

Table of Contents

<u>THE PRISON EDUCATION REFORM PROJECT CONSTITUTION</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>MEDIA COLLATERAL</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>WORKS CITED</u>	<u>10</u>

The Prison Education Reform Project Constitution

1. Name: The official name of this organization is “The Prison Education Reform Project”. It may also be referred to as “PERP”.

2. Date of Creation and Revision: This organization was created on April 11th, 2016.

3. Purpose Statement: The Prison Education Reform Program (PERP) at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) is guided by two recognitions: (1) a severe disparity persists between incarcerated girls of color and their white counterparts and (2) college students display an unmatched potential for creativity and compassion. We believe that by raising awareness around the school-to-prison pipeline and the quality of education that incarcerated girls of color receive, we can galvanize students to teach in juvenile detention facilities. We intend for each of our student volunteers, where no professional instructor is available, to employ critical, multi-ethnic pedagogical methods. Specifically, our student volunteers will engage the instincts, confidence, and ingenuity of incarcerated girls of color. We ultimately aim to expand our capacity beyond raising awareness and educating incarcerated girls of color so that we also apply political pressure on legislators to address the school-to-prison pipeline.

4. Membership: All current and former UTSA students, UTSA faculty, and staff are eligible to join and participate. Officers must be enrolled as current undergraduate or graduate students. The term “member” is defined by meeting all of the following criteria:

A. Be enrolled at the University of Texas at San Antonio for the semesters active

B. Paying yearly dues of \$30

5. Legal Agreement Statement: The organization agrees to abide by all University policies and local, state, and federal laws.

6. Officers:

Section 1: Elections

Elections shall be held at the second to last general meeting of the organization yearly. Officer terms will last throughout the duration of Fall and Spring semesters. Officers elected at the second to last general meeting shall immediately assume the duties and privileges of their office.

Section 2: Eligibility

Any member has the ability to run for an officer position, pending they meet the following criteria:

a) are enrolled at the University of Texas at San Antonio

b) have been a due paying member for at least one semester prior to elections

c) have at least a 2.25 UTSA cumulative GPA or 3.0 for graduate students

Section 3: Administration

The organization will be led by a Executive Director, Outreach Director, Media Director, Curriculum Director, Volunteer Director, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director will be:

- A. Chairing meetings of the Executive Board
- B. Presiding over general meetings
- C. Officially representing the organization to the university and the San Antonio community as a whole
- D. Overseeing all internal and external affairs of the organization
- E. Planning, facilitating, and executing events
- F. Training the incoming Executive Director
- G. Facilitate transfer of powers throughout the Executive Board

The duties and responsibilities of the Outreach Director will be:

- A. Officially representing the organization
- B. Cultivating relationships within the UTSA community
- C. Maintaining existing relationships with other organizations
- D. Monitoring and updating all social network platforms
- E. Promoting events within the organization
- F. Promoting the organization on campus
- G. Training the incoming Outreach Director

The duties and responsibilities of the Media Director will be:

- A. Officially representing the organization
- B. Overseeing the production of promotional media collateral
- C. Training the incoming Media Director

The duties and responsibilities of the Curriculum Director will be:

- A. Officially representing the organization
- B. Developing culturally-sensitive curricula
- C. Training student volunteers competently employ the organization's curricula
- D. Working with professionals to improve existing curricula
- E. Training the incoming Curriculum Director

The duties and responsibilities of the Volunteer Director will be:

- A. Officially representing the organization
- B. Recruiting students to volunteer as teachers
- C. Facilitating the presence of volunteers in juvenile detention centers
- D. Ensuring that volunteers attend training coordinated by the Curriculum Director
- E. Training the incoming Volunteer Director

The duties and responsibilities of the Secretary will be:

- A. Officially representing the organization
- B. Maintaining a record of all meetings and events by keeping minutes, agendas, and sign in sheets
- C. Keeping any university workspace organized
- D. Training the incoming Secretary

The duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer will be:

- A. Officially representing the organization
- B. Oversee the spending of discretionary funds
- C. Maintain a record of all funds spent or fundraised
- D. Collect all dues from members
- E. Prepare at least two fundraisers each semester
- F. Training the incoming Treasurer

These officers shall be recognized as the sole students on the Executive Board of the organization. Committee chairs may be recognized as officers within the organization but will not be on the Executive Board.

Section 4: Removal from Office

An officer or Executive Board member may be removed from office with a vote of 2/3 of the officers and a majority of the general members.

Section 5: Vacancies

Vacancies on the Executive Board should be filled as quickly as possible. In the event of a vacancy on the Executive Board, an election should be announced at the next general meeting and held at the meeting following the announcement.

If another officer position is vacated, it may be filled following the same process. If no one wishes to run, an election may be held at any other point during the year. It must be announced in a general meeting that an election will be held at least a week before the election takes place.

The election process will allow each candidate at least three minutes to speak and respond to at least two minutes of questions. The speaking order of candidates will be decided randomly with a drawing conducted by the Executive Director. All members and officers present at the meeting will vote in an election. The Executive Director shall cast a vote that will only be counted in the case of a tie.

8. Procedures for Decision Making:

A quorum of the Executive Board shall be defined as $\frac{3}{4}$ of elected officers. A majority will be required to make decisions for the organization.

A quorum in general meetings shall be defined as a majority of members in attendance.

When appropriate and when allowed by this Constitution, and/or in order to run an effective and responsive organization, the Executive Cabinet shall make Executive Decisions. Executive Decisions are reserved for instances when it is not practical to call a general meeting, and when the Constitution is vague and/or does not clearly instruct the Executive Board as to an appropriate action.

