



Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños
500 Fifth Avenue, Room 930
New York, New York 10036
212/354-5410

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OCT 24 1974

BROOKLYN COLLEGE

October 24, 1974

President John W. Kneller
Brooklyn College
Bedford Avenue and Avenue H
Boylan Hall
Brooklyn, New York 11210

Dear President Kneller:

The faculty and students of the Departments of Puerto Rican Studies in CUNY colleges and Puerto Rican community agencies firmly support demands for self-determination of Puerto Ricans at Brooklyn College.

The gross disregard of the right of a Department to select its own chairperson and the denial of the right of students to participate in that decision represents a regression to an archaic and despotic form of governance that should not be tolerated by any segment of the university community. It is all the more intolerable when that policy is applied selectively and differentially to a Department of Puerto Rican Studies.

We are appalled at the use of police force against protesting members of the college. This has in no way resolved this situation and has only served to further aggravate a conflict generated by the arbitrary use of authority.

We are therefore calling for action on your part that respects the rights of Puerto Ricans on the Brooklyn College campus. The repressive action against students and faculty that protested a violation of their rights was an unwarranted act and is certain to arouse the indignation of the entire Puerto Rican community.

We feel that a meeting with you at the earliest possible moment is a necessary first step in addressing the concerns we have stated. The names listed below have been selected as representatives for this purpose. Please be informed that we are receiving constant inquiries from numerous Puerto Rican community groups and elected and appointed government officials. We are keeping these persons informed of the situation.

The Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños is coordinating communication for this group. We request that you direct your reply to our address.

Sincerely,

Frank Bonilla

Frank Bonilla

in behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee

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cc: Hon. Alfred Giardino
Hon. Marta Valle

cc: mail