

# Al 100 X LA UPR

**SPREAD THE WORD** about APRUM's lawsuit under Title III of PROMESA  
and **SUPPORT PROTESTA**mos's *Al 100 x la UPR* campaign!

**Join. Contribute. Share. WE NEED YOU!**

**APRUM wants to be your voice in court, but it needs you  
to be its voice wherever you are.**

**Here are answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the lawsuit  
and the *Al 100 x la UPR* campaign. Use and share this information widely.**

**1. What is the lawsuit about?**

APRUM (*Asociación de Profesores y Profesoras del RUM* / Professors' Association of UPR-Mayagüez) is the *only* university organization that has taken on the urgent task of defending and safeguarding the UPR and its necessary transformations by filing a lawsuit under Title III ("the bankruptcy court") of PROMESA. In the lawsuit, APRUM presents itself as a *social creditor* of the Commonwealth, which is "represented" in the judicial processes by the Fiscal Control Board (FCB). When people start a lawsuit in a bankruptcy court, precisely because they are bankrupt, because our country is bankrupt, we are already losing. The lawsuit seeks to ensure that we lose as little as possible.

**2. Why is APRUM involved in the lawsuit and why is PROTESTA**mos supporting APRUM?

*Historical and ideological reasons*

APRUM is involved in the lawsuit and PROTESTA

- mos is supporting APRUM because we know that:
- the humanitarian crisis that Puerto Rico faces today is the product, first, of a corrupt debt and, more recently, of an atmospheric phenomenon, neither of which was produced, chosen, or used for enrichment by the majority of Puerto Ricans;
  - the minorities who benefit from the "crisis" and the so-called "policies of austerity," as well as from the general impoverishment of our people and our environment, have personal wealth as their only objective, so they propose to convert the UPR into a private business, inaccessible to the majority and subject to exclusively financial interests;
  - for its recovery, the country urgently needs its public University, one of its most valued assets, because it is the country's only public institution of higher education, community development, scientific and sociohumanistic research, cultural production, conservation and curation, and health care, among other services;
  - no other institution or government office can take over all the services that a UPR performing at a 100% offers the country;



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- e. at the same time, the country urgently needs its public University to transform and fortify itself, strengthening and broadening its multiple social, economic, cultural and communitarian roles, based on the voices and actions of those of us who are part of it and of all Puerto Ricans, rather than on the multimillionaire private interests that only perceive education as merchandise that can be sold for profit;
- f. we Puerto Ricans are capable of defending and saving our beloved archipelago.

## *Strategic and political reasons*

APRUM is involved in the lawsuit and PROTESTAMOS is supporting APRUM because:

- a. this is the *only opportunity* we have in the country to have a voice before an external arbitrator (Judge Laura Taylor Swain), both to the local government (controlled by the FCB) and to the FCB itself (to those who ask if it is true that this is the only opportunity, we answer with another question: If it were not so, then why are all the multimillionaire bondholders in the bankruptcy court watching out for their interests?);
- b. it is the *only legally binding opportunity* to achieve, at least, a reduction in the excessive budget cuts that the FCB proposes to implement in the UPR. If we don't fight against the so-called "austerity measures," the UPR as a public enterprise will be irrevocably destroyed. Then, it will become inaccessible to the majority of our population and will be much less able to collaborate with our communities in all the capacities mentioned above.
- c. if APRUM were not involved in the lawsuit, it would be the Puerto Rico Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority (FAFAA) and the FCB "defending" the interests of the UPR. How and to what extent have these entities demonstrated any interest in the UPR as a public and accessible university? How much have they shown they actually know about the UPR, its historical trajectory and its achievements? How and to what extent might people and entities, whose clear objectives are to defend the interests of multimillionaire bondholders, be interested in a UPR that is strengthened against an odious, illegitimate and unsustainable debt?

