

Population Association of America Association of Population Centers

Office of Government and Public Affairs

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October 1, 2020

Instituto de Filosofia e Ciências Humanas (IFCH) / UNICAMP
Director Prof. Dr. Álvaro Gabriel Bianchi Mendez
Associate Director: Prof. Dr. Roberto Luiz do Carmo

Sent via email: secretaria@abep.org.br

Dear Professors Mendez and do Carmo,

We are writing to you in our capacities as the presidents of the Population Association of America (www.populationassociation.org) and Association of Population Centers, two affiliated organizations that together represent over 3,000 population scientists (such as demographers, economists, and sociologists) worldwide and the over 40 population research centers in the United States. Specifically, we are contacting you to express our concern regarding a recent decision announced by the Board of Directors of the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) to close its Demography department.

Population scientists recognize the prestigious UNICAMP Demography department as one of the most respected and accomplished programs not only in Brazil, but also in Latin America. The caliber of the research and research training that UNICAMP faculty conduct is highly regarded. So much so that UNICAMP demographers are asked routinely to present at the most prestigious international demographic meetings (e.g. the Population Association of America, the European Population Conference, and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population). Further, UNICAMP demographers are sought out as frequent collaborators with population scientists at universities in the United States and Europe. Their research, both as members of interdisciplinary teams and as independent scholars, appears in the most prominent international scientific journals. Given the UNICAMP Demography department is one of only a handful of demography programs training the next generation of population scientists in Brazil, its demise would adversely affect the future of your nation's scientific workforce.

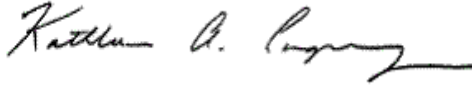
In consideration of its national and international standing, we encourage the university to reconsider its decision to close the UNICAMP Demography department.

Thank you for considering our views regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eileen Crimmins
PAA President



Dr. Kathleen A. Cagney
APC President