

February 5, 1970

Professor Josephine Nieves, Director
Institute of Puerto Rican Studies
Brooklyn College

Dear Professor Nieves:

I have received your January 29 letter. As you know, I favor the establishment of a Department of Puerto Rican Studies, because the departmental structure would facilitate the development of a sound curriculum in this area. The institute could, of course, continue as part of the department. It is essential that the chairman of such a department be the director of the institute.

This item of business supersedes the item concerning the vote for the directors of the Puerto Rican Institute and the Afro-American Institute.

As you know, new departments must be approved by the Faculty Council. It is my understanding that the Committee on Master Planning and Educational Policy has the proposal of a new Department of Puerto Rican Studies under consideration. Meanwhile it seems appropriate that the item be discussed in the Committee on Faculty Personnel and Budget. I shall put this item on the agenda for the February 16 meeting.

If I may be of any further assistance in this matter, do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Kneller
President

JWK:das

cc: Professor Bargaan
Professor Mayers