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To: Att. Ygrí Rivera, President, Board of Trustees, University of Puerto Rico
Hon. Luis Fortuño, Governor, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Dr. Ana R. Guadalupe, Interim Chancellor, University of Puerto Rico,
Rio Piedras Campus
Dr. José Ramón de la Torre, President, University of Puerto Rico

From: Dr. Mark S. Aber, President, SCRA

Date: June 12, 2010

Re: Student Strike at University of Puerto Rico

I write in my capacity as President of the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA, Division 27 of the American Psychological Association) to express profound concern over the ongoing student-led strike on the campuses of the University of Puerto Rico. Members of SCRA are psychologists and educators concerned with social equity and justice.

We join in solidarity with members of the Puerto Rican Psychology Association (PRPA), Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR), the American Psychological Association (APA) and many others in calling for a quick and peaceful resolution of the strike. We implore you to take all possible steps to avoid escalation of tensions associated with the strike, to prevent violence, and to protect the welfare of striking students and their allies.

We especially call on Puerto Rican university and governmental authorities to respect the right of the students to engage in non-violent protest without threat of reprisals. We ask that you not punish those who have engaged in peaceful protest, but rather join with them to find a collaborative resolution.

We will continue to watch closely the events surrounding the strike. We are gratified to see agreement on the use of a mediator to help resolve the remaining grievances and disputes. Perhaps the most important responsibilities of leadership are to model the respectful exercise of power and the skillful resolution of conflict. We wish you wisdom in these matters as you move forward.