

Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico

**Toward Excellence:
Update on the MSCHE Accreditation
Process and Evaluation Team Visit**

**Prof. Mishelle Rivera Santos - Chair
Prof. Marla Mendez Silvagnoli- Secretary**

March 1, 2024

Welcome



MSCHE

MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION
ON HIGHER EDUCATION



PUCPR-MSCHE Meeting Agenda

- Committee members
 - Executive Committee
 - Steering Committee: Working Groups Chairs
- Updates on the Accreditation Process
 - PCUPR Self-Study recommendations
- Accreditation status
 - Timeline
 - MSCHE Evaluation Team
 - Dr. Domes recommendations
- Important Reminder
- Questions

PCUPR-MSCHE Executive Committee



Prof. Mishelle Rivera
Chair



Dr. Mónico Sanabria
Co-chair



Prof. Marla Méndez
Secretary



PCUPR-MSCHE Steering Committee



Arecibo Branch Campus



Dr. Yazdel Martínez
Dean of Academic Affairs

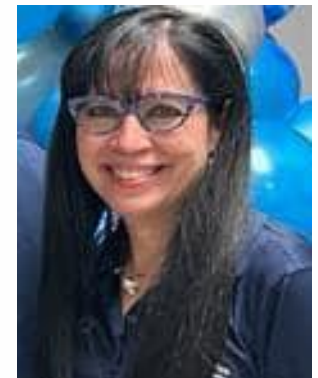


Dr. Mabel Saavedra
Liaison

Mayagüez Branch Campus



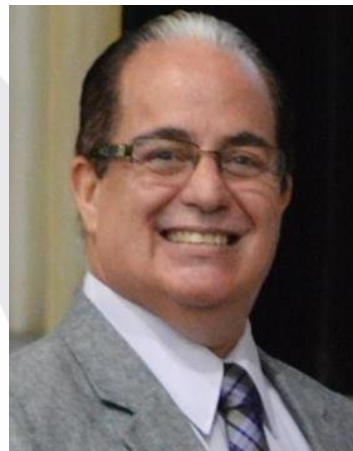
Dr. Frank J. Sierra
Dean of Academic Affairs



Prof. Lillian Seda
Liaison

PCUPR-MSCHE Steering Committee

Working Groups Chairs



- **Working Group I: Mission and Goals - Dr. Ana Plaza**
- **Working Group II: Ethics and Integrity - Prof. Juan D. Vilaró**
- **Working Group III: Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience - Dr. Ivette Torres**
- **Working Group IV: Support of the Student Experience - Dr. Arvin Báez**

PCUPR-MSCHE Steering Committee

Working Groups Chairs (cont.)



- **Working Group V: Educational Effectiveness Assessment - Prof. Carmen Velázquez**
- **Working Group VI: Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement - Dr. Ilia Rosario**
- **Working Group VII: Governance, Leadership, and Administration - Mrs. Marisol Suárez**
- **Working Group VIII: Institutional Federal Compliance- Dr. Waddy Mercado**



PCUPR-MSCHE Accreditation

Status: Stage



Self-Study



Evaluation



Accreditation

Priority based Self-Study

- First University in Puerto Rico with this Self-Study approach.
- Alignment of Institutional Priorities with MSCHE Standards.
- Allows for assessment and review of the Institutional Strategic Plan.

Compliance with MSCHE Standards

Standard I - Mission and Goals

Standard II - Ethics and Integrity

Standard III - Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience

Standard IV - Support of the Student Experience

Standard V - Educational Effectiveness Assessment

Standard VI - Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement

Standard VII - Governance, Leadership, and Administration



Self Study Findings: Areas of Strength

- **Mission and Goals** aligned with Institutional priorities and appropriate to higher education
- **Highly qualified faculty** staff who demonstrate PCUPR's commitment to an excellent education
- Robust **academic curriculum**
- **Student support services** enhance the chances to achieve their goals

Self Study Findings:

Areas of Strength

- Attention is paid to the **research** area, which benefits students and faculty
- **Resilience** establishing a support system to address the emotional and academic needs of students, faculty, and administrative staff.
- **Planning and Budgeting** processes are linked to the available resources and the budget based on the objectives established in the Strategic Plan.

Self Study Recommendations: Attention to Student Needs

- Foster **connections with alumni**
 - Provide internships and exchange experiences to students
- Assertive **communication plan**
 - Close communication gaps and promote student support services opportunities
- Promote greater participation of faculty in **academic guidance** and enrollment processes

Self Study Recommendations: Attention to Student Needs (cont.)

- Improve the **tutoring services assessment** process
 - Expand and strengthen offerings
- Expand course offerings

Self Study Recommendations: Curriculum and Research

- Create a **faculty development institute**
 - Development plan: teaching strategy, assessment, emerging technology, research, proposal development
- Develop **innovative certifications and degrees**
 - Foster entrepreneurship, relevant to labor market needs, and reflect current population changes.

Self Study Recommendations: Curriculum and Research (cont.)

- **Faculty exchanges**
 - Strengthen collaborative alliances, expand international experience and recruitment.
- **Strengthen research efforts and resources**
 - Identify priority lines of research
 - Improve the research incentive for professors and students.

Self Study Recommendations: Human Resources, Administration, and Finance

- Strengthen the **academic and administrative assessment** culture
 - expand assessment training opportunities, improve the process to gather feedback and insights
- Establish a **database system** to gather information at the different institutional levels
 - Strengthen the decision-making processes and assess the institutional goals.

