

M.E.Ch.A.

Charge and Charter

1/28/2008

MISSION STATEMENT

MEChA (*Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlán*/Chicano Student Movement of Aztlán) is a nationwide organization that was started in 1969 to address the many issues facing the Chicano community at the time. Since then, MEChA has changed to fit the evolving, but ever-present needs of our community. One of the main issues MEChA has always addressed is improving the state of education and expanding educational opportunities for our youth.

ARTICLE I**POSITIONS**

- Gender Equity will be achieved when possible
- All positions with less than two officers must attend all meetings or find a temporary replacement.

CO-CHAIRS (2):

The Co-Chairs will facilitate regular and special meetings of the organization and will represent the organization at all times. The Co-Chairs may not make decisions for the organization that may affect the entire membership, unless they consult the membership first. The Co-Chairs will work in unity with the membership, serving as mentors and advisors to all members, particularly the Executive Board. No member has the power to represent the organization without consulting the membership. The Co-Chairs must have a minimum of 1-year tenure with MEChA.

SECRETARY (1):

The Secretary will create and update chapter contact lists (general and executive) and work with the Co-Chairs to produce all weekly (and bi-weekly) agendas. The Secretary will type all meeting minutes, log them on disk and hardcopy, distributing them when requested.

BUDGET AUTHORITY (1):

The Budget Authority must attend the mandatory AS training as they will serve as the only person to handle all moneys that pass in and out of chapter account. The Budget Authority will be the advisor for all fundraising activities. The Budget Authority will maintain an accurate and updated budget, which they will report at each weekly business meeting.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION (1)

The Minister of Education will coordinate the bi-weekly MEChistA study/tutorial Period. The Minister of Education will maintain the chapter's educational/tutorial contact list, connecting MEChistAs with tutoring assistance when needed. The Minister of Education will work with the Historian to support and facilitate the education of MEChistAs both organizationally and academically.

HISTORIAN (1):

The Historian will have extensive knowledge of the history of MEChA, providing information and resources to the Minister of Education and other MEChistAs. The Historian will help to maintain and amend the chapter constitution when needed. The Historian will lead all recruitment efforts of the chapter.

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES (4):

The Chapter Representatives will serve as the voice of the chapter at all PNMR and Central meetings. At least two Representatives must be present at all PNMR and Central meetings, and only one is required at the weekly ESC Steering Committee meeting. ESC Steering Representative is required to attend all ESC Steering Committee trainings and present a report at all scheduled meetings. The representatives will maintain and log accurate minutes of all ESC Steering Committee, PNMR and Central meetings, provide them to chapter when requested. At least two representatives must have a minimum of 1-year tenure with MEChA. ESC Steering Representative must attend training as scheduled by the ESC.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER (1):

The Internal Affairs Office will maintain all MEChA communication within WWU and the organization as a whole. The Internal Affairs Officer will check and maintain the chapter's e-mail daily. The Internal Affairs Officer must have a 1-year tenure with MEChA.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER (1):

The External Affairs Officer will maintain all communication between chapter and other non-MEChA organizations (i.e., campus, newspapers, and beyond). The External Affairs Officer must obtain chapter approval before all written external communication. The External Affairs Officer must have a 1-year tenure with MEChA.

ARCHIVISTS (2):

The Archivists will attend all chapter activities and events, taking photos, clipping and saving articles, and scrapbooking with synapses and summaries.

ARTICLE II**MEETINGS:**

- Regular business meetings are held weekly.
- Agenda meetings (executive) will be held weekly before business meetings.
- Chapter tutorial/educational periods will be held on a bi-weekly basis.
- A chapter social/retreat will be held once a quarter.
- The Parliamentary Authority will be Modified Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE III

NOMINATIONS:

- All nominations will be made by chapter members during the second meeting of of fall quarter.
- No nomination is mandatory.
- Members can nominate themselves.

ARTICLE IV

VOTING:

- A consensus will be attained whenever possible and will be done by paper form.
- In cases where a consensus cannot be achieved, a majority vote, as defined as half + one, must approve amendments.
- The results of all votes will be announced before the adjourning of the meeting.

ARTICLE V

ELECTIONS:

- Elections should take place during the third week of the quarter
- Votes are cast by secret ballot
- Counting of votes is done by Co-Chairs and one person with affiliation to M.E.Ch.A

ARTICLE VI

REPORTAGE:

- In order to maintain institutional cohesion, the ESC SC shall be advised by the ESC Coordinator/Activities Advisor.
- The ESC SC Representative shall report to the AS Board of Directors through the AS Vice President for Diversity.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

- Any member of the chapter may pose amendments.
- All amendments shall be voted on after a written presentation to the chapter.
- All members will vote after the amendment presentation.
- An amendment becomes effective as of the date of passage.

