



1984 CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS STUDENT COUNCIL

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, cognizant of the vital role of the youth in nation building, and conscious of its historical role in contributing to the task of social transformation, desirous of establishing an autonomous, representative and democratic Student Council that will unite the whole UPLB Studentry and will promote its closer relationship with other sectors of society in order to instill nationalist consciousness for the advancement of the Filipino people, bind ourselves in commitment to these ideals and hereby ordain and promulgate this constitution.

ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISION

- Section 1 This constitution shall be known as the “constitution of the UPLB Student Council”.
- Section 2 This constitution shall govern the University Student Council and the various College Student Councils at UP Los Baños.
- Section 3 For purposes of this constitution, unless the context indicates otherwise:
- a. “University” signifies the University of the Philippines Los Baños’;
 - b. “University of the Philippines Los Baños” or “UPLB” includes all colleges, institutes, departments and units under UPLB.
 - c. “UPLB Student Council” or “Student Council” refers to the University Student Council in the UP Los Baños campus.
 - d. “University Student Council” refers to the University Student Council as distinguished from any College Student Council in UP Los Baños campus.
 - e. “College Student Council” means the duly-constituted central student organization of a college or unit that offers at least a bachelor’s degree program.
 - f. “University Administrators” signifies the duly-constituted authorities or officials of the UP Los Baños in so far as the UP Los Baños is concerned or affected.
 - g. “Chairperson”, “Vice-Chairperson”, “University Councilors”, and “College Representatives” refer, respectively, to the officers and members of the University Student Council (USC) so designated; as distinguished from the set of officers of the College Student Council (CSC).
 - h. “Council Members” or “Members of the Council” mean the duly elected members of the University Student Council including its officers.

- i. "University Councilors" or "Councilors" refers to any of the University Councilors as distinguished from the College Representative.
- j. "College Representatives" mean the duly-elected representatives to the University Student Council of the constituents of a college.
- k. "College Councilors" refers to the councilors of the College Student Council elected by the constituents of the college.
- l. "Permanent Vacancy" exists when the Office of an Officer or member has been vacated by reasons of death, resignation, impeachment, permanent illness, or any other reason preventing him from performing the functions of his office on the remaining period of his term.
- m. "Temporary Vacancy" exists when the office of an officer or member has been vacated by reasons of temporary mental or physical incapacity, or any other reason that leaves the possibility of his resuming his duties before the expiration of his term.
- n. "Majority vote" refers to fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of the total number of votes cast by voting members during the voting process provided that a quorum exists.

**ARTICLE II
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES**

Section 1 The UPLB Student Council subscribes to the following principles:

- a. That education is a right and not a privilege and it should be afforded to everyone;
- b. That education should develop man's physical, mental, social and cultural potentials in order to realize his part in social change;
- c. That education should enhance critical thought and ability to make informed judgment, free of dogma and myths;
- d. That UP, as a state university, is an educational institution supported by the wealth of the Filipino people and therefore it should carry out its foremost obligation to promote and advance a humane Filipino Society;
- e. That UPLB, as part of the UP system pursuing its thrust for rural development should carry out its responsibility towards the genuine upliftment of the people's condition in the countryside;
- f. That in pursuing the tasks of the UP system in general, and the UPLB in particular, the university community should first and foremost uphold a meaningful education that is nationalist, scientific, and pro-people orientation.

- i. Nationalist because it must liberate our thinking and values from the bonds of colonial mentality and advance the genuine aspiration of the Filipino people;
 - ii. Pro-people because it must promote an education attuned to the real needs and interest of the majority of the society; and
 - iii. Scientific because it must develop and enhance critical and objective thought responsive to actual conditions in the present Philippine Society.
- g. That through collective effort and cooperation, we can effectively work for the fulfillment of our goals, of the educational sector in particular and the large society in general.

