

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session**

**House Resolution No. 1569**

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**INTRODUCED BY KABATAAN PARTY-LIST REP. RAYMOND V. PALATINO**

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**A RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UP) ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE THE FULL AND UNHAMPERED OPERATION OF UP HIGH SCHOOL BASED IN UP CEBU COLLEGE IN RECOGNITION OF ITS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO POOR BUT DESERVING STUDENTS AND TO THE CEBU COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.**

**WHEREAS**, established in 1972, the University of the Philippines (UP) High School in Cebu City first served as a laboratory school for graduate students;

**WHEREAS**, in 1989, following the provisions of Republic Act No. 6655 or the Free Public Secondary Education Act, the UP Cebu administration adopted a 'democratized admission' scheme which prioritized the admission of poor but intellectually deserving students by setting a maximum annual family income of P150,000 for prospective enrollees;

**WHEREAS**, this poor-biased admission scheme effectively enabled the enrollment of bright students from low-income families making UP High School in the Cebu the only secondary school in Central Visayas favoring students with low to lower economic status;

**WHEREAS**, to comply with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Order No. 4, s. 1996 titled 'Phase-down of Secondary Programs to a Maximum of 500 Students of the Non-chartered Public Higher Education Institutions Offering Teacher Education Programs effective SY 1996-1997,' there has been a gradual reduction of enrollees in UP High School in Cebu resulting in a total enrollment of only 250 students for SY 2009-2010;

**WHEREAS**, many stakeholders – students, teachers, alumni and parents – in the UP Cebu Community fear that such downsizing would eventually lead to the closure of UP High School in Cebu as explicitly and implicitly recommended by UP Cebu College Dean Enrique Avila in various meetings and through his memorandum dated September 5, 2008;

**WHEREAS**, in addition to CHED's order to downsize, the UP administration has also cited the lack of funding and supposed irrelevance and non-performance of the secondary program as valid grounds for the eventual closure of UP High School in Cebu;

**WHEREAS**, owing to multiple mobilizations and lobbying efforts of the stakeholders, the *Sangguniang Barangay* of Barangay Lahug in Cebu City issued Resolution No. 002-08 on January 17, 2008 (attached) titled "REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES TO CONTINUE UP HIGH SCHOOL CEBU TO GIVE LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN THE CHANCE TO GET A SECONDARY EDUCATION TO PREPARE THEM FOR HIGHER LEARNING," urging the UP Board of Regents to "find ways and means to maintain the size and number of the UP High School in Cebu";

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Cebu, also filed a resolution on September 15, 2008 principally sponsored by Hon. Victor A. Maambong titled "A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COLLECTIVE SENTIMENT OF THIS AUGUST BODY IN JOINING SEVERAL SECTORS OF CEBUANO COMMUNITIES IN OPPOSING THE PLANNED CLOSURE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE

PHILIPPINES CEBU HIGH SCHOOL,” stating that closing down UP High School in Cebu “is too drastic a measure no different than cutting one's neck because of a headache” and suggesting instead that other measures be taken to address the school's lack of funding;

**WHEREAS**, regarding the supposed non-performance of the secondary program, it is worthwhile to note that UP High School in Cebu was the recipient of the Friends of Education for Teach Training and Consultancy from the Department of Education (DepEd) Cebu City Division in 2007, the *Garbo sa Sugbu* (Pride of Cebu) award from the Cebu Provincial Government in 2007, and Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) in 2007 and 2008 – the youngest TAYO so far;

**WHEREAS**, the UP High School in Cebu has also conducted and participated in various national and international training programs, seminars and conferences on teacher training with research component through, among others, its Professional Education Division's Memorandum of Agreement with the DepEd Cebu City Division and the City Government which aims to strengthen basic education, and has produced and developed instructional materials being used by different primary and secondary schools in the region;

**WHEREAS**, despite the abovementioned reasons, citations and appeals, Dean Avila again stated in a letter to UP President Emerlinda Roman dated January 8, 2010 that “the [UP Cebu] College shall soon propose the gradual phase out of the high school effective first semester of school year 2010-2011. With this, the high school admission test proposed for March 2010 will consequently be cancelled;”

**WHEREAS**, furthermore, on January 14, 2010, Dean Avila issued Memorandum No. EMA-2010-013, which states: “on the basis of (1) the faculty resources you require for the operation of the High School; (2) the profile of the current faculty complement servicing it; (3) the refocusing of the College's academic programs and plans; and (4) the priorities set by the UP System and the new UP Charter of 2008, we are no longer in the position to sustain ably the implementation of the high school. It will be an injustice to continue operating it if we can not even adequately supply the faculty you require. With this in mind, you are enjoined to suspend the acceptance of applicants for the proposed High School Admission Test (HSAT) to be administered on 6 March 2010 pending the resolution of the proposal to phase out the high school gradually;”

**WHEREAS**, it is clear that the downsizing or eventual closing of UP High School in Cebu due to the bases enumerated by Dean Avila in his recent memo will do more harm than good to the less fortunate but deserving children and families and for the Cebu Community as a whole;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives urge the University of the Philippines administration, in unity with the Cebu Community, stakeholders and concerned citizens, to continue the full and unhampered operation of UP High School in Cebu in recognition of its outstanding service to poor but deserving students and to the Cebu Community as a whole;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the UP administration in cooperation with stakeholders be urged to look for alternative solutions to the problems regarding the full operation of UP High School in Cebu;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that House Committee on Higher and Technical Education look into the Commission on Higher Education's orders concerning the operation of secondary schools in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in order to ensure the effective and unhampered operation of various secondary schools in SUCS nationwide.

*Adopted,*

**REP. RAYMOND V. PALATINO**  
**KABATAAN Party-list**