



Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán

(M. E. Ch. A.)

Constitution

University of Wisconsin-Madison

### **Preamble**

Chicano and Chicana students of Aztlán and allies must take it upon themselves the responsibilities to promote Chicanismo and education within the community, politicizing our Raza, with an emphasis on Indigenous Consciousness to continue the struggle for the self-determination of the Chicano people for the purpose of liberating Aztlán.

**Article I:** Title and symbol

#### **Section I:**

The name of this organization shall be MEChA, (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán).

#### **Section II:**

The official symbol of this organization shall be the eagle with its wings spread, bearing a macahuitl in one talon and a dynamite stick in the other, with a lit fuse in its beak. The acronym MEChA shall be above the symbol with the phrase, "La Union Hace La Fuerza" below.

**Article II:** Purpose and Goals

The purpose and goals of this organization are set forth as follows:

#### **Section 1:**

Unity: To unite and organize Chicana/os with the purpose of embracing the knowledge of their indigenous heritage.

Cultural: To promote and reinforce the Chicano culture and retain our identity in order to establish a permanent interest within the community.

Education: To offer whatever assistance is necessary and required that will encourage and enable more Chicana/os to complete their higher education and to become involved in all other aspects of education.

Political: To serve as a tool for raising the political consciousness of Chicana/o students to better serve the community and to promote and implement plans of action concerning Chicana/os.

**Section II:**

Send at least two representatives, one being a Chicana, as elected by voting members to national conference meeting to be recognized as a voting representative of the chapter.

**Article III: Membership**

Membership in this organization shall be open to anyone regardless of race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or disabilities.

An official member:

**Section I:**

Is an enrolled student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Section II:**

Is a distinguished honorary member who has vested interest in the advancement of MEChA and the Chicano community.

**Section III:**

Agrees to accept and adhere to the Purpose, Constitution and By-Laws of MEChA.

**Section IV:**

All members must be oriented by discussion and reading historical documents of our movimiento, including: (a) El Plan de Santa Barbara, (b) El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán, and (c) the MEChA Position Papers of Philosophy, Constitution, Relationship to outside Organizations, and Goals & Objectives.

**Article IV:** Voting

Voting privileges are granted to members in good standing as defined as follows:

**Section I:**

Members missing three or more consecutive meetings will lose all voting privileges. These privileges will be re-instated after attending three more consecutive meetings. If a member can not attend three (3) consecutive meetings, he/she needs a legitimate excuse for not attending (e.g. illness or class conflict). This punishment can be waived at the consensus of the co-chairs. However if there is a disagreement between the co-chairs, a group 2/3 vote will be required to reinstate voting privileges. The defendant must be present.

**Section II:**

Members must actively participate in at least one event or activity per semester.

**Article V:** Officers

**Section I:**

The responsibilities of the elected officers of this organization shall be as follows:

- A) Two Co-Chairs: whose functions are to facilitate all general and officers meetings, represent MEChA on and off campus, act as spokesperson of the organization, and provide direction in programming to ensure the accomplishment of constitutional and organizational goals.
  - (i) Co-Chairs must consist of a male and female.
  - (ii) It is however left to the discretion of the current voting members to implement the above.
- B) Secretary: To record and distribute minutes at all general and special meetings. They must announce all upcoming meetings and keep an up-to-date file of member's basic information sheet, to include members' addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.
- C) Historian: To maintain records of MEChA meetings and functions.

## **Section II:**

A) The officer shall be elected amongst those members presented as eligible candidates by secret ballot for each office by members of the organization, provided they are voting members. The positions of Co-Chairs must be held by students while remaining positions are open to all members. Nominations for officers must be done one week prior to elections. The candidates for each office receiving a simple majority of the actual vote shall be declared elected.

B) Interim officers shall be elected in the event that elected officers will not be present to perform responsibilities of their positions over the summer.

## **Section III:**

The terms of office shall be the duration of two semesters' spring and fall respectively. Elections shall take place the last meeting of the fall semester. Officers shall take office immediately after being appointed.

## **Section IV:**

Any officer who violates the rights, privileges and responsibilities of their office as set forth by the Constitution may be removed from office by  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the members in a meeting, provided that the body has been given one (1) week's notice prior to voting.

## **By-Laws**

1. Regular MEChA meetings shall be held on a weekly basis or at such other times as may be decided upon by a majority of the members at a previous meeting.
2. A simple majority of those present will carry any motion. A "simple majority" is equal to  $(50\% + 1)$  of the voting body.
3. An official committee of MEChA must be created and recognized by the body. Committees shall forward all business to the organization as a whole.
4. If an officer(s) resigns and/or office(s) become vacant, procedure in Article V Section II of the constitution shall be used.
5. Amendments to the constitution can be carried by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the general membership. Amendments shall be proposed, typed, copied, and distributed to each member, at least one meeting prior to when the vote will take place.