

MEETING HELD AT THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANICAL ARTS,
SEPTEMBER 6, 1957

This has been reported by the following persons who attended the meeting: Dr. Mariano García Rodríguez, Head, Mathematics Department; Dr. Ovidio García Molinary, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture; Pedro Janier Boscio, in charge of the Department of Social and Cultural Activities.

It was informed to Prof. Charneco by Professor Rafael Pietri Oms, Faculty Representative in the University Board at Mayagüez.

On September 6, 1957, Chancellor Benítez met at the College of Agriculture with the Vice-Chancellor, the Deans, some heads of Departments, "would be" student leaders in a possible future strike, and some friends.

He indicated to those present that he had won the battle with the Popular Democratic Party when he recently presented the leaders of that party a letter written to him by the President of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities, which said that if he (Chancellor Benítez) was dismissed, the Association would withdraw its recognition from the University of Puerto Rico. Upon becoming aware of this, the leaders of the Popular Party told him (Chancellor Benítez), to forget about the fight that had been going on between him and the Party leaders, and to proceed to work and plan things for the University for the next ten years.

The Chancellor reported that the Association's letter was the first card he intended to use in the University affair. He assured those present that, when he read the letter from the President of the Association to the Party leaders, these felt like "birds with clipped wings" and had no alternative but to accept defeat.

In view of the attitude of the leaders of the Popular Party, the Chancellor asked those present at the meeting to remain calm, not to write letters of protest nor to manifest their discontentment in any form, and to feel completely assured that he had won.

(It is rumored at the Mayaguez campus that the Chancellor is trying to have the Ford and Carnegie Foundations withdraw their contributions to the University for future projects if he is dismissed from the Chancellorship.)