

RESOLUTION

Calling for solidarity with the students of University of Puerto Rico

April 19, 2017

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WHEREAS since 2006 the economy of the United States territory of Puerto Rico has been immersed in an economic recession.

WHEREAS Puerto Rico's \$72 billion debt has been deemed unpayable due revenue shortfalls and the island's high obligations relative to their income.

WHEREAS the United States Congress approved Public Law 1114-187, PROMESA, that imposed a Fiscal Oversight and Management Board (FOMB), comprised of 7 individuals, to oversee the island's government and finances.

WHEREAS the FOMB requested that Governor Ricardo Roselló-Nevares submitted a fiscal plan with extreme investment reduction in social services, government aid, and public corporations. The FOMB has been granted power by Congress to overrule the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branch of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico if the boards demands are not met.

WHEREAS Governor Ricardo Roselló-Nevares alongside the FOMB demanded and presented a \$450 million reduction to the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) throughout the next five fiscal years. Currently, the UPR receives \$833 million dollars where the proposed budget cuts will decrease its state allotted budget by 54%. If the University were to close 8 of its 11 campuses throughout the island, they would still not meet the budget cut goals imposed by the State Government and FOMB.

WHEREAS the proposed budget cuts to the university system threatens the education of the more than 60,000 students, its Middle States accreditation, almost 90% of the islands research and trademarks, and academic and professional opportunities of a complete generation of Puerto Ricans.

WHEREAS over 10,000 University of Puerto Rico students attended a National General Assembly meeting on April 5th, 2017, and approved an indefinite strike as means of protesting the proposed tuition increase, the budget cuts to the university system, the governments opposition to a public audit of the public debt, call for a University Reform of its institutions, protect the incoming student enrollment, and recurring political interference of the UPR's governance structure.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Syracuse University Senate sympathizes with the student body at the University of Puerto Rico, and wholeheartedly disapproves the proposed budget cuts that threatens the education, research, and existence of the public institution. Also, that the Syracuse University Senate, honoring our mission and values, makes a stand against any attempt by any administration to limit higher education, actions that hinder opportunities of professional and academic growth for all.