PCUPR-MSSCHE Accreditation

Status: Stage



Self-Study



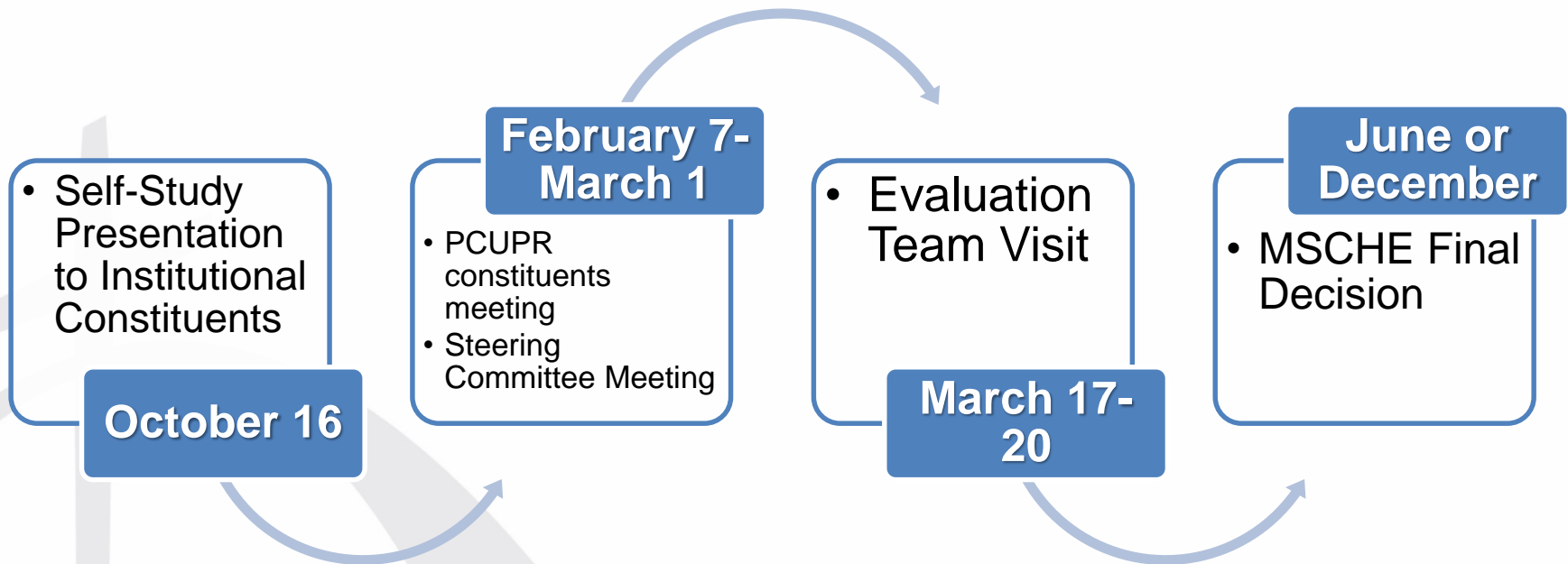
Evaluation



Accreditation

PCUPR-MSCHE Accreditation

Status: Timeline



MSCHE Evaluation Team President

Dr. Chris Domes

- Evaluation Committee President
- President of [Neumann University](#), appointed on July 17, 2017.
- A strong proponent of Catholic Franciscan education and possessing an impressive record of accomplishment that spans 35 years in higher education.
- Has led initiatives in strategic planning, fundraising, academic program expansion, enrollment management, community relations, technology access, and campus growth.



President of
Neumann University

Evaluation Team

- [Dr. Maria Baez](#), Manager, Accreditation and Strategic Planning, Strayer University, FL
- [Dr. Sabine Charles](#), Chief Internal Auditor, Touro University, NY
- [Dr. Catherine N. Duckett](#), Associate Dean, School of Science, Monmouth University, NJ
- [Dr. Ann M. Fallon](#), Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, St. John Fisher University, NY

Evaluation Team (cont.)

- [Dr. Roger Wilbur Gee](#), Professor, Holy Family University, PA
- [Dr. Wilson Luna](#), Dean of Students, Gateway Community College, CT
- [Dr. Claudia Morales](#), Director of Education in Health Sciences, Universidad Andres Bello, Chile

Preparation for Evaluation Team Visit: Dr. Domes Recommendations

- We should highlight:
 - ✓ Who are we?
 - ✓ What are we doing to shape the University?
 - ✓ How the self-study helped the University?
 - ✓ What are we focusing our attention on?
 - ✓ Are we reaching the mission?
 - ✓ How are we assessing?
 - ✓ How do we know we are serving students correctly?
 - ✓ How do we know we are fulfilling students' needs?

Importance of the Accreditation Process

- Evidences that PCUPR provides a **quality education**
 - Employers, institutions, and others can trust our students have been sufficiently educated.
- Aligned to the agency **standards** and **requirement of affiliation**
 - Qualify for financial aid and federal loans under the USDE
- A degree from an accredited school is **valuable**.

Before the visit

- Review **Self-Study** and discuss recommendations with peers.
 - Attention to Student Needs
 - Curriculum and Research
- Review **Dr. Domes recommendations.**
- Review **reflection** questions.

During the Visit



Accessibility

- Ensure all necessary personnel and documents are readily available to the Evaluation Team.



Transparency

- Encourage open communication and transparency throughout the evaluation process.



Cooperation

- Collaborate with the Evaluation Committee and provide assistance as needed.



Flexibility

- Remain flexible to accommodate any unforeseen circumstances or requests.

Questions?



For additional questions, comments or recommendations you can write to: msche@pucpr.edu