A. The General Assembly will have the authority to overturn an executive decision with at least a 2/3 majority vote.

B. Executive Decisions must be announced at the next General Assembly meeting.

9. Committees:

Committees may be created at the discretion of the Executive Director.

In order for a committee to be created, at least three members must apply by presenting the Executive Board with a statement of purpose, the duration for which they expect the committee to last, and a clearly identified Committee Chair. Executive Board members and officers may serve as committee chairs.

11. Parliamentary Authority:

The club will use Robert's Rules of Order to conduct official club business.

12. Disbursement of Organization Assets: Should the student organization become defunct, the organization's assets will be given to the YWCA San Antonio, who will oversee further disbursement.

14. Amendments:

This Constitution may be amended with a majority vote from the members and 2/3 vote in favor from the Directors.

15. Faculty/Staff Advisor:

The faculty/staff advisor will be chosen by the Executive Board at the beginning of a year. Advisors should remain in office for at least a year.



Fig. 1 Meeting Flyer



Fig. 2 Promotional Flyer

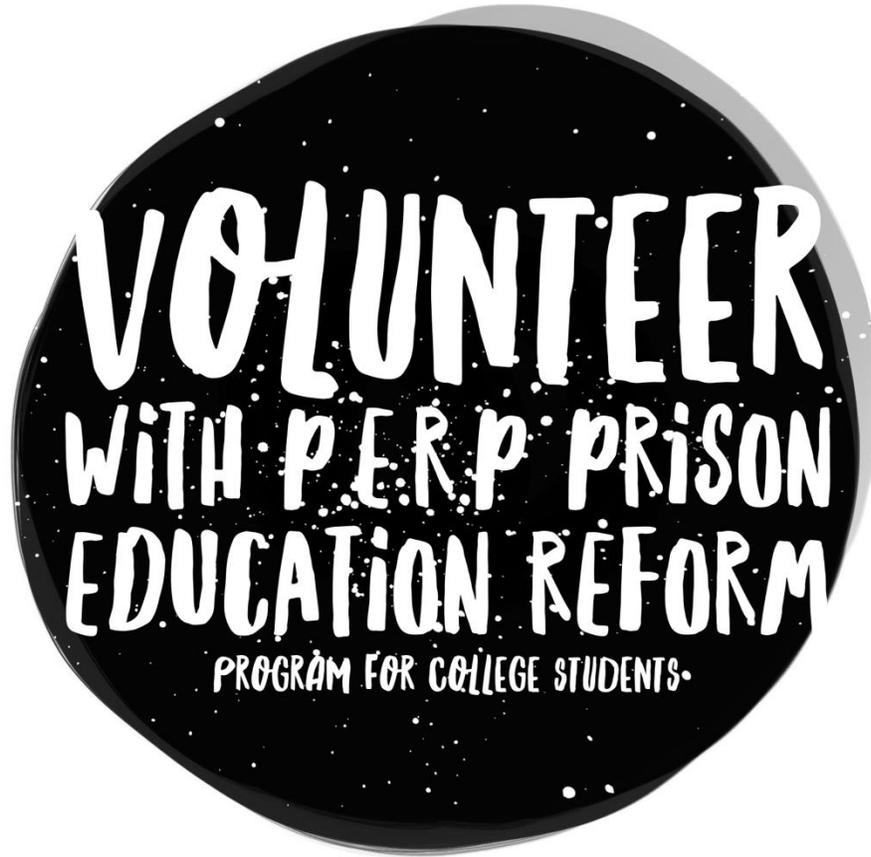


Fig. 3 Recruitment Graphic

Works Cited

- Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. N.p.: n.p., n.d. Print.
- Blau, Judith R. *Race in the Schools: Perpetuating White Dominance?* Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2003. Print.
- Brown, Ruth Nicole. *Black Girlhood Celebration: Toward a Hip-hop Feminist Pedagogy*. New York: Peter Lang, 2009. Print.
- Card, Claudia. *The Atrocity Paradigm: A Theory of Evil*. Oxford: Oxford, 2002. Print.
- Engster, Daniel. *The Heart of Justice: Care Ethics and Political Theory*. Oxford: Oxford, 2007. Print.
- Fabelo, Tony. *Breaking Schools? Rules: A Statewide Study on How School Discipline Relates to Students? Success and Juvenile Justice Involvement*. Rep. Justice Center: The Council of State Governments, Texas Public Policy Research Group, n.d. Web.
- Morris, Monique W. *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*. N.p.: New, 2016. Print.
- Oshinsky, David M. *Worse than Slavery: Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice*. N.p.: Free, 1997. Print.
- Samseidelvideos. "Hip Hop Genius: Remixing High School Education." *YouTube*. YouTube, 11 May 2011. Web. 29 Apr. 2016.
- Sherman, Francine. *Gender Injustice: System Level Juvenile Justice Reforms*. Rep. National Crittenton Foundation. National Women's Law Center, n.d. Web.
- Rovner, Joshua. *Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System*. Issue brief. The Sentencing Project, n.d. Web.
- TEDxTalks. "Multiculturalism in the Modern World: Jen Holladay at TEDxDenverTeachers." *YouTube*. YouTube, 22 Mar. 2013. Web. 29 Apr. 2016.
- Ziedenberg, Jason, and Vincent Schiraldi. *Race and Imprisonment in Texas: The Disproportionate Incarceration of Latinos and African Americans in the Lone Star State*. Issue brief. Justice Policy Institute, n.d. Web.