

Teaching, Learning and Culture (TLC)

PhD Student Organization

University of Texas at El Paso

Department of Teacher Education

(TLC) Teaching, Learning and Culture PhD Program

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TLC Ph.D. Student Organization: Origin and History

“The Ph.D. in Teaching, Learning and Culture program officially became another Graduate program at UTEP in 2008 after being approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The Teacher Education Department in the College of Education had identified regional need for a Ph.D. program in Education. As the program and number of students grew and prospered, so did the needs and interests of its students. During the lifetime of the program, the students have expressed the need and interests of student representation in the PhD program, as well as an interest in organizing with the goal of improving the student’s academic experience while in the program and after completing the program.

The new and 4th entering cohort in spring 2011 identified with the needs and interests being discussed and supported the effort to initiate a process that would formalize and establish a student organization. Isaac Martínez led the efforts to impart and guide these needs and interests as well as fulfill the requirements to found the organization. Martínez, from the 4th cohort and in his 1st year, served to provide the accountability, diligence and commitment students needed for establishing the organization. Ben McDermott, from the 2nd cohort and his 3rd year, highly contributed to the organization’s formation by assisting with the foundational work and by working closely with Isaac Martínez to meet the requirements.

Students became engaged and provided the essential support and direction throughout the initial efforts and phases. Students who supported the creation of a student organization and signed the needed petition to establish it, are acknowledged below:

Aaron Bodor	Carlos Paez	Gina Villalva	Lusciene Wandermurem	Raul Saldana
Amabilia Valenzuela	Carmen Seda	Grace Babarinsa	Maria Cruz	Raynold Falcon
Ana C. Barbosa	Claudia Saldaña	Jair Munoz	Maria Talamantes	Richard R. Torrez
Andres Muro	Cynthia Ontiveros	Jorge Lujan	Martha Juarez	Rocio Gallardo
Angelica Monarez	Debbie Kerney	Judith Lara	Mayra Ortiz	Roque Aguon
Ashley Graboski	Emiliano Villareal	Julian Viera	Melissa Ortega	Sheryl Maxsom
Ben McDermott	Gerardo Lerma	Karla Huereca	Michael Lewis	Vanessa Espitia
Betina Valdez	Gerardo Rodriguez	Laila Al-Salmi	Oliana Alikaj	Victor Santellanes
Brenda Fuentes	Ghani Setra	Luis Herrera	Oscar Salcedo	Yirah Valverde

The petition support and approval by the large majority of the students selected the following officers to serve initially and temporarily for the 2012-2013 academic year: Isaac Martínez as Chairman/ Student Representative; Ben McDermott as Vice-Chairman; and Oliana Alikaj as Business Manager. As the organization grows and prospers, its foundational vision, mission and purpose, along with its origin and history, will ensure the specified student interests and needs continue to be met. Underlined constitutional and bylaws sections are not amendable, but are open to the expanded. In addition, the organization’s “Origin and History” aren’t amendable or deletable, as they are essential to the organization’s foundational purpose. Amending the non-underlined sections of the constitution and bylaws will allow the organization to remain central and relevant to both its purpose and need over the course of time. The time might come when student needs and interests change and would be best served by following the process to establish an additional organization with a constitution and bylaws”.

Con Respeto,

Isaac Tapia Martínez (Founder) & Chairman/ Student Representative 2012-2013

Article I: Mission, Vision, and Purpose

VISION: The vision of the PhD Student Organization is to have a significant impact on the social, intellectual, and professional lives of the TLC doctoral students and to represent and advance their interests to the College of Education, UTEP, and the wider community.

(This section is open to be expanded)

MISSION: This organization seeks to enable platforms that allow doctoral students to enrich their intellectual lives and expand their horizons; especially to engage deeply with students and academics in departments and disciplines inside and outside of COE and in institutions inside and outside of UTEP. These platforms will be physical and online; local, regional, national, and international; student only and student/academic.

(This section is open to be expanded)

PURPOSE: The purpose of this organization is to support and enhance the academic advancement of TLC students throughout their time at UTEP by providing a forum for facilitating scholarly presentations, collegial support, free exchange of ideas, and discussion of critical issues related to the TLC doctoral program.

