

The Congress of the Republic of the Philippines, the Supreme Court and other lower courts, other government agencies and instrumentalities as well as any constitutional body may request the national university to conduct research or provide advice on any matter involving public policy. The budget for such research or request for advice shall come from the appropriation of these public agencies.

SEC. 8. *Social Responsibility.* – The national 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 national university may provide venues for student volunteerism.

SEC. 9. *Democratic Access.* – The national university shall take affirmative steps which may take the form of an alternative and equitable admissions process to enhance the access of disadvantaged students, such as indigenous peoples, poor and deserving students, including but not limited to valedictorians and salutatorians of public high schools, and students from depressed areas, to its programs and services.

No student shall be denied admission to the national university by reason solely of age, gender, nationality, religious belief, economic status, ethnicity, physical disability, or political opinion or affiliation.

The national university recognizes the separation of Church and State. It shall guarantee religious freedom and shall not discriminate on the basis of religion.

SEC. 10. *Sports.* – The national university shall undertake and support comprehensive sports programs that promote physical education, uphold excellence and encourage competitive participation in sports activities, instill school identity and solidarity, cultivate pride, self-discipline and teamwork which serve as a foundation for fostering active participation in the national university, as well as in nation building.

SEC. 11. *Institutional Autonomy as the National University.* – To provide greater flexibility, it shall be treated in a manner consistent with its institutional requirements as the national university by the service-wide agencies in the exercise of their respective jurisdiction. Taking into account national goals and priorities, it shall exclusively determine its teaching, research and extension thrusts, plans, policies, programs and standards, and, on the basis of such determination, the national university shall recommend its annual budget to the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Congress.

SEC. 12. *The Board of Regents.* –

(1) Composition – The governance of the national university is vested in a board of regents known as the “Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines System,” hereinafter referred to as the “Board,” composed of:

(a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education as Chairperson;

(b) The President of the University of the Philippines System as Co-Chairperson;

(c) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture;

(d) The Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

(e) The President of the U.P. Alumni Association, to serve as Alumni Regent during his or her incumbency in that position;

(f) One Faculty Regent representing all teaching personnel, chosen in accordance with the rules and qualification set by the constituent university councils to serve for a term of two (2) years;

(g) One Student Regent, to serve for a term of one (1) year, chosen by the students from their ranks in accordance