

November 26, 2014

Dr. Jorge I. Sánchez Colón
President
Board of Governors
University of Puerto Rico
P.O. Box 23400
San Juan, PR 00931-3400


Dear Dr. Sánchez:

I am writing to express my support for the efforts currently being undertaken by the Puerto Rican Association of University Professors (APPU) to achieve collective bargaining for the Faculty at the University of Puerto Rico.

In an increasing number of institutions of higher education nationwide, all faculty members negotiate their terms and conditions of employment through collective bargaining. The AAUP believes that collective bargaining is the best vehicle for protecting academic freedom and shared governance, both of which are crucial to protecting the quality of higher education. Unions are also playing an important role in improving economic security for those who teach, including part-time faculty and full-time non-tenure track faculty. As the *1940 Statement on Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure* noted, economic security is essential to attract “men and women of ability” to our profession. Thus, collective bargaining can be an effective tool for advancing goals that we all share as well as promoting *effective communication* between faculty and university administrators.

Therefore, I urge you to accept the petition for voluntary recognition presented by APPU. In doing so, you will enable UPR to join the ever-growing group of universities and colleges that recognize the right of faculty members to negotiate their terms and conditions of employment, and you will clearly signal the faculty that your administration welcomes a new era of constructive faculty-administration relations at your University.

Sincerely,



Rudy Fichtenbaum
Professor of Economics
President, American Association of University Professors

C: APPU