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First Regular Session )



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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 488

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE, AND YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED INCREASES OF MISCELLANEOUS FEES IMPOSED BY SOME COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, WHICH ADD TO THE BURDEN OF HIGH TUITION COSTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RATIONALIZING AND ITEMIZING ALLOWABLE MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES IN THE INTEREST OF TRANSPARENCY**

*Whereas*, Article XIV, Sec. 1 of the Philippine Constitution states, "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all";

*Whereas*, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) which governs public and private institutions in all post-secondary and graduate education, approved an average 10 percent tuition hike for 281 private tertiary schools in the coming school year;

*Whereas*, the rise in tuition costs has led to the decrease in enrollment in private institutions in the last decade, from a 68 percent enrollment share in 2000 to 63.9 percent in the last school year;<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, CHED is the approving authority when it comes to tuition hikes, but has no power to regulate or evaluate miscellaneous fee increases;

*Whereas*, the nonregulation of miscellaneous fees has given some colleges and universities the freedom to impose redundant, excessive, and often ridiculous charges, which they lump together in so-called miscellaneous fees;

*Whereas*, examples of these absurd charges are air-con fees (for air-conditioned classes), energy fees (for when the students charge their cellphones and other electronic gadgets in school), internet/email fees, sports/athletic fees, UAAP fee, etc.;

*Whereas*, other schools also do not provide details or itemize the fees included in the miscellaneous charges they impose on students;

*Whereas*, schools advertising 'no tuition hike' but conceal additional and hidden charges in the guise of miscellaneous fees mislead students and parents alike;

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<sup>1</sup> Philippine Daily Inquirer, *Hidden fees add to students' woes*, p. A2 May 22, 2011

*Whereas*, high miscellaneous fees make it more difficult to cope with the rising costs of tertiary education;

*Whereas*, schools should practice transparency in the imposition of miscellaneous fees by identifying one by one the charges covered by such;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Education, Arts and Culture, and Youth, Women and Family Relations, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported increases of miscellaneous fees imposed by some colleges and universities, which add to the burden of high tuition costs, with the end in view of rationalizing and itemizing allowable miscellaneous charges in the interest of transparency.

Adopted,

  
**MANNY VILLAR**  
Senator