

Constitution of M.E.Ch.A California State University, Chico

PREAMBLE

We are committed to the struggle for self-determination, educational rights, cultural identity, political awareness, human dignity, and freedom for students on campus; as well as in the community, in the interests of uniting all Raza.

ARTICLE I: Name and Symbol

1. The name of the organization shall be:
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan
2. The official symbol of this organization shall be: The Eagle with its wings spread, bearing a macahuittle in one claw and a dynamite stick in the other with a lighted fuse in its beak. The acronym M.E.Ch.A will be above the symbol with the phrase, "La Union Hace la Fuerza."

ARTICLE II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To focus on political, cultural, and educational issues. Also to acknowledge the achievements of the Chicano/a community.
2. To make higher education a realistic goal of La Raza.
3. To create a common interest and identity among La Raza.

ARTICLE III: Membership

A. Qualification for Membership

1. Shall be open to students who are currently enrolled at California State University, Chico.
2. Shall not be denied on the basis of race, religion, social class, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, or political beliefs.

B. Responsibilities of Members

1. Must know and develop an understanding of:
 - a. El Plan de Santa Barbara
 - b. Philosophy of M.E.Ch.A.
 - c. El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan
 - d. The Constitutions of CSU, Chico M.E.Ch.A., Regional M.E.Ch.A., and National M.E.Ch.A.
2. Must participate in M.E.Ch.A. sponsored events.
3. Must serve on at least one committee during each semester.
4. Must attend meetings regularly in an effort to maintain voting rights.
5. Any member elected to an office for the upcoming semester shall complete officer training from the current officer.

C. Voting Privileges

1. Must attend three consecutive general body meetings to obtain voting privileges.

2. Missing two consecutive meetings will result in the suspension of voting privileges.
 - a. Exceptions will be granted by the general body to members that are absent due to approved M.E.Ch.A. business.
3. Voting privileges will be carried from semester to semester.
4. Only voting members can make a motion or second a motion.
5. The Director of University Affairs cannot make a motion or second it. Director of University Affairs cannot vote unless there is a tie: this applies to the Mesa and general body meetings.
6. Members should be aware of parliamentary procedure.

D. Termination of Membership

1. Membership will be terminated by disqualification from the University or,
2. If an incident occurs, involving a member that goes against the guiding documents, the general body has the authority to act accordingly.

ARTICLE IV- La Mesa Directiva

A. La Mesa

La Mesa is made up of the following positions:

1. Director of University Affairs
2. Director of Alumni Relations
3. Office Manager
4. Director of Finance
5. Director of Political Affairs
6. Director of Public Relations
 - a. Historian Chair
7. Director of Community Outreach
8. Director of Internal Affairs
9. Director of External Affairs

B. Criteria for Mesa Membership

1. All officers must be full time students at CSU, Chico maintaining at least a 2.5 GPA and be cleared of academic probation.
2. A member on academic probation must wait one additional semester after he/she is cleared of academic probation to run for a Mesa position.
3. Officers should be active members for at least one semester to be eligible to hold office
4. If a nominated member does not fit under criteria for Mesa Membership (1-3 above) under special circumstances a candidate can petition the general body or be petitioned by another member of Mesa candidacy.
5. Officers should familiarize themselves with El Plan de Santa Barbara, , El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan and the constitution of M.E.Ch.A officers should integrate the ideologies of these documents into the philosophy and activities of the organization
6. When representing M.E.Ch.A, individual views or opinions that are contrary to the "Guiding Documents" are not to be publicly expressed as the views or opinions of M.E.Ch.A.
7. In order to run for Director of University Affairs the candidate

- a. Must have previously held a Mesa position for a full academic year at CSU, Chico M.E.Ch.A. (Under special circumstances refer to Article IV B, number 4.)

C. Duties and Responsibilities

1. Director of University Affairs:
 - a. To conduct general body meetings.
 - b. Act as a representative of M.E.Ch.A. in the Chicano Studies Advisory Committee (Student and Faculty Committee).
 - c. To maintain open communication with advisors, staff/faculty, university and student body.
2. Director of Alumni Relations:
 - a. Director of Alumni Relations cannot be a graduating senior.
 - b. Serve as the Latino Graduation Celebration Chair.
 - c. Officiate all Latino Graduation meetings and inform the general body and Mesa of ongoing process.
 - d. Establish and maintain open communication with the University Alumni Office, Latino Graduation and M.E.Ch.A. Alumni Association
3. Office Manager:
 - a. Assist in organizing the agendas for the general body meetings.
 - b. Keep minutes at the general body meetings.
 - c. Post minutes on the M.E.Ch.A. bulletin board.
 - d. Keep an accurate filing system.
 - e. Check M.E.Ch.A. mailbox 3 times a week in the BMU and present the mail to the Mesa and the general body.
4. Financial Administrator:
 - a. Keep a spreadsheet and reports of accounts payable i.e. phone, expenses, endorsed checks, and deposit funds to M.E.Ch.A. checking and savings accounts.
 - b. Make all records and reports available at every general body, and Mesa meeting.
 - c. Oversee and/or chair the fundraising committee.
 - d. Financial Administrator is authorized to make disbursements only in exchange for a valid receipt.
 - e. Work closely with all committees and keep a record of all projects such as RAC, Activity Fee, and Multicultural Affairs Council- Check Request.
5. Director of Political Affairs:
 - a. Take an action and inform the general body about political issues that affect la Raza.
 - b. Be the liaison in networking with M.E.Ch.A. at the national level.
 - c. Actively participate in voter registration, citizenship forums, and workshops relating to politics.
 - d. Must be able to communicate with Spanish-speaking Raza.
6. Director of Public Relations:
 - a. Focus on enlarging membership.
 - b. Prepare press release on M.E.Ch.A. sponsored events and activities and write editorials on issues that concern M.E.Ch.A. ideology. All should be approved by the body.