Section 2 The UPLB Student Council shall, at all times, strive:

- a. To uphold a truly representative, autonomous, and democratic Student Council;
- b. To serve as an active forum for student ideas and sentiments;
- c. To uphold and ensure democratic participation and representations in any policy-making body which directly affect student rights and welfare particularly in the university;
- d. To promote and safeguard the rights and welfare of UPLB students in particular and the Filipino people in general;
- e. To uphold the ideals and principles of the university that are geared towards ensuring well-rounded students in intellectual, social, cultural and physical development;
- f. To develop social awareness and responsibility geared towards the development of a nationalistic spirit rooted in democratic principles;
- g. To seek and engender educational reforms for the full development of human potentials that respond to social realities and promote academic freedom;
- h. To forge unity with other sectors of the university and society towards fulfillment of these objectives.

ARTICLE III CONSTITUENTS, RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Section 1 All bona fide graduate and undergraduate students of the University of the Philippines Los Baños duly enrolled and pursuing any of the academic degree/certificate/program offered by the university shall be the constituents of the UPLB Student Council.

- Section 2 The constituents shall have the following rights:
- a. To enjoy freedom of expression;
 - b. To elect the officers of the University Student Council and cast his vote in the UPLB-USC plebiscite and referenda initiated by the Student Council;
 - c. To file candidacy for any position contested in the USC or CSC elections subject to provision of the Article on election and installation, Article VII Sec. 6 of this constitution;
 - d. To have their grievances heard and speedily redressed;
 - e. To have their academic records and clearances speedily processed, and confidentiality of such records be maintained;
 - f. To organize and assemble for purposes related to the promotion and advancement of the people's and students' rights and welfare;
 - g. To present their views to appropriate bodies before any policy or decision affecting their rights, interests and welfare are promulgated;
 - h. To be free from exploitation, involuntary servitude and cruel or unjust punishments; and
 - i. To be accorded due process of law.

- Section 3 It is the duty of every student and other constituents to:
- a. Support and participate in the activities and projects of the Student Council, cast his vote in plebiscites, referenda and elections initiated by the Student Council;
 - b. Exercise his rights responsibly;
 - c. Pay necessary dues and fees;
 - d. Abide by all the provisions of this constitution.

ARTICLE IV
THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCIL

Section 1 The University Student Council shall be the highest governing body of all UPLB students.

Section 2 It shall be composed of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, ten University Councilors and one College Representative for each college. The Chairman or any duly recognized representatives of the Freshmen Block Assembly (FBA), the Textbook Exchange and Rental Center (TERC) Board, Alliance of Dorm Association and Student Alliances shall be the ex-officio members of the USC without voting power.

- Section 3 The college representatives to the University Student Council shall serve as a liaison between the University Student Council and the College Student Councils. They shall, at all times be free from the control of the College Student Councils with regards to the performance of their duties, functions and activities as members of the University Student Council.
- Section 4 All officers of the University Student Council shall compose the Executive Council. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council to:
- a. Make decision on matters requiring immediate actions;
 - b. Make recommendations regarding policies, rules and management;
 - c. Coordinate the programs of the council; and
 - d. Form ad hoc committees and task forces and appoint the chairperson thereof as it deems necessary.
- Section 5 The officers of the council shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Chairperson of Committees to be formed by the general assembly of the council from time to time. All University Councilors are eligible to become officers of the University Student Council, should this not be practicable, College Representatives may be elected as committee head.
- Section 6 The Chairperson shall be the chief executive officer of the council. It shall be his duty to:
- a. Head the Executive Council;
 - b. Sign all resolutions, communications and papers of the council;
 - c. Preside over all meetings of the Council, provided that in case he desires to take part in the debate or discussion he may name the Vice Chairperson , or in the absence of the latter, any member of the Council to take the chair;
 - d. Represent the Council in his official capacity as Chairperson on occasions and events where the organization needs the representation; and
 - e. Perform such duties as may be necessary or incidental to the discharge and performance of the functions of his office.
- Section 7 The Vice Chairperson shall:
- a. Assist the Chairperson in all matters where his/her assistance is required;
 - b. Take over the function of the Chairperson whenever his/her office is vacant by the reason of his death, resignation, removal, suspension, illness, absence, or physical or mental incapacity or his failure to qualify for office; and
 - c. Head the External Affairs Committee.

