensus-building, democratic and collegial bodies shall have the following functions:

- (1) To serve as the principal forum where faculty, students, REPS and administrative personnel shall address nonacademic issues affecting the University, its thrust and directions, and issues relating to long/medium term development plans for the University;
- (2) To promote direct interaction among the various unit constituencies of the University (faculty, REPS, administrative personnel and students) in the discussion of issues and grievances which heretofore have been mainly sectoral;
- (3) To serve as a multi-sectoral forum to recommend policies on administrative and nonacademic matters in consultation with the chancellors for approval by the Board; and

- (4) To act as a consultative body in the search process for deans, directors and equivalent positions in the units of the University, as may be necessary.

SECTION 19. *The Chancellor of the Constituent University* - The administration of each constituent university is vested in the chancellor insofar as authorized by the Board and the president of the University. The chancellor of the constituent university shall be elected by the Board upon nomination of the president of the University, following a process of democratic consultation with constituents of the constituent university, subject to the guidelines qualifications and/or standards set by the Board. The chancellor shall report to the president of the University, and shall perform the duties and functions elsewhere stated in this Act, and all the usual, necessary and related functions of the office of the chancellor, subject to the policies and rules prescribed by the Board. The Board shall determine the term and compensation of the chancellor.

SECTION 20. *The Faculty* - The teaching staff of each college shall constitute its faculty, which shall be presided over by the dean, elected by the Board on nomination by the university president and upon the recommendation of the chancellor of the constituent university, following a process of democratic consultation with the constituents of the college subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board.

SECTION 21. *Appointment Requisites* - Faculty members as well as the academic REPS of the University shall be exempt from any civil service examination or regulation as a requisite to appointment. The provisions of existing law to the contrary notwithstanding, licensing requirements for professional regulatory boards shall not affect appointments to faculty positions. In the appointment of faculty members, no religious test shall be applied, nor shall religious or political opinions or affiliations of the faculty members of the University be made a matter of examination or inquiry.

SECTION 22. *Student Affairs.* - There shall be established in the University the following students councils: for every college and degree-granting institute, a college or institute student council; for every constituent University, a university student council; and for the university system, a general assembly for all student councils.

The student council shall be composed of elected students of a definite academic unit of the University. Each member of the student council shall serve a term of one year, without prejudice to re-election. The student council shall serve as the primary student body that shall advance the interest, welfare and aspirations of the students of the University. It shall have the power to adopt internal rules of procedure consistent with the provision of this Act.

The manner of selecting the student regent shall be based on the rules and qualifications set by the general assembly of the student councils of all constituent universities.

(2) There shall be a student publication established in every constituent unit and college. Freedom of expression and autonomy in all matters of editorial and fiscal policy shall be guaranteed especially in the selection of editors and staff.

SECTION 23. *Land Grants and other Real Properties of the University -*

- (1) The State shall provide financial support to the UPS as the Premier State University through the General Appropriations Act and in kind through land grants and donations and use of other real properties. To carry out the intent of these grants, income derived from the development of all land grants and real properties shall be used to further the ends of the University, as may be decided by the Board.
- (2) Such parcels of land ceded by law, decree or presidential issuance to the UPS, are hereby declared to be reserved for the purposes intended, as confirmed by the Board. The absolute ownership of the University over these landholdings including those covered by original and transfer certificates of title in the name of the University of the Philippines and their future derivatives is hereby affirmed. Where issuance of proper certificates of title is yet pending for these landholdings, the appropriate government office shall expedite the issuance thereof within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That all registration requirements necessary for the issuance of the said titles have been submitted and complied with.
- (3) The Board shall plan, design, approve and/or cause the implementation of long-term leases to give the University the most advantageous position in generating revenues and other resources from land grants and other real property entrusted by the Filipino people to their Premier State university: *Provided*, That such long-term leases shall be consistent with the University's land use and infrastructure plan, as well as sustain and protect the environment: *Provided, further*, That the long-term leases shall

preserve that academic core zone of each constituent campus which shall be delineated in consultation with all sectors of the constituent university concerned: *Provided, finally,* That funds generated from the long-term leases shall not be meant to replace, in part or in whole, the annual appropriation provided by the national government to the University.

SECTION 24. *Grant of Special Allowances.* – In order to continue to attract and maintain competent and excellent teaching personnel, all faculty members of the University may be granted special allowances upon approval of its Board up to a maximum amount equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the basic monthly salary specified for their respective salary grades under Republic Act No. 6758, as amended, otherwise known as the Salary Standardization Law.

The grant of special allowances may be initially be implemented upon approval of its Board uniformly in such sums or amounts equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of the basic salary of the position concerned. Subsequent implementation shall be in such sums and amounts and up to the extent only that can be supported by internally generated funds of the University.

SECTION 25. *Effects of Subsequent Salary Increase.* – Upon implementation of any subsequent increase in the salary rates provided for the positions concerned under Republic Act No. 6758, as amended, all special allowances granted under this Act for the faculty members shall be considered as an implementation of the said salary increases as may be provided by law.

The special allowances equivalent to the increase of the basic salary as may be provided by law, shall be converted as part of basic salary: *Provided,* That any excess in the amount of special allowances not converted as part of the basic salary shall continue to be granted and paid as such.

SECTION 26. *Funding Source.* The amount necessary to initially implement the special allowances granted under this Act, shall be sourced from, and charged against the internally generated income of the University of the Philippines, and that subsequent, implementation shall be at such percentage, sums and amounts which can be supported by internally generated funds of the UPS.

The annual funding requirement of the special allowances granted under this Act shall continuously be charged exclusively against the internally generated funds of the University and shall, in no case, be paid chargeable against direct or realigned national government financial assistance or budget subsidy.

SECTION 27. *Appropriations* - The Board of the UPS shall immediately include in its programs, the implementation of this Act, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations and other internally generated income of the University. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary as the national government assistance to the University shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 28. *Tax Exemptions* - The provisions of any general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding:

- (1) All revenues and assets of the University of the Philippines used actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes shall be exempt from all taxes and duties;
- (2) Gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended;
- (3) Importation of economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical and cultural books, supplies, equipment, machinery and other materials, including scientific and educational computer and software equipment, shall be exempt from the payment of customs duties; and
- (4) The university shall be exempt from the payment of value added tax on its transactions which are primarily and directly undertaken for educational purposes; and
- (5) All honoraria for professional chair awards shall be exempt from taxes.

SECTION 29. *Auditing of Accounts* - All accounts and expenses of the University shall be audited by the Commission on Audit, and all disbursements shall be made in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the latter.

SECTION 30. *Institutional Autonomy as the Premier State University* - To provide greater flexibility to the University, it shall be treated in a manner consistent with its institutional requirements as the premier state university by the service-wide agencies in the exercise of their respective jurisdiction.

The University, taking into account national goals and priorities, shall exclusively determine its teaching, research and extension thrusts, plans, policies, priorities, programs and standards and, on the basis of such determination, the University shall recommend its annual budget to the President and Congress.

SECTION 31. *Rule of Construction* - No statutory or other issuances shall diminish the powers, rights, privileges, and benefits accorded to the University under this Act or enjoyed at present by the University under other issuances not otherwise modified or repealed under this Act, unless subsequent legislation expressly provides for their repeal, amendment or modification. Any case of doubt in the interpretation of any of the provisions of this Charter shall be resolved in favor of the academic freedom and fiscal autonomy of the University of the Philippines.

SECTION 32. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - The Board of the UPS shall issue, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 33. *Separability Clause* - Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION 34. *Repealing Clause* - Act NO. 1870 is hereby repealed. All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulation or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 35. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,