

Quotes of endorsement:

“A decade since the creation of the Fiscal Oversight Management Board, the University of Puerto Rico has been gutted and dismantled in the name of ‘fiscal efficiency’ with nothing to show for in return. The Board’s insistence on punishing the University, for no other reason other than being Puerto Rico’s main public university system and its only research institution, has made higher education inaccessible to the young and aspiring in the archipelago and worsen working conditions and quality of life for faculty and non-faculty workers. The Board’s ‘right sizing’ approach has stagnated faculty wages since 2013, while it’s system-wide hiring freezes has resulted in insufficient faculty members to ensure a quality education, sustain key academic programs, and further research and development in Puerto Rico. This situation has rendered the University to rely on adjunct faculty that are paid meager wages and are unable to make ends meet, while compromising the institution’s ability to retain tenured faculty and ensure its competitiveness for innovation. It is evident that the route established by the FOMB for the UPR in these past 10 years is an unmitigated failure. It is time to put money back to Puerto Rico’s main infrastructure for social mobility: the University of Puerto Rico” -**María del Mar Rosa Rodríguez, President of the Faculty Union at the UPR (APPU)**

"The faculty members are clear: the lack of resources provided to the University are severely impeding our ability to fulfill our teaching, research, and community service missions, and we therefore urge the Congress to work with the FOMB to restore funding."- **Dr. David Sotomayor, Asociación de Profesores y Profesoras del Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez (APRUM) President and Professor of Agricultural Sciences**

"Tuition increases discourage students from seeking the higher education that is vital for them as individuals and for the Island as a whole. Innumerable faculty positions are filled by temporary staff, earning near poverty wages, while offers for the few available permanent positions are declined for lack of competitive salaries. Meanwhile, classroom, research, and library infrastructure are in need of renovation. The time is now to invest in the UPR to support innovative research and teaching that will meet the many environmental, social, and economic challenges of our day in Puerto Rico."- **Dr. Christopher Papadopoulos, Professor of Engineering and member of the Academic Senate at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus**

“The decline in the student’s enrollment in the University of Puerto Rico responds to a lack of resources for student development and unsustainable credit costs. A budget increase is necessary and imminent to cover institutional needs and guarantee the right to a quality education for the Puerto Rican youth.” – **Dyamar Cruz, President of the Student’s General Council of the UPR at Río Piedras**