- Section 8 The Secretary shall:
- a. Keep the journal of the proceeding of the Council;
 - b. Keep all correspondence and papers of the same;
 - c. Certify all acts of the same; and
 - d. Perform such other duties as the council or the chairperson may assign him/her from time to time.
- Section 9 The Treasurer shall:
- a. Keep the records of the funds of the Council;
 - b. Disburse the same in accordance with an appropriation authorized by the Council;
 - c. Submit a financial report at the end of each semester to the Council which shall be published in the UPLB Perspective or any publication widely circulated;
 - d. Perform such other duties as the council or the chairperson may assign him/her from time to time; and
 - e. Act as a property custodian of the Council.
- Section 10 There shall be a secretariat composed of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Secretariat to:
- a. Coordinate day-to-day activities of the Council; and
 - b. Prepare the agenda of the meetings of the Council after consulting different committees.

ARTICLE V
COLLEGE STUDENT COUNCIL

- Section 1 Each college shall have a College Student Council.
- Section 2 The College Student Council shall:
- a. Serve as the highest governing body of all students in a particular college;
 - b. Initiate, organize and implement student activities of college-wide concern in line with the general policies of the Student Legislative Chamber;
 - c. Coordinate with the designated college authorities regarding student matters, affairs and activities;

- d. Serve as a feedback information center for the mass of Studentry in their respective college;
- e. Adopt its own budget which will become operational upon approval of the Student Legislative Chamber.

Section 3 The constituents of the College Student Councils shall be students duly enrolled in their respective college.

Section 4 The College Student Council shall be composed of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and a number of College Councilors relative to the actual number of college population to be determined by the Central Electoral Board.

Section 5 The College Student Council shall coordinate with the USC, provided that it shall be autonomous in the management of its own internal affairs in the implementation of their programs and activities.

ARTICLE VI THE STUDENT LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER

Section 1 There shall be a Student Legislative Chamber to be composed of the following:

- a. From the University Student Council; the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and one University Councilor;
- b. From the College Student Councils; the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and one College Councilor for every college.

Section 2 The Student Legislative Chamber shall:

- a. Serve as the highest policy-making body of the UPLB Student Councils;
- b. Serve as a constitutional body; and
- c. Coordinate the programs of the various Student Councils.

Section 3 The Student Legislative Chamber shall have its Presidium to be composed of the Presiding Officer (USC Chairperson), Secretary and three (3) Floor Leaders. The Secretary and three Floor Leaders shall be elected from among the members of the SLC. It shall be the duty of the Presidium to facilitate the discussion during the session as it seems necessary and to prepare the agenda for such session.

Section 4 The members of the SLC may be divided into different committees during its regular sessions for the purpose of the speedy formulation of policies/rules and regulation.

Section 5 The Student Legislative Chamber shall convene at least two times a semester.

Section 6 It shall formulate its own house rules which will govern its internal operation.

Section 7 The SLC shall publicize its proceedings.

ARTICLE VII ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION

Section 1 Election for the University Student Council and the College Student Councils shall be held every academic year in accordance with the rules promulgated by the Central Electoral Board.

Section 2 Election for the USC and CSC shall be synchronized and held not later than five (5) weeks before the final examinations of the second semester.

Section 3 For the University Student Council:

- a. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and the University Councilors shall be directly elected by the whole studentry in the university;
- b. The College Representatives to the USC shall be elected at large in their respective college. If the students of a college failed to elect their representative to the University Student Council, the Central Electoral Board shall determine whether a special election should be held and shall take immediate steps for the holding of such election.

Section 4 For the College Student Councils: the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and College Councilors shall be elected at large in their respective college.

Section 5 Every member shall hold office for one academic year or until his successor has been duly elected, qualified and assumed office, provided that any qualified candidate who will fill vacant seats shall hold office only for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 6 Every candidate for membership in the Student Council, before the general elections must:

- a. have at least one semester residence in the University of the Philippines Los Baños;
- b. not be a graduating student at the school year of his candidacy;
- c. not been found guilty of any misconduct with disciplinary notice from any act violating moral turpitude.

