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BROOKLYN COLLEGE

INSTITUTE OF
PUERTO RICAN STUDIES
BROOKLYN COLLEGE
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BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11210
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January 29, 1970

President John Kneller
Brooklyn College of the
City University of New York
Bedford Avenue and Avenue H
Brooklyn, New York 11210

Dear President Kneller:

At the meeting which you recently had with the Board of Directors of the Institute of Puerto Rican Studies, at which I also was present, the Board requested that action be taken to establish a Department of Puerto Rican Studies. This letter is by way of a more formal and official request for a Department.

As you know, the problems encountered by an Institute in trying to develop a curriculum of Puerto Rican Studies without having the ability to either offer courses or hire faculty, are overwhelming. It is doubtful that we can succeed in establishing a permanent and serious academic program if we continue to have difficulties in getting courses approved and offered within existing Departments. In addition, the relationship between an Institute and a Department, and the lines of authority pertaining to each where courses and faculty are concerned, become diffused and problematic. A much more logical and more clearly defined relationship would result if there were a Department of Puerto Rican Studies which could then relate to other Departments.

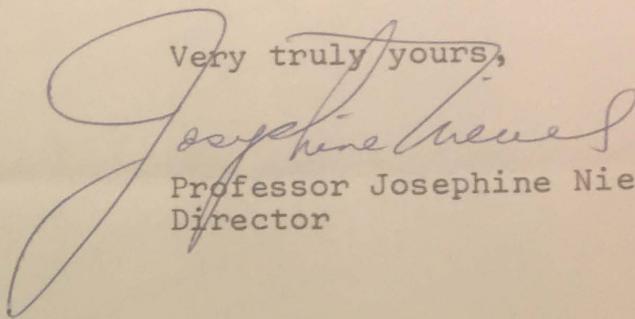
As an example of the kind of difficulties we are encountering, I refer you to a copy of a letter I received from the Chairman of the Sociology Department in which he states that the Sociology Department will not offer any additional courses on Puerto Rican Studies until the relationships between the Institute and the Department are clarified. I can foresee innumerable problems arising from differences in priorities, requirements, and emphasis between Puerto Rican Studies and Departments. These have already lead to conflicts, and as more courses are developed, additional conflicts will arise.

As pointed out to you in our meeting, we expect to at the same time continue the Institute, with its existing initial budget in order that we may develop community projects, research projects, and other activities more appropriate to an Institute than to a Department.

I trust that positive action can be taken on this request in sufficient time to allow us the opportunity to develop an adequate curriculum as a Department, before the fall semester. If you feel additional discussion will be helpful, the Board of Directors and I would be eager to pursue the matter with you at any time.

Thank you for your help.

Very truly yours,



Professor Josephine Nieves
Director

JN/lk

cc: - Dean Albaum
- Chairman, Board of Directors
Institute of Puerto Rican Studies

Att.