- c. Keep a file of M.E.Ch.A. articles and historical current events regarding issues and items of importance to the organization.
 - d. Maintain M.E.Ch.A. website and E-mail account
 - e. Oversee Historian Chair
 - 1. Historian Chair:
 - a. Responsible for taking pictures at all M.E.Ch.A. sponsored events.
 - b. Keeping an updated photo album.
 - c. Keeping the bulletin board updated.
7. Director of Community Outreach:
- a. Focus on making a connection with elementary, junior high, high school, and community colleges to promote higher education.
 - b. Keep a list of existing M.E.Ch.A. chapters within our community in an attempt to work together to achieve our goals.
 - c. Provide necessary information and guidance to individuals wishing to start a M.E.Ch.A. chapter at their school.
 - d. Keep communication open with the community.
8. Director of Internal Affairs:
- a. Plan a monthly event for MEChistAs.
 - b. Keep constant contact with membership.
 - c. Organize M.E.Ch.A. socials, retreats, and M.E.Ch.A. 101's.
 - d. Keep track of voting rights, sign up sheets, and contact lists.
9. Director of External Affairs:
- a. Responsible for going to Regional and Central meetings every month.
 - b. In charge of reporting back to the chapter what was discussed in the meetings.
 - c. Organize and oversee central, regional, statewide, and national meetings held on campus.
 - d. Attending PPA (Progressive Political Agenda) meetings at every statewide conference.
 - e. Responsible for turning in paperwork for statewide and national conferences.
 - f. Maintain M.E.Ch.A. E-mail account in cooperation with Director of Public Relations.

D. Responsibilities of the Mesa members:

- 1. Keep a minimum of two office hours a week.
- 2. Maintain voting rights at statewide and regional levels.
- 3. Implement the constitution.
- 4. Advocate M.E.Ch.A.'s ideology.
- 5. Recognize and follow through on national and statewide resolutions.
- 6. Be familiar with national, statewide, regional, and central constitutions.
- 7. Maintain communication with other M.E.Ch.A. chapters.
- 8. Meet one week before semester commences and one week after semester ends.
- 9. In case a mesa member is absent from a general meeting, he/she is responsible for alternate means of report.

E. Mesa Authority

The Mesa may with a majority vote authorize expenditures of up to \$75.00 of routine operational purposed: bills, office supplies, project expenditures, phone bill, and printing costs.

F. Election and Removal:

1. The election process shall take place one month before spring semester finals week.
 - a. Nominations will begin one month before the final meeting of the spring semester.
 - b. A nominee must have a majority of the vote in order to attain office in the Mesa.
 - c. In an event to a tie, the top two candidates will have a run-off election the following week. The Director of University Affairs will cast the deciding vote.
 - d. All elections will be conducted by secret ballot and coordinated by advisors.

G. Standing Committee:

The following committees may be chaired by any member of the general body who desires to do so:

Fall: Christmas Program

Spring: Cesar Chavez Day, and International Festival.

Both semesters: M.E.Ch.A. banquets and any other miscellaneous committee.

ARTICLE V- Meetings

General body meetings shall be held weekly while school is in session.

1. No meeting shall be held during:
 - a. First week of classes
 - b. Dead week
 - c. Finals week

ARTICLE VI- Advisors

1. Must have the same ideology and philosophy as M.E.Ch.A.
2. Need to be familiar with El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan, and CSUC, M.E.Ch.A. constitution.
3. Any faculty or staff can be an advisor to M.E.Ch.A. but it shall be the responsibility of voting members to approve the advisors.
4. Advisors may be removed by a 75% vote of the MEChistAs with voting privileges. The motion must be raised at least two weeks prior to vote.

ARTICLE VII- Disbursement of Assets

In the unlikely event that M.E.Ch.A. Chico should disband, the Mesa officers shall disburse the assets to the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund, UFW (United Farm Workers) and The Education Fund. Should no officers be available the advisor listed on the Student Organization Information sheet on file with the Student Activities Office shall disburse the funds.

ARTICLE IX-Bylaws

Bylaws shall follow the same process of adoption as amendments

Amended 23 FEB 2005 at CSU, Chico

Amended 15 MAR 2000 at CSU, Chico