

Manifest of the Spanish Association of Accredited University Professors

<http://acreditadosacatedra.blogspot.com.es/2015/06/manifiesto-de-la-coordinadora-de.html>

(Association website in Spanish)

Introductory note. The regular process to become university professor in Spain involves two stages: (1) candidates get the official accreditation of their academic achievements after a thorough review process by an independent agency to ensure they meet excellence criteria, and (2) [using government funds] universities approve professorship positions, so that any accredited professor may apply, and one of them gets the promotion. Accreditation (stage 1) is the necessary, and restrictive, requirement for the application and the eventual promotion (stage 2). Before the economic crisis, candidates fulfilling the restrictive stage 1 (accredited university professors), used to get the actual professorship (stage 2) in a 6-12 month period, since there was no major funding problem. However, the situation has changed, and academic careers have been suddenly stopped nation-wide:

Given the massive cuts in funding of the Spanish Public University System, particularly after the restrictive budget law in 2012, there is no new professor position ever since, and retirement related positions are only covered at a 50% rate.

As a result, senior scientists that have been officially accredited to be university professor by ANECA (National Agency for University Quality Assessment and Accreditation) see their academic career indefinitely stopped despite their abilities and achievement record have been positively evaluated.

As a collective of accredited university professors, at this point we do not have any information on our future, and we have no notice of the plans of the ministry to solve the situation posed by the growing number of accredited professors waiting for available positions.

In this situation we must organize ourselves to urge the authorities a solution for our blocked academic careers. Particularly because this collective does not represent juridic problems related to access to the public administration since our merits have been recognized by an independent agency (ANECA), and many of us are already civil servants.

Therefore, an Association has been created to represent us as a collective with the following goals:

(1) Having an interview with high-profile officials from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finances to explain our views on the situation and demand the necessary solution.

(2) Gathering first-hand and specific information from these officials on the plans and perspectives regarding the collective of accredited university professors.

(3) Unblocking the current situation through these proposals:

* Consideration of full professorships as regular promotion positions and hence, not subject to the current limitation of 50% rate of the vacancies due to retirement, or whatever rate it may be imposed in the future.

* Commitment of the central and regional governments to fund and open calls for professorships as soon as the universities approve the positions to speed up the (currently stopped) promotion process.

* As an alternative to the above solution (reestablish the regular process as it effectively was back in 2011), we demand the automatic conversion from accredited-university-professor to actual university-professor through a specific law. Similar conversions were done in the past to solve equivalent singular situations at lower levels of the academic career. For instance, "Profesores Agregados" and "Profesores de Escuela Universitaria" were promoted to "Profesores Titulares de Universidad" as long as they met certain objective quality standards (e.g. substantial research record and PhD degree).

In order to ensure the success of this initiative, the Association has to be nation-wide and should represent most of the collective of accredited university professors. That is why we ask you to join us in this effort. Please support us at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CAI0r2Yx872ApZRWLzvcPyVA_gpnYBI9H2nlupGSAq4/viewform?c=0&w=1