

**STATEMENT OF GRAVE CONCERN FROM THE UP DILIMAN UNIVERSITY  
COUNCIL ON THE PROPOSALS TO AMEND UP-PNP ACCORDS TO ALLOW  
POLICE ENTRY INTO UP CAMPUSES**

The 1982, 1989 and 1995 agreements between UP, the Department of National Defense and the Department of Interior and Local Government, which bar the police and military from entering any UP campus without permission, were promulgated to protect academic freedom and ensure the safety of UP constituents.

Recent pronouncements by Senator Ronald “Bato” de la Rosa, former chief of the PNP, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, and PNP Chief General Oscar Albayalde about the need for police presence in UP campuses, allegedly because of “leftist” recruitment of students, and the need to review or possibly override existing accords, have been met with strong resistance from faculty, students and staff.

**The UP Diliman University Council thus expresses grave concern about a meeting last August 28, between UP System Officials, the PNP and select members of the Board of Regents, which was immediately followed by news organizations quoting UP System officials and the Chair of the Board of Regents (BOR) announcing that UP “is open to the idea of training its police and security guards to beef up their capabilities” by the PNP and that the security forces of UP are not capable of addressing the alleged “prevalence” of illegal drugs on-campus.** The Council notes and commends the statements from the Student Regent and the Faculty Regent protesting their **exclusion** from the said meeting and expressing their concerns with the proposed links between UP and PNP. It further notes that the formal agenda and minutes of said meeting remain undisclosed.

**The University Council joins the Faculty and Student Regents in their concerns and registers its own alarm and protest over these events and pronouncements.** The deliberate exclusion of UP constituents from the August 28 meeting, the characterization without evidence of ‘prevalent’ illegal drug use on campus, and the suggestion that the PNP will be allowed entry into UP Campuses on the basis of this characterization, are direct threats to hard-won academic rights and freedoms and to the physical safety of UP constituents.

The characterization without evidence of prevalent illegal drug use on campus and the suggestion by UP System Officials that UP security personnel be trained by the PNP is particularly **reckless**, given the weight of international evidence that discredits the PNP’s approach to the ‘war on drugs’,<sup>1</sup> not to mention President Duterte’s own admission that

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<sup>1</sup> For being ineffective and for creating new problems such as powerful underground drug cartels, police and military corruption, and a breakdown of State functions, among others. See International Drug Policy

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the illegal drug problem not only persists but has **worsened** in his three years as President.<sup>2</sup> Well-documented incidents of ‘collateral damage’, especially of minors, should have been enough for UP system officials and BOR officials to reject any proposal for PNP presence on campus much less that UP security personnel adopt PNP approaches and techniques.

**The University Council therefore calls on UP System Officials and the BOR to immediately disclose what transpired during the Aug. 28 meeting, henceforth honor the principles of transparency and participative governance that have long-served this University, and stand firm against any attempt to review existing accords or extract permission for PNP presence on campus.**

**The University Council urges the BOR and UP System Officials to uphold the academic freedom of the University, resist any perceived or real attempts to circumscribe this freedom, and vigorously defend basic civil rights against warrantless surveillance, unreasonable searches, and threats to fundamental liberties and the lives and physical safety of UP’s constituents.**

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Consortium, Taking Stock: A Decade of Drug Policy, 2018 (<https://idpc.net/publications/2018/10/taking-stock-a-decade-of-drug-policy-a-civil-society-shadow-report>)

<sup>2</sup>“It has been three years since I took my oath of office, and it pains me to say that we have not learned our lesson. The illegal drug problem persists.” (State of the Nation Address, 2019, <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/07/22/19/full-text-dutertes-4th-sona>.) “There are billions worth of drugs. Before, it was only thousands. Drugs, I cannot control, .... even if I ordered the deaths of these idiots”, (“Duterte: Drug War Failed”, <https://www.manilatimes.net/2019/04/04/news/headlines/duterte-drug-war-failed/535127/535127/>)