



September 29, 2003

Ms. Jean Abnet Morse
Executive Director
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680

Dear Ms. Morse:

I am pleased to include the attached follow-up report along with the documents that were specifically requested in the letter dated November 20, 2001 from William B. DeLauder, Chair, MSCHE, to the then Interim Chancellor, Prof. Pablo Rodríguez in response to the Periodic Review Report that we submitted in June 2001. These documents are:

- (1) Development and Implementation of a Comprehensive Institutional Strategic Plan
- (2) Development and Implementation of a Comprehensive Outcomes Assessment Plan including Student Learning Outcomes.

Also, as mentioned by Ms. Carmella R. Morrison in her communication dated July 7, 2003, I have included four (4) complete sets of these documents along with the most recent Institutional Profile 2002-2003. This Institutional profile 2002-2003 was also sent earlier to Mr. Tze Joe, Information Associate at MSCHE, by our Office of Institutional Research & Planning on May 12, 2003. Furthermore, we are sending one complete set of these documents also to the Puerto Rico Council of Higher Education (PRCHE).

The attached report explains the steps that we took in developing and implementing an overall institutional assessment plan with a separate detailed plan for the assessment of student learning outcomes, the implementation of the existing strategic plan, which has been in effect since 1997, and finally, the development of a new strategic plan proposal. The Administrative Board of the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez has approved these two assessment plans and the proposed new strategic plan. Our College of Engineering went through a reaccreditation process during November 2002 by ABET's Engineering Accreditation Commission in accordance with their new

Engineering Criteria 2000. Experience gathered through this process was useful in developing the assessment plans at the institutional level.

In January this year, I appointed members to the new UPRM-MSCHE Steering Team to not only prepare for the reaccreditation visit in 2005, but to develop and permanently institutionalize the assessment plans as an integral part of our campus culture for *continuous quality improvement* through our upcoming **Continuous Improvement Educational Initiative (CIEI) Office**. This nascent office counts on a modest institutional operating budget, but has recently been promised some additional support from companies such as *General Motors* and *Microsoft* in its goal to disseminate the details of these assessment plans to the unit levels.

We plan to submit the Self-Study Report for the 2005 visit on schedule. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything else that may be required as we go along this process.

Sincerely,



Jorge I. Vélez Arocho, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Cc: Dr. Luz D. Talavera, Director, Licensing & Accreditation, PRCHE
Dr. Anand D. Sharma, Coordinator, UPRM-MSCHE Steering Team
Dr. Mildred Chaparro, Dean of Academic Affairs, UPRM
Dr. Antonio González Quevedo, Director, Office of Institutional Research & Planning, UPRM