

Concepción, May 4, 1955.-

Dr.
Benjamin Horning
W.K.Kellog Foundation
Battle Creek, Michigan
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Horning:

It is surprising news that I am going to tell you: Dr.Günther and all his associates have resigned and are leaving the University next month.

Since many years Dr.Günther has had difficulties with the students, because he is rather rough with them, and because a considerable number fail in the examinations at the end of the course. Last year, 53% of the second year students failed in Physiology and have to repeat the complete courses.

Owing to this the Students Union, presented to the Faculty a plea, asking for a discussion on the teaching methods of Physiology, and pointing out some concrete failures. Dr.Günther reacted passionately and did not accept that a special committee of the Faculty investigate the student's complaints, nor did he accept any suggestion about his teaching methods and about the teaching conditions of his associates.

As, according to my duties I had to respect the right of the students to be heard by the Faculty and their teachers, Dr.Günther reacted against me charging me with the responsibility of the failure of the students because the system of the selection of the students and the modifications of the curriculum (since last year, only) were the ideas I got in the U.S. I wrote Dr.Günther a letter in which I demonstrate him the falacies of his arguments and advised him to postpone his selfishness and make an introspective criticism of himself and his associates in the Institute, before blaming the students and giving other excuses.

That was enough for him and all his fellows to tender their resignation. As you may see, there is not ground for such a serious step. At most, if my remarks were unjustified Dr. Günther had the Faculty to complain to and in case the Faculty was against him, he still had the Board and the President, and only in case he did not get justice, had he necessity of sending in his resignation.

Many persons have tried in vain to make Dr. Günther change his mind: a group of his friends in the Faculty, a special comitee of the Faculty and Don Enrique the president himself, who tried a formula in which I accepted to withdraw my letter provided he withdrew his, and his resignation. The students, although they were the -- plaintiffs, hurried themselves to apologyze and to tell Dr. Günther that they had no intention of offending him.

All was in vain. Dr. Günther stuck him -- sel stubbornly to his ressolution, and the Faculty, the Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees has no other Choie but to accept his resignation.

It is a pity for our Medical School to -- loose a man in which the University has spent so much and from whom it had the right to expect so much, but his meaningless stubbornness, made useless all the efforts to re--tain him.

I can assure you that he had many chan -- ces to reconsider very honourably his resignation. He did not accept any. Many times he was asked what were condi -- tions he wanted tor changing his mind; he never let them -- know for sure.

This is most unpleasant to tell you be -- cause it is so strange, so illogical in an aparently normal persoh, that maybe you would, not believe it. You Wou -- ld'nt believe also that the behaviour of Dr. Günther and his group has been so absolutely dissapointing that the -- University has no other choice than to accept their resig -- nation. I can't imagine, with what purpose, Dr. Günther -- has written long letters to friends and foes complaining -- about me, about the University authorities, etc. and sta -- ting that here there is no liberty for research nor money

not means. They made publications (paid) in the newspapers.

You have known us for long, and have visited Dr.Günther in his Institute. We have had long talks on the subject of the Institute of Physiology and have heard my opinion about it. Can you believe that Dr.Günther did not receive the help and the recognition he deserved?

Well, It is as it is, and we must look forward and try to replace Dr.Günther as soon as we can and with the best man we can find. Will you and the Foundation help us in this unique occasion?

You know the Institute, how it is equipped and staffed. You have seen that it has money enough to perform a very good job in teaching and research. Furthermore we have what we call the CIC that is a "special-research fund" to finance research projects. What we need is a more easy going man to run all this, be it a Physiologist or a Physiopathologist. If you can recommend a man, be it from South America or from your country to whom we can entrust this responsibility, let me know, as soon as you can.

In the meantime we are exploring other possibilities; for instance, Dr. Nickerson, who was formerly in Ann Arbor with Dr. Seevers in Pharmacology and is now in Canada; but I am going to expect your advice before taking any definite step.

I would be very glad to give you any other information you want about this most regrettable affair.

Hoping for your answer, and advice I remain your very truly,

Dr. Ignacio González G.