



Oficina del Rector

Universidad de Puerto Rico
Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez
P.O. Box 5000
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico 00681-5000

Copia
Archivo

May 2, 1995

Dr. Carlos H. Hortas
Dean of Humanities and Arts
Hunter College
695 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear doctor Hortas:

We have studied the draft document of the Report of the Middle States Association Evaluation Team, and we are pleased to submit the following comments and corrections.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION

P. 4, Section A, first sentence

Computer Engineering should be included among the ABET accredited programs.

P. 5, Section C

The total of full time students is 629, not 329.

P. 6, Section E

Number of Volumes	1,020,309
Number of Titles	133,655
Number of Current Serial Subscriptions.....	2,967

The first two numbers were involuntarily transposed. We are asking MSA to correct these in the Institutional Profile of February 1995.

BUDGETING, FINANCIAL PLANNING, AND FACILITIES

P. 12, 5th paragraph

The last sentence states that a formal partnership agreement with a corporate practitioner of TQM would benefit the campus. Indeed, we believe this is very true, and for the last year we have been "mentored" on our TQM initiative by SmithKline and Beecham Pharmaceuticals, located in Cidra, P.R. As a matter of fact, on March 31, (two days after the Evaluation Visit), the Chancellor's staff participated in a seminar this firm sponsored on the subject of TQM and Education.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

P. 20, 1st paragraph

The Aquaculture Program belongs to the Department of Marine Sciences, not to the Agricultural Experiment Station.

P. 20, 3rd paragraph

Although we acknowledge the curriculum does need to be updated, at present there are at least four courses taught in international affairs.

P. 21, 2nd paragraph

Low enrollment at the CAgS is a fact, but it is a national trend.

5th paragraph

The Pre-Veterinary program has indeed the highest entrance requirements due to the highly competitive nature of Veterinary Medicine programs in the United States. The 108 credits which are presently required in the program include, in addition to specialty courses, the established English and Spanish requirements that students must take as part of the core curriculum. These courses may range from six to twelve extra credits. We are aware, however, that some modifications to the program may help ease transfers, and increase enrollment. During the past year a proposal for a curricular revision has been underway to address this concern.

The actual number of our students entering Veterinary Medical Programs in North America during the past eight years is eighteen (18). This fact was misstated in Table 7 of the College of Agricultural Sciences Self-Study Report. Most of these students have completed their Veterinary degree.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

P. 23, Last paragraph

The report mentions the need to initiate planning for a new facility for the Biology Department. Such planning, with the involvement of the entire department, had already been initiated before the arrival of the Middle States Team.

P. 24, 3rd paragraph

Concerning the disparity between the "internal" research, "external" research, and teaching assistants' salaries: prior to the Evaluation Visit, the disparity between "internal" and teaching assistants' salaries was solved. As to "external" research assistants' salaries, that matter is beyond the control of the UPRM administration, since it is strictly a matter of negotiation between the person who receives the grant and the grant issuing agency. The receiver of a grant can pay a graduate student as much as he or she can get the granting agency to approve.

Also, we would like to clarify that decisions regarding teacher assistants' salaries are made by the Department Heads, not by the Graduate Studies Office.

P. 25, 5th paragraph

The number of years set as a limit to complete a graduate degree are judged to be reasonable by the Academic Senate, which approved the initial rules, and by the Dean of Academic Affairs and the Director of Graduate Studies. The authorities have been flexible in granting exceptions when they can be justified. We understand that complaints arose because the rules were interpreted much too flexibly, to the point that it was questionable if rules existed at all.

P. 27, 4th paragraph

We believe that the fact that a faculty meeting was delayed because of inadequate meeting space does not represent sufficient evidence to substantiate the statement in the first sentence. We do not object to the statement regarding the inadequacy of classroom and office space, but we recommend that more substantial reasons be stated.

P. 27, 7th paragraph

The process of examining the core curriculum in the College of Arts and Sciences began about a year ago. The present Dean has made this a top priority for his faculty.

P. 29, 1st paragraph

The Arecibo Observatory is sponsored by NSF, not WSF.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

P. 30, section h)

Construction of the new building has not yet been scheduled. Architectural plans are being prepared.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

P. 32, 4th paragraph

We suggest that the first sentence read "Major improvements in the availability of hardware and software, and in student access to computers have occurred recently in all academic departments except one (chemical engineering, where leadership in assessing needs has not kept pace with improvements made in other departments.)"

In the past, there may have been a problem of direction; however, a need identification is presently underway.

The second sentence in this paragraph should read, "The basic Computer programming course offered by General Engineering is changing from Fortran to C and C++ (about half of the students now get C or C++)."

The course is not available for freshmen and the most recent statistics (second semester, 1994-95) show that half of the students are enrolled in sections offering C or C++.

P.32, 5th paragraph

We find the last sentence in this paragraph is not accurate. Although a strategic plan for faculty recruitment may not exist, faculty that are recruited should fill needs perceived in specific areas. Thus, specialty is a major concern for recruiting and hiring.

Dr. Carlos H. Hortas
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LIBRARY

P. 36, 2nd paragraph

The "business administration computer labs" do not belong to the General Library. Either the expression should be eliminated from this section or the title of the section should read: "Library and Other Learning Resources."

4th paragraph

The first sentence of this paragraph is inaccurate. As expressed in page 149 of the UPRM's Self-Study Report, (second sentence, first paragraph), at present, Library staff is not adequate in size according to the ACRL standards. Two persons were contracted recently to substitute those on leave.

6th paragraph

"...approximately 2,967 serial subscription titles,..." This is the accurate and correct number of subscription titles as quoted in the General Description section on page 6. This is not an approximation.

P. 38, 1st paragraph

See comments on P. 36, 4th paragraph above.

OUTREACH

P. 34

We suggest that greater emphasis be given to the outreach efforts of the Sea Grant Program. We believe that it is one of the strongest on campus and merits particular commendation.

We hope that our comments may be of help to you in completing your responsibility. Thanking you for your attention to our suggestions, I remain

Cordially,

Stuart J. Ramos
Chancellor