(This section is open to be expanded)

Article II: Membership

Any registered doctoral student in UTEP's PhD TLC in good academic standing is automatically a member. Members are not required to participate in activities, but retain the right to vote for officers and voice their opinions on critical issues related to the PhD TLC program.

The TLC PhD Student Organization "does not discriminate against qualified members of the University on the basis of their race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, ability, or veteran status, and abides by the Non-Discrimination Policy set in place by The University of Texas at El Paso and the UT System." (Mandatory Statement from the UT System)

((This section is open to be expanded))

Article III: Voting for Officers

VOTING PRIVILEGES: Voting privileges are limited to current students in good academic standing.

(This section is open to be expanded)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: An ad hoc committee of two (2) or more members will be created to coordinate each election. Officers will be elected during the summer term. Each member will have only one vote. Members will not be required to vote. Simple plurality will determine the outcome of officer elections. Only full members in good academic standing will be eligible to run for office. No officer may hold more than one office position in a given academic year. The faculty sponsor will monitor the electoral process.

(This section is open to be expanded)

Article IV: Officer Responsibilities

CHAIRPERSON: 1) Responsible for directing the activities of the organization based on feedback and input from other officers and members; 2) periodically meet with the business manager to discuss the budget, activities, etc.; 3) maintain the organization website; 4) registering the organization with the Student Development Center; 5) act as student representative at TLC doctoral committee meetings in vice-chair/representative's absence; and 6) expected attendance, coordination, and facilitation of organization meetings.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

VICE-CHAIR/REPRESENTATIVE: 1) Responsible for representing all students at TLC doctoral committee as student representative; 2) disseminate the proceedings from the TLC doctoral committee meetings; 3) support chairperson in directing organization activities; 4) coordinate and facilitate organization meetings in chairperson's absence; and 5) expected attendance of organization meetings.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

BUSINESS MANAGER: 1) Responsible for maintaining and managing funding; 2) drafting a budget for the organization's activities; 3) record and disseminate the proceedings from the PhD student organization meetings; and 4) expected attendance at organization meetings.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

TERMS OF OFFICE: Officer terms begin at the beginning of fall semester and end the beginning of fall semester of the following year. The chairperson and vice-chairperson have two (2) year term limits.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

REMOVAL OF OFFICERS: Officers may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the membership, excluding current officers.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

VOTING POWERS OF THE OFFICERS: All officers will have the same voting privileges as members. However, any ties during voting procedures will be resolved by the chairperson's vote.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

VACANCIES: Vacant officer positions will be filled by ad hoc elections following the same election process described in Article III. Officers who are elected mid-term and serve less than 50% of the term will be allowed to be on the ballot for future officer positions the following two (2) terms.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

COMMITTEES: Ad hoc committees will be created as needed, and will consist of members interested in the purpose and function of the committee. There will be no standing committees.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

Article V: Meetings

MEETINGS: The organization will meet on a bimonthly basis. This meeting may be attended by members only. The chairperson will act as facilitator for the meetings. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chair/representative will resume the responsibilities of chairperson. Quorum for conducting business will require that the chairperson and 2 other members are present. In the event that a quorum is not obtained, the meeting will serve as a platform for discussion and voting will take place. However, those votes will not be made official until the next quorum is obtained. Robert's Rules of Order will be adopted for the meetings.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

Article VI: Finances

FINANCES: The business manager retains complete control over the finances of the organization. Purchases and expenditures on behalf of the organization may only be made by the business manager and the chairperson. The organization's funds may only be appropriated for activities facilitating the purposes of the organization outlined above.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

BUDGET: Business manager will draft an annual budget in consultation with chairperson and vice-chair/representative. Budget is approved by a majority vote from the members.

(This section is open to be amended/expanded)

Article IX: Amendments

AMENDMENTS: Amendments to this document may be made by a majority vote of the membership, with the exceptions of the underlined sections. In addition, as specified above, the “Origin and History” of the PhD Student Organization section is not amendable and or deletable. Also, as illustrated above, the underlined sections of the constitution and bylaws cannot be modified or removed, but they can be expanded if need it. In addition, new articles can be added as long as they don’t conflict with the specifications and limitations of this document.