

Certification No. 33

2010-2011 Academic Year

I, **CARMEN I. RAFFUCCI**, Secretary of the Academic Senate of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, **HEREBY CERTIFY THAT:**

During an extraordinary meeting held on November 4, 2010, the Academic Senate considered **Item No. 1: The current situation of the pending accreditation process before the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), including all matters regarding the written report submitted by the Visiting Team of said agency and the reply submitted on behalf of the University of Puerto Rico, and approved the following:**

Resolution

- Whereas:** On June 24, 2010, after the Office of the President of the University of Puerto Rico voluntarily submitted a report on June 1, the "Middle States Commission on Higher Education" (MSCHE) put ten out of the eleven units of the University on probation.
- Whereas:** As a result of that decision, the Office of the President of the UPR and his team opted to submit a consolidated report to the MSCHE responding to the institution's non-compliance with Standard 4: Leadership and Governance, Standard 11: Educational Offerings, and Standard: 3 Institutional Resources.
- Whereas:** The consolidated work plan submitted by the Office of the President and the Board of Trustees to the accrediting agency proposes actions that include the UPR System as a whole.
- Whereas:** The Río Piedras Campus is one of the campuses that MSCHE has put on probation.



*Senado Académico
Secretaría*

Whereas: The Academic Senate of the Río Piedras Campus has not participated in the formulation of the plans and proposals presented before the MSCHE by the Office of the President and his team.

Whereas: The exercise of self-evaluation inherent to every accreditation process, the result of which is always fruitful, becomes especially relevant during times of acute economic crisis, when budgetary deficiencies put to test the institution's commitment to the values and aspirations that it professes and that characterize it.

Whereas: The work plan submitted to the MSCHE includes measures such as the use of municipal and state police, and the implementation of Certification No. 90 (2004-2005) of the Board of Trustees, both of which contradict the non-confrontation policy.

Whereas: Said plan also proposes the creation of various *ad-hoc* committees to evaluate the regulatory norms of all participative governing bodies of the UPR, in total disregard of the Academic Senates, the University Board, and the Student Councils.

Whereas: Said plan also creates *ad-hoc* committees to evaluate the consultation processes for appointing higher officials and to redefine guiding principles of utmost importance to our institution, such as its autonomy, and the concept of "open" university, among others.

Whereas: The faculty and student representatives at the University Board have tried, without success, to warn the President of the errors that this action plan contains. Their efforts, nonetheless, have been thwarted due to a virtual hijack by the higher management of all activities leading to the re-accreditation of the University. The faculty representatives have been totally sidelined from the process, despite that the University Board, as stipulated by University Regulations and Law, should maintain the system's integrity regarding planning as a whole, and should advise the President in matters

pertaining the University's academic, administrative, and financial affairs.

Whereas: The report submitted by the MSCHE Visiting Team concludes that there is not enough evidence of compliance with Standard 4: Leadership and Governance. As of Standard 3, the Team determined that the provided information was insufficient to evidence compliance.

Whereas: The President and his team submitted a response to said report granting no participation whatsoever to the faculty representatives at the Board of Trustees and the University Board. Finally, on November 3, 2010, the Board of Trustees approved, with eight (8) votes in favor and three (3) against, the response and action plan that the President submitted to the MSCHE.

Whereas: On November 18, 2010 MSCHE intends to evaluate and decide on the probation status of the university. Considering the contents of the report submitted by the Visiting Team, it is reasonable to infer that MSCHE will maintain, at least, the probation status for the UPR.

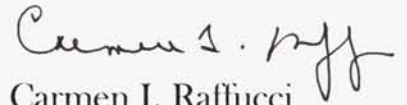
THEREFORE: The Academic Senate of the Río Piedras Campus hereby declares that:

1. We do not endorse, nor have endorsed the action plans proposed by the President of the UPR and his team, as submitted to the accreditation agency.
2. We do not endorse the *ad-hoc* committees proposed on the aforementioned work plans.
3. We do not endorse the response letter, including all its appendixes, that was sent by the President to the MSCHE on October 21, 2010, questioning, among other things, the integrity of the Visiting Team.

THEREFORE: The Academic Senate of the Río Piedras Campus supports the petition submitted by the faculty to the University Board requesting that said body, in

consultation with the Academic Senates, analyzes, studies, and recommends an action plan to overcome the University's probation status.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I issue this Certification with the seal of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, on the fifth day of the month of November, two thousand and ten.



Carmen I. Raffucci
Senate Secretary

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