



University of Puerto Rico
Mayaguez Campus
ACADEMIC SENATE

CERTIFICATION NUMBER 12-67

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Academic Senate of the Mayaguez Campus of the University of Puerto Rico, **CERTIFY** that in an ordinary meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2012, this organism **APPROVED** this letter:

On April 23 of 2012, NSF's Budget, Finance and Award Management (BFA) office suspended all awards to the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) at its Central Administration and the Mayaguez Campus. As you are surely aware, the present suspension affects a very substantial portion of scientific research and education efforts at the Mayaguez Campus. It has already adversely impacted our researchers and graduate students in terms of lost opportunities and, if extended, will threaten our graduate programs in STEM disciplines. The suspension was caused mainly by inadequacies in the time and effort reporting systems at both UPR sites. We understand that several inadequacies were systemic, and included a lack of sufficient progress in implementing the Corrective Action Plan submitted by UPR, accepted by NSF on February 3, 2011.

Since the date of the suspension, the Mayaguez campus has implemented a time and effort reporting system which is believed to constitute an interim compliant solution which corrects inadequacies pointed out by BFA. A permanent solution will require implementation of a fully integrated and on-line system encompassing all 11 campuses of UPR plus Central Administration, and hence must depend on actions taken by Central Administration as well as all other UPR campuses, which are not currently suspended.

During the last five months, the Mayaguez Campus officials charged with this task have taken actions and diligently applied appropriate procedures designed to correct deficiencies and –as far as we are aware of– have promptly submitted to BFA all required documents –including any requested clarifications –for BFA to evaluate whether in fact the applied interim solution complies with the stated requirements. Unfortunately, it is not in our power to correct any remaining deficiencies which correspond to actions which only Central Administration has authority to undertake. While we are well aware of the obligation to fully satisfy all requirements stated by BFA, we believe that –within the statutory limits of our Campus officials– the Mayaguez Campus has made every possible effort in ensuring compliance and regaining the trust of the agency.

Considering all these facts, we hereby request that the agency separates consideration of the cases of the Mayaguez Campus and UPR Central Administration with respect to the present suspension. Furthermore, we would be grateful to henceforth receive direct communication concerning any extant deficiencies which could still impede ending the suspension of the Mayaguez Campus. We would also welcome a site visit by BFA officials to our Campus at the earliest opportunity.

It witness whereof, I issue and remit the present certification to the corresponding President of the University of Puerto Rico, Members of the Board of Regents, NSF Director, NSF Deputy Director, BFA Chief Financial Officer, DGA/BFA Division Director, NSF General Inspector, UPR Vice-president of Research and Technology, university authorities, under the Seal of the University of Puerto Rico, on the twenty six days of November, 2012, in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Judith Ramirez Valentin

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Secretary

