



MEChA de UW Constitution

Article I: Organization Name

Section 1: The name of this organization is Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán (MEChA) de University of Washington.

Section 2: The official symbol of this organization shall be the eagle with its wings spread, bearing a macahuitl in one claw and a dynamite stick in the other with the lighted fuse in its beak. The acronym MEChA shall be the above symbol with the phrase "La Union Hace La Fuerza" below.

Article II: Purpose

Section 1: It is our purpose to deconstruct all forms of oppression, which manifest themselves through the dominant institutions of our society. This can be achieved by way of education and active promotion of political consciousness, culture, and unity.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: The membership of this organization shall consist of quarterly enrolled undergraduate and graduate students who have paid organization dues.

Section 2: Honorary members shall consist of faculty, staff, and community members. Honorary members, who have paid their dues and have been approved by the majority vote, may have voting privileges. Honorary members who have become Official Members (hold voting privilege) can hold all office positions excluding Co-chairs, High-School Outreach and Treasurer pending that the current positions stay the same.

Section 3: **Only currently enrolled University of Washington Students and Honorary members who have paid dues (\$5.00/quarter or \$15.00/school year) have voting privileges** and must be the majority at all the meetings. If any students is not able to pay due to financial reasons, they are to consult with the officers so that an agreement is reached which

will properly satisfy the absence of payment. Official membership is based on payment of dues. Any official MEChA member may vote in autumn quarter. In order to be eligible to vote, members must have attended at least two prior meetings in the current year starting with the third meeting of the winter quarter of each year.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1: The officers of this organization shall be the following:

Chapter Co-Chairs (2)

High School Outreach (2)

Adelante Con Educacion (ACE) Chairs (4)

Educational Chairs (2)

Treasurer (1)

Community Outreach and Retention (2)

Political Chair (1)

Campus Relations (1)

La Raza Commission Representative (1 + proxy)

Student Advisory Board Representative (1 + proxy)

ASUW Senate Representative (1 + proxy)

Alto Pacifico de Aztlan (APA) MEChA Region Representative (1 + proxy)

Nationals Chair (2)

Scribe (1 + proxy)

Archivist (2)

Web Design (2)

Gender and Sexuality Chair (2)

Section 2: Only official organization student members are eligible to hold office.

Section 3: Term of office shall be one year including the summer session. In face of critical situations the term may be extended with the approval of the chapter in a two-thirds vote.

Section 4: Officer Duties:

Chapter Co-Chairs (2): shall be the official representatives of the organization with regards to letters and other correspondence, shall call and conduct meetings, shall provide student leadership, direction and guidance. They shall serve as a proxy for all positions when needed, and shall serve as a safety net bridge with other members. Co-Chairs shall remind members of meetings, as well as updates on important events or notices. Lastly, they shall be responsible for mail and office clean up.

High School Outreach Chairs (2): shall outreach and maintain constant communication with high school students. They must be able to go to High School campuses and be able to present powerpoints and other presentations that they see fit. They must also work with ACE Co-chairs in the process of attaining applications for the ACE Conference. Chairs shall be responsible for giving campus tours, and tabling at conferences pertaining to High School students

Adelante Con Education (ACE) Chairs (4 (3 chairs + 1 mentee)): shall coordinate and facilitate the yearly creation of Adelante Con Educacion conference. These members are not solely responsible for the conference, but to insure that the rest of the organization is also holding a responsibility and taking part on the upbringing of the conference. In the event that chairs are inexperienced, they shall communicate with past ACE chairs to ensure a successful conference.

Educational Chair (2): shall organize educational events once a week that will help MEChA and the community understand community issues. This can include presentations, guest speakers, caucuses, movies, etc. These educational events shall inform members of contemporary issues and address all five advocacy agendas.

Treasurer (1): shall oversee all money related activities as well as being responsible for collecting quarterly dues from every member in the organization. They should also provide a monthly update organization on balance of bank accounts or at least have the information on hand if needed. Within a month of the beginning of Fall Quarter the new Treasurer should have all documents and be registered under the bank account from the previous Treasurer. The previous Treasurer shall not have any documents or be registered under the bank account after the first month of Fall Quarter.

