

MEMORANDUM

March 7, 2017

Dear members of the FIU community,

It is with a heavy heart and deep appreciation for his contributions to our university that I share with you that our FIU family has lost one of our own. Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon passed away on February 13.

Dr. Arias made an indelible mark upon our FIU. In 1972, he left his home country of Panama as an exile and came to Miami with his family. During this time, we were still a young institution. We had not yet converted from a two-year, upper-division school into a full, four-year university. We needed passionate, ambitious, determined leaders who could help pave our path forward.

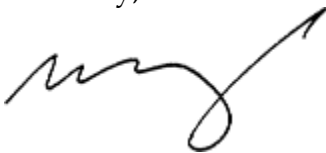
Dr. Arias stepped up, fast becoming a popular, respected and key academic leader who knew the inner workings of our institution, familiar with everything from the academic programs to operations of our FIU. He rose through the ranks, serving as chairperson of the then-Philosophy and Religion Department to dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and then was appointed interim vice president for academic affairs.

Under Dr. Arias' leadership, FIU's academic culture also was born. He held our faculty to a high standard, encouraging them to participate in research and join national professional associations, like faculty at more established universities.

After seven years, Dr. Arias returned to Panama. He became First Vice President of Panama and worked to make a difference and chart a new course after decades of military dictatorships.

Our thoughts are with Dr. Arias' family. He is survived by his wife, Teresa, and his four children.

Sincerely,



Mark B. Rosenberg  
President