

Resolution of Support for a Prison Education Initiative at Yale
Approved by the FAS Senate on October 15, 2020

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Yale University (FASS) was established as an elected representative body by a vote of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism in American institutions has led to mass incarceration of over 2.3 million people in the United States and disproportionately affects black, indigenous, and people of color; and WHEREAS, Yale's mission statement states that "Yale is committed to improving the world today and for future generations through outstanding research and scholarship, education, preservation and practice. Yale educates aspiring leaders worldwide who serve all sectors of society"; and WHEREAS, the Yale Prison Education Initiative at Yale has provided its faculty an opportunity to teach incarcerated individuals and has set the standard for institutions of higher learning in this venture; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prison Education at Yale recommended that the Dean of Yale College 1) appoint and authorize representatives from the Yale Prison Education Initiative and 2) pursue a prison education partnership with another institution for the purposes of offering courses, credits, and degrees; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020 the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prison Education at Yale recommended that the Dean of Yale College and Provost's office create initiatives to support education of incarcerated individuals; and WHEREAS, the Yale administration has not responded publicly to the Ad Hoc Committee on Prison Education's report;

THEREFORE, the FAS Senate of Yale University resolves as follows: RESOLVED, that the FASS urges the administration to enact the recommendations of the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prison Education at Yale, a prison education partnership with another institution and that the Dean of Yale College or University Provost appoint a faculty committee to oversee the academic components of this partnership; and RESOLVED, that the FASS urges the administration to enact the recommendations of the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Prison Education at Yale that the current arrangement of offering credited, tuition-waived Yale Summer Session courses through YPEI continue; and

RESOLVED, that the FASS urges the administration to lift its constraints on YPEI offering credited Yale Summer Session programming only, and authorize YPEI to develop a blueprint for offering year-round credit-bearing Yale courses to incarcerated students; and

RESOLVED, that the FASS recognizes that knowledge and analysis are a basis for enhancing social justice and in this case, Yale's support of prison education aligns with Yale's mission and addresses a social justice crisis in the United States.