

**University Council Resolution on the Reversal of the Finding of Cheating Against Mr. Kevin Velasco**

Whereas, the University finds its core values and existence gravely threatened by cases of intellectual dishonesty both within its walls and in society at large;

Whereas, the University would not have the moral ascendancy to play a leading role in upholding honor and excellence if it did not consistently, decisively and swiftly deal with cases of dishonesty within its own ranks;

Whereas, the President of the University has reversed the Student Disciplinary Tribunal's (SDT) finding of cheating in the case of Mr. Kevin Velasco reached after a long and tedious process of investigation from April 2008 to August 2009 by describing the the testimony of the student-witness, Mr. Philip Libre as not believable and thus excluding it from consideration in the case against Mr. Kevin Velasco;

Whereas, the judgment of cheating against Mr. Velasco was affirmed by the Executive Committee of this Council;

Whereas, this reversal of the finding of cheating, in effect, disregards the University Council's authority to make recommendations on all academic matters, including student discipline and the recommendation of students for graduation and the conferment of honors upon them;

Whereas, this action may create ambiguity about the University's adherence to its code of honor and excellence;

**IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING:**

The University Council of Diliman strongly protests the reversal of the judgment of cheating in the case of Mr. Kevin Velasco;

The University Council strongly objects to and rejects the action to discredit Mr. Philip Libre as a witness in order to exonerate Mr. Kevin Velasco from the SDT finding of cheating;

The University Council seeks faster and more direct communication between deans, the Chancellor, and the President in significant or sensitive cases to ensure that the Council's autonomy and power over academic matters remain protected and the University's common values are upheld;

Finally, the University Council encourages all members of the academic community to remain steadfast in their commitment to denounce dishonesty whenever they find it and to defend the University from assaults to honor and excellence coming from the outside and from within.

13 December 2010