

DE: "EL MUNDO"
2 de septiembre de 1957.

Superior Council Petitioned

NO AUTHENTIC SELF-GOVERNMENT AT UNIVERSITY, SAYS GROUP OF 40 UPR TEACHERS

A group of 40 teachers of the University of Puerto Rico has addressed a petition to the Superior Educational Council, stating that "there is no authentic self-government" at the University and that "on the contrary, an undemocratic system of government has been created there."

The teachers assure the Council that they can substantiate their charge with evidence they can produce at the Council's request.

Copies of the following statement were released to the press through Mr. Harris F. Bunker, former registrar of the UPR:

"We are facing a grave crisis at the University. As faculty members we declare that it is not incumbent upon us to consider the political side of the question. We believe that the crisis is rooted to a deeper reality—namely, that absence of authentic self-government at the University has created therein an undemocratic system of government. We maintain that there is no real self-government at the University, because there is no fair distribution of power among the different bodies integrating the institution, and because the faculty and the students are prevented from taking part in its government as they are legitimately entitled to do. We also maintain that, independently of the lack of true self-government at the University, its administration has committed serious academic and administrative errors and faults that are not justifiable even under the existing Act.

"To rescue the essence of university life that is now in danger, it is indispensable, therefore, to cure the evil at the root, by means of an effective reform based on amendments to the Act of the University of Puerto Rico and the adoption of all such measures as may guarantee the creation of the atmosphere that should prevail at the University. We believe that the atmosphere of tension, malaise, and improper practices existing at the University is highly prejudicial to the best interests of the institution and the country. It is necessary to re-establish institutional normality as soon as possible.

"We the undersigned publicly state that we are all teachers of the different faculties of the Rio Piedras campus and the School of Medicine, and that we have great experience in and exact knowledge of the problems of the University."

Signers:

Harris F. Bunker, Jorge Luis Porras Cruz, Francisco Garriga, José Guillermo Frontera, Esteban Núñez Meléndez, José A. Gautier, Angeles Pastor, Aida S. Candelas, Arturo Santana, Enrique Laguerre, Manuel García Díaz, Rosa Celeste Marín, Herminia Vázquez, José Conde Marín, Adolfo Jiménez Hernández.

F. Manrique Cabrera, Angel Luis Morales, Manuel Siaca Rivera, Josefina Freiria de Cabrera, Ana María Losada, Francisco López Cruz, Elsa Castro Pérez, Mariano A. Feliciano.

Pablo García Díaz, Diego Conde Marín, Luis Rivera del Olmo, Manuel Carrasquillo Herpén, Alfredo Pifero.

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Miguel Nieves Aponte, Juan Kalil, Domingo Rosado, José Hernández Romero, Juan Cruz Jiménez, Irving Fox, María Quintana Martínez.

Rafael Mariñelarena, Renato Royo, Angeles Cebollero, Mariana Goetsch, Néstor M. Rodríguez, Juan Luis Brussi.