Section 7

- a. Any permanent vacancy in the office of the Chairperson shall be filled by the Vice Chairperson, provided that if the permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the Vice Chairperson, the Council shall elect from among the Councilors a new Vice Chairperson;

- b. Should both the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Council be temporarily incapacitated, the remaining members shall elect from among themselves an acting Chairperson and an acting Vice Chairperson both whom shall relinquish their positions upon return of the permanent officials. In no case shall the Student Council be dissolved or rendered in operative.
- c. If vacancy occurs in the office of the university/college councilor, the candidate who obtained the next highest number of votes in the last general elections of the student council shall take place.
- d. A vacancy in the office of College Representatives to USC shall be filled, in so far as practicable in the manner provided above, for the university councilor. Should this not be possible, then the College Student Councils shall expeditiously elect his replacement in consultation with the University Student Council until the students have elected their new representative.
- e. When the vacancy is temporary, the Student Council may choose replacement that shall discharge the duties of the member until he returns.

Section 8 The induction of members shall take place within a week after the proclamation by the Central Electoral Board, the oath to be administered by the UPLB Chancellor or his duly authorized representatives.

Section 9 No member shall hold office as corps commander of UPLB CMT, or Editor-in-Chief of the UPLB Perspective without forfeiting his seat in the council.

Section 10 There shall be a Central Electoral Board to be composed of the following:

- a. Director of Office of Student Affairs as ex-officio Chairperson;
- b. Present Editor-in-Chief of the UPLB Perspective or the duly authorized representative;
- c. Present Chairperson of the University Student Council or the duly authorized representative;
- d. Present Chairpersons of the College Student Councils or the duly authorized representatives.
- e. College Secretaries of different Colleges.
- f. Head of the Student Organizations and Activities Division.

Section 11 The Central Electoral Board shall formulate and Election Code.

**ARTICLE VIII
DISCIPLINARY MEASURES**

Section 1 The USC and CSC shall have a committee that will take charge of its erring members.

- Section 2 Any constituent may file an impeachment or suspension procedure against any Council Member to the committee.
- Section 3 Any member may be impeached/suspended for any of the following reasons:
- a. Any willful violation of this constitution and the USC/CSC house rules;
 - b. Gross neglect of duty;
 - c. Any disciplinary behavior during any session of the USC/CSC;
 - d. Falsification of documents and malversation of funds;
 - e. Any other forms of misconduct which undermine the integrity of the Student Council.
- Section 4 Any suspension/impeachment will take effect after a 2/3 affirmative vote from the body.
- Section 5 All members have the right to vote in any of the disciplinary proceedings.
- Section 6 No member shall be subjected to disciplinary measures without due process of law.

**ARTICLE IX
FUNDS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL**

- Section 1 The general funds of the Student Councils shall consist of the P10.00 semestral fee collected by the Administration during every regular registration period and shall be deposited in a special fund in accordance with agreement between the University Administration and the Student Council for a direct collection scheme.
- Section 2 All money collected by authority of the Student Council for a special purpose shall be treated as a special fund and shall be paid out for such purpose only.
- Section 3 The Student Council shall formulate and adopt a budget which shall embody the work plan of the programs and projects together with estimated expenditures for the coming year. A copy of the budget shall be sent to the Director of the Office of Student Affairs for notation. No money shall be paid out of the funds of the Student Council except in pursuance of an appropriation authorized by the same.
- Section 4 All expenditures of the student council shall be audited by the ex-officio Auditor which shall be the ex-officio Auditor of the Student Council.
- Section 5 The balance of the funds of the Student Council for a specific term shall be returned as the funds of the Student Council for the next succeeding terms.

**ARTICLE X
AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1 Any constituent/member has the right to propose any amendment for the revision of the UPLB Student Council.
- Section 2 Any proposal shall be endorsed in writing one month before the regular session of the Student Legislative Chamber for the purpose of discussion and further deliberation and to facilitate the amending/revising process.
- Section 3 Amendment/revision will take effect after an affirmative vote of 50%+1 of the total number of votes cast during a University-wide plebiscite to be held for this purpose.

**ARTICLE XI
EFFECTIVITY**

- Section 1 The constitution of the UPLB Student Council shall take effect upon ratification in a university-wide plebiscite called for this purpose by a majority of 50%+1 of the total number of votes cast by constituents. It shall take precedence over all by-laws of College Student Councils in the University.