From the perspective of the university's struggles for social justice and access to education, many sectors have repeatedly declared that it is desirable to have a greater variety of strategies for struggle. Concretely, the value of a paralyzing strike as a political strategy has been questioned. Regardless of our position in this debate, APRUM offers a struggle in the courts, with open gates at the UPR. If we are not successful in this struggle, it will *NOT* be the students, faculty and staff who will close the gates of quality, accessible public education to the majority of Puerto Ricans, in a country where 42% of the population lives below the poverty level. It will be vulture bondholders, multimillionaire corporations and people of the 1% who will shut the gates and put an end to our public University.



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### 3. What and how much can be shared about the lawsuit in any forum where we discuss its existence, its justification and the *Al 100 x la UPR* campaign in support of it?

All relevant, public information about the lawsuit is found at the *PrimeClerk* website. You will find APRUM's original lawsuit at: <https://cases.primeclerk.com/puertorico/Home-DocketInfo?DockSearchValue=APRUM>

If in a forum or informal dialogue, questions arise that we cannot answer, we should take note of them and forward them to Dr. Marcel Castro Sitiriche ([marcel.castro@upr.edu](mailto:marcel.castro@upr.edu)), APRUM's spokesperson. The questions will be consulted with our team of lawyers and the answers will be published on the PROTESTAMOS webpage: <https://protestamos.net>.

### 4. How long do we expect to be pursuing this lawsuit?

In general, lawsuits tend to be long-term processes, when they are not dismissed. Lawsuits like ours, such as the one in defense of the Detroit City Museum, last no less than 1½-2 years. Our lawsuit was originally filed at the end of June, 2017.

At present, since Hurricane Maria devastated our country, the case is "in pause" while the new Fiscal Plans of the Commonwealth and the UPR are being prepared and distributed, with the hope that we, the claimants, will have some level of participation in this process. The judicial motion that has been filed contemplates that, if we are not satisfied with the new Fiscal Plan of the UPR, APRUM will reactivate the lawsuit.

### 5. Why does APRUM need everyone's help through PROTESTAMOS's *Al 100 x la UPR* campaign?

APRUM needs your help and solidarity because we face much more powerful forces and interests with much greater financial resources. Since APRUM has a membership of about 150 UPR-Mayagüez faculty, the funds necessary for a contentious lawsuit of this nature are significantly beyond their financial possibilities. Although APRUM has made recurrent efforts for other university organizations to join them in the lawsuit, so that the financial weight might be distributed more evenly, these efforts have so far been unsuccessful. We continue to hope that this situation will change but, in any case, we need the support of ALL university sectors, of the ENTIRE country, and of EVERY sympathetic person the world over.

### 6. How will the money that is donated to the *Al 100 x la UPR* campaign be used?

The objectives of the campaign are to raise sufficient money to complete the judicial process and to restore APRUM's original balance, prior to its investment in the lawsuit. Some examples of expenses related to the lawsuit for which the money will be used are: legal team fees, travel expenses for hearings held in the United States, hiring of experts for different tasks related to the lawsuit, and professional translation of related documents, among others. Once the objectives of the campaign are met, if there are any funds left over, they will be destined to support research and teaching by adjunct colleagues at the UPR-Mayagüez.



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7. What are the ways to support and donate to the *Al 100 x la UPR* campaign?
- the best way is to donate **\$100 during one (1) year, in order to have a voice, representation and your day in court;**
  - any other amount** is equally necessary and welcome;
  - widely share** the information on the campaign and **be a spokesperson for its importance;**
  - put together a package of donations**, for example:
    - 5 persons who give \$20
    - 10 persons who give \$10
    - 20 persons who give \$5
    - 100 persons who give \$1
  - make your donation** in one of the following ways:
    - <http://www.youcaring.com/Al100xlaUPR>
    - ATH Móvil 787-458-8550
    - deposit to the Coop RUM account #11971
    - send a check to:  
APRUM  
P. O. Box 2227  
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico 00681

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