

November 13th, 2016

José B. Carrión, III
Chairman
Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico
comments@oversightboard.pr.gov



Dear Mr. Carrión:

My name is Giancarlo Colberg Ferrer and I am writing on behalf of the Student Council of the University of Puerto Rico School of Law (UPR). We submit our comments with the intention of informing the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico our opinion and concerns regarding the Fiscal Plan and its possible effects on the University. First and foremost, we would like to firmly establish that we consider P.R.O.M.E.S.A. an abuse of the United States Congress's power and we affirm our position against the Fiscal Board. That being said, as student representatives, we have the duty of serving the best interests of the University. That is the purpose of this letter.

We are aware that the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is facing fiscal and economic challenges. We also know that the University is financed, in great part, by the State's income, as is the case of many public higher education institutions. We believe that the University is one of the most important educational, social, and economic institutions in Puerto Rico. Right now, said institution is working on several initiatives in the fields of Health, Social Sciences, Business, Public Administration and Humanities.

The University serves Puerto Rico and its people in different ways. Most importantly, our University gives students from low income families an opportunity to achieve a high-caliber college education at a low cost. That alone makes the UPR the most direct path towards social mobility in Puerto Rico. Raising tuition fees would be detrimental to the UPR's mission of serving the economically disadvantaged. We strongly oppose any reductions of funds received by the University as product of the 9.6% financing formula and other special assignments destined to the UPR's treasury. We also oppose freezing said formula. We believe that the income based on the 9.6% formula should

depend on the State's actual income. If the income increases, the funding of the UPR should increase with it. If the income is reduced, the UPR should make the corresponding adjustments. That is the sole purpose of the formula. Freezing the formula causes a disconnect between the State income and the funds received by the UPR.

Because we believe there are other areas that can be considered for improvement, we remain firm in our belief that the University should make administrative adjustments without raising tuition. That being said, we are willing to dive into a deeper discussion of these options upon your request.

Finally, as representatives of the University of Puerto Rico School of Law student body, our Student Council affirms the following:

- Our purpose is to help the UPR's administration reach its maximum efficiency under current administrative structures;
- We oppose any increase in tuition;
- We oppose the closing of campuses;
- We support the consideration of mergers of administrative offices, where applicable;
- We oppose the freezing of the 9.6% formula;
- We believe that the funds that the UPR receives from the government should depend on State income;
- We are available to present alternatives in order to improve the UPR's efficiency.

Sincerely,



Giancarlo Colberg Ferrer
President
Student Council
University of Puerto Rico School of Law