

Polytechnic University of the Philippines
Sandigan ng mga Mag-aaral para sa Sambayanan PUP
Mabini Campus, Sta. Mesa, Manila

DATE: **July 12, 2023**

TO: **PUP STUDENT COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**
Polytechnic University of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Polytechnic University of the Philippines

FROM: **Sandigan ng Mag-aaral para sa Sambayanan PUP (SAMASA PUP)**

SUBJECT: **PETITION TO ADJUST THE PUP STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION**
CALENDAR

This petition pertains to the **PUP Student Council Assembly Resolution No. 014, Series of A.Y. 2022-2023, “A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CALENDAR FOR THE PUP STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2023”** and **PUP Student Council Commission on Elections’ (PUP SC COMELEC)** publicized **“RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE STUDENT COUNCIL ACT NO. 002 SERIES OF 2022 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ELECTION CODE OF THE PUP STUDENT COUNCIL”**, the dispositive portion of which respectively reads:

“THAT, the following will be the timeframe or calendar for the PUP Student Council Election 2023:

May 8–July 15	PUP SC COMELEC en banc
May 8 onward	Period of Verification for Bonafide Student-Voters
July 1	Release of PUP SC COMELEC Implementing Rules and Regulations
July 17–21	Filing of COC
July 22–28	Deliberation of COC and Verification of Candidates’ Financial Liability
July 29	Release of Official List of Candidates
July 30–August 8	Campaign Period and LSC Miting De Avance
August 8	University-Wide Miting De Avance
August 9–13	Casting of Votes
August 14–August 18	Canvassing of Votes

August 19-23

Post-Electoral Protest

August 25

Proclamation of Elected Officials and Oath-Taking”

and

“ARTICLE III ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN PERIOD...

Section 5. Calendar for the Period of Election. – the calendar or timeframe of the PUP Student Council Elections shall be prescribed by the PUP SCA through a resolution. The start of the period of elections shall commence at least forty-five (45) days before the start of the new academic year. The PUP SC COMELEC can adjust the calendar given there is a possibility of force majeure or failure of elections.”

We, the Sandigan ng Mag-aaral para sa Sambayanan PUP (SAMASA PUP) as the oldest and broadest political alliance in the PUP System established in 1982 that forwards the right to education and genuine student representation, finds the aforementioned sections of their respective Act and Resolution from both institutional bodies to be severely affecting to the rights of the student body, to a better, fair and just practice of the yearly PUP Student Council Elections.

We must concern ourselves with the material conditions and harsh reality that our fellow students, as our constituents, are facing on a daily basis. With the current University Calendar for the Academic Year 2022-2023, it is positioned for the Final Examinations of Non-Graduating Students to be held from July 24, 2023 to July 30, 2023. This coincides with the Deliberation of Certificate of Candidacy and Verification of Candidates (July 22-28), Release of Official List of Candidates (July 29), and the first day of the Campaign Period and Local Student Council Miting de Avance (July 30). This severely hampers the participation and performance of all concerned parties for this year’s PUP Student Council Elections (PUP SCE 2023) namely;

1. Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of the PUP SC COMELEC
2. Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of the PUP SC Commission on Student Accreditation and Organization (PUP SC COSOA)
3. Commissioners of the PUP SC Commission on Audit (PUP SC COA)
4. Political parties, political coalitions, independent candidates aiming to participate in the PUP SCE 2023
5. Students of all undergraduate programs.

The participation and performance of the democratic process by the students is not the only factor that we are fielding in this petition. We are also considering the possible outcomes and repercussions towards pushing the initially agreed upon timeline, to the student body as the students prepare to take their Final Examinations for the Second Semester of this Academic Year. We must understand that this can result in lower submission rates and possible issues with candidates in their quest to comply with the set upon requirements, the possibility of lower voter turnouts due to several factors that were historically material to the overall outcome of the elections of the past years.

This is already on top of an existing conundrum that the PUP Student Council Assembly, PUP SC COMELEC, and PUP SC COA is facing. The sole (1) vacant seat for the Commissioner of the College of Tourism, Hospitality, and Transportation Management and the three (3) vacant seats in the PUP SC COA are also factors to be considered in this endeavors. The PUP SCA and PUP SC COMELEC must look back to the delays experienced in the PUP Student Council Elections of 2022, where due to a delay in the processing of the financial clearances of the candidates, the “MOTION TO REPEAL THE SCCC JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 01, SERIES OF 2022 AND THE IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF, INCLUDING THE LETTER FOR THE CLEARANCE OF LIABILITY, WITH A PRAYER FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, NOTICE OF HEARING, AND IMMEDIATE RENDER OF JUDGMENT”. The stated motion was deliberated and approved through Decision No. 02 by the entire PUP SC COMELEC and signed off by the previous PUP SC COA and PUP SC COSOA Chairperson.

With the aforementioned, we can further infer that the lack of publication and notice to the student body about the appointment of individuals to the vacancies stated earlier, would cause considerable delay to the entire electoral process. This petition aims to further preserve the sanctity of the electoral process by giving the PUP SC COMELEC, PUP SC COA, and PUP SCA, ample time to fill in the vacancies and craft mechanisms for the speedy deliverance of the roles they have to play for this year’s PUP SCE 2023.

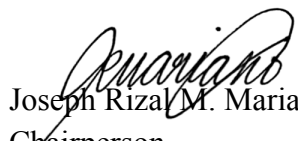
The PUP SC COMELEC has ample time to mitigate all possible issues and problems that can occur in the conduct of the PUP SCE 2023 as it is clearly stated in the Article III, Section 5. Calendar for the Period of Election that "The start of the period of elections shall commence at least forty-five (45) days before the start of the new academic year. The PUP SC COMELEC can adjust the calendar given there is a possibility of force majeure or failure of elections". Based on the released University Calendar, the start of the First Semester for the Academic Year 2023-2024 is set to be on October 8, 2023, wherein 45 days from that point is August 24, 2023.

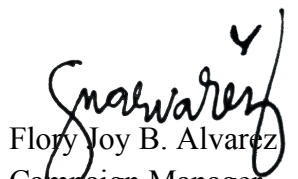
We hereby propose the following dates in line with our petition:


August 1-5	Filing of COC
August 6-12	Deliberation of COC and Verification of Candidates' Financial Liability
August 13	Release of Official List of Candidates
August 14-23	Campaign Period and LSC Miting De Avance
August 24	University-Wide Miting De Avance
August 25-29	Casting of Votes
August 30-September 3	Canvassing of Votes
September 4-8	Post-Electoral Protest
September 9	Proclamation of Elected Officials and Oath-Taking

With all this considered, we are praying and hoping that the PUP Student Council Commission on Elections en Banc and the PUP Student Council Assembly, through the issuance of a Resolution and its imposition, **move the start of the filing period to August 1 and adjust the rest of the electoral calendar** to ensure a higher voter turnout, the filling of the vacancies in all the Commissions, and a much more improved student council elections for the year 2023.

Serve the people,


Joseph Rizal M. Mariano
Chairperson
Sandigan ng Mag-aaral para sa Sambayanan PUP (SAMASA PUP)


Flory Joy B. Alvarez
Campaign Manager
Sandigan ng Mag-aaral para sa Sambayanan PUP (SAMASA PUP)


Neil Kervin N. Surigao
Campaign Manager
Sandigan ng Mag-aaral para sa Sambayanan PUP (SAMASA PUP)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence L. Parmisana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Lawrence L. Parmisana

Head Paralegal

Sandigan ng Mag-aaral para sa Sambayanan PUP (SAMASA PUP)