

WPUC-FM, Ponce, Puerto Rico
Exhibit to Application for Renewal of License

The Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico Service Association, Inc. (“PCUSA”) is the licensee of noncommercial, educational FM radio station WPUC-FM, Ponce, Puerto Rico (FCC Facility ID 9351). PCUSA is a subpart of The Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico (the “University”). PCUSA is guided by a board of directors, the members of which are appointed by the University, but then acts independently in exercising its oversight duties of PCUSA. WPUC-FM plays an important role in the educational life of University’s students and is staffed substantially by student volunteers. The University and WPUC-FM are Spanish speaking institutions.

WPUC-FM is operated at an extremely high level of integrity. The Pontifical Universities are Roman Catholic universities which were established and are directly under the authority of the Holy See. The Pontifical Universities are licensed to grant academic degrees in sacred faculties, among them Canon Law, Philosophy, Sacred Theology and Sacred Scripture. The Pontifical Universities also follow a European system of degrees in the sacred faculties, whereby they grant the bachelor's degree, the licentiate and the doctorate. The Holy See can also provide charters to independent institutions or individual faculties at non-pontifical universities to grant pontifical degrees. Such institutions are referred to as pontifical faculties or pontifical institutes.

Just like other theological faculties, studies at the Pontifical Universities are divided into three cycles. The first cycle is the varying duration after which the student obtains a Bachelor; the second cycle leads to the conferment of a License degree and finally, the third cycle leads to a Graduate degree. The duration of these cycles varies from one pontifical university to another.

The Pontifical Universities offer several courses in different faculties. The major faculties are Civil Law, Canon Law, Sacred Theology, Philosophy, Biblical Sciences and Archeology, Missiology, Christian and classical literature, Social Communication Sciences and Education science. The studies at The Pontifical Universities normally address the Christian revelation and disciplines correlative to the evangelical mission of the Catholic Church, as set out in the apostolic constitution.

Given the fact that Pontifical Universities are under the direct authority of the Holy See, high moral standards and discipline are expected of students, and the teachings are also equivalent to the apostolic constitution of the Catholic Church. (See <https://vatican.com/The-Pontifical-Universities/> September 23, 2019)

Consequently, PCUSA takes its public interest and service duties very seriously.

In preparing for this license renewal application, PCUSA became aware that it inadvertently failed to prepare and file biennial ownership reports for 2015 and 2017. No mid-term report was filed in 2015 (former FCC Form 397). A biennial ownership report for 2017 was filed on September 25, 2019 and amended on September 30, 2019. Unfortunately, the FCC’s LMS filing system will not permit PCUSA to submit a biennial ownership report for 2015, so PCUSA is

unable to provide one. Accordingly, a 2015 ownership report is missing from the WPUC-FM public inspection file and the 2017 biennial ownership report was filed late. Similarly, the FCC's electronic filing systems will not allow PCUSA to prepare or file a mid-term report to offer one that should have been filed in 2015. Presumably, PCUSA is unable to prepare a mid-term report because the FCC repealed such a filing requirement in MB Docket Nos. 18-23 and 17-105. (*Report and Order*, FCC 19-10, Released February 15, 2019)

PCUSA regrets these unintended lapses. It believes that a combination of language difficulties, the limited resources of a nonprofit organization, and communications interruptions caused by hurricane damage to Puerto Rico, were contributing factors to these omissions.

PCUSA wishes to point out that the ownership for WPUC-FM has not changed materially from 2011 through 2017. From 2011 through 2014, the same six board members served on the PCUSA board. In 2015, the board was expanded to seven members and one previous member was replaced. The same five members have served on the PCUSA board at all times, so a substantial majority of the board remained in control of PCUSA at all times from 2011 through 2017. Therefore, while it regrets the lapses in the timely submission of ownership reports, no significant information has been withheld from the FCC or the public.

In addition, in 2019 the FCC repealed the requirement that broadcasters file mid-term license reports. As the Commission noted, that repeal was unopposed and eliminated a redundant filing burden because the relevant information that would have been on former FCC Form 397 was accessible online. Consequently, while PCUSA understands that it should have made the 2015 mid-term report, there was no harm done because the information that it provided was redundant.

Therefore, PCUSA submits that its errors with respect to ownership reports and the mid-term license report were *de minimis* because no material information was withheld from the FCC or the public. WPUC-FM is an important part of the University, which operates directly under the authority of the Holy See. As such, WPUC-FM offers an important public service. Its public interest value far outweighs the regulatory lapses reported here. Therefore, in support of the public interest, PCUSA respectfully requests that its license renewal application be granted in the ordinary course.

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