Community Outreach and Retention (2): shall be in charge of reserving equipment for any tabling events. They are also responsible for holding members accountable of attending tabling hours. They shall contact and invite new members to meetings and all events. They are

responsible for organizing chapter retreats and social events such as Sancho Brownletin, Brown Elephant, Graduation Dinner/Goodbye, etc.

Political Chair (2): shall maintain and create working relationships with off campus communities and community-based organizations. Such a relationship should be fostered in order to both broaden MEChA's awareness of community issues and involve the organization in events that take place off campus. The political chair shall contact and visit organizations as necessary as well as invite them to MEChA meetings. Possible community organizations include but are not limited to: Entre Hermanos, El Comite, El Centro de La Raza, Casa de Familia, and Big Brother Big Sister. They shall be responsible for organizing civic movements and work closely with Ed Chairs to ensure critical political and organizing topics are been covered. They shall seek support and support those members who have been reached out to by the community.

Campus Relation (2): shall maintain and create a relationship between M.E.Ch.A. de UW and different organizations/departments on campus. Such a relationship should be fostered in order to ensure that MEChA de UW is kept up to date on current campus issues and to facilitate the organization's involvement in partner organizations' events on campus. This can be done by contacting and visiting different organizations, as well as inviting such groups to MEChA meetings. Possible community organizations include but are not limited to: USAS, SUPER UW, Q Center, Unidas Seremos, QPOCA, and the Women's Center. They are encouraged to attend other organizations' meetings regularly to let them know about collaboration. They shall be the point of communication to other organizations.

La Raza Commission Representative (1+Proxy): shall attend bi-weekly meetings with La Raza Commission and its constituency in order to build coalitions and inform the general student body on MEChA related events. The La Raza Representative shall return to the chapter with a brief summary of updates regarding events in the UW community. They shall be a liaison between our chapter and the other Latin@ organizations on campus.

Student Advisory Board Representative (1+ Proxy): shall attend weekly SAB meetings with Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity Provost and staff and report back to the organization with updates on campus issues and events, as well as present MEChA de UW's concerns to SAB.

ASUW Senate Representative (1+Proxy): shall attend weekly ASUW Senate meetings as a representative of MEChA and vote on our behalf. The senate representative shall vote according to the papeles and the principles of unity. It shall be the senator's duty to keep the organization updated on campus issues. They shall not miss more than 2 meetings per quarter as MEChA would lose voting rights.

Alto Pacifico de Aztlán MEChA Region Representative (1+ Proxy): shall attend monthly meetings with the chapters of the region and report back to the organization. The location of

such meetings alter by month as chapters take turns hosting these meetings. As such, a reliable means of transportation is necessary for this position. This representative shall be a liaison between our chapter and the region. They shall be flexible for conference calls, and be available to attend the Fall Retreat and the Winter/Spring Conferences. They shall also stay updated on the APA Facebook group. During the national conference it is the representative's responsibility to attend the mandatories or send a proxy in their absence.

Nationals Chair (2): shall be responsible for organizing the chapter's attendance to the National MEChA Conference. They shall create and follow a timeline of organizing and establish due dates for housing, transportation, and fundraising. They shall coordinate with the treasurer to create fundraising opportunities, booking travel and lodging, and creating and updating the point-tracking system.

Scribe (1+Proxy): shall take accurate meeting notes, keep them on file for future reference, and email out to members. The scribe will also keep the MEChA email list serve and HuskyLink updated. The meeting minutes shall be open to community members. During Business Meetings, the Scribe should be the only member with electronics out other than the co-chairs.

Archivista (2): shall take pictures during events and file them properly on the Google Drive. The archivist will also add/update any archives such as newspapers, files, art, etc with relation to the organization. They shall also create a presentation that can be shown either quarterly or at the end of the year during a business meeting to the organization as a recap of memories and events that have happened. The presentation shall abide by the Principles of Unity and shall not have any disrespectful images or videos. The archivista shall scan old papers into digital copies and send it to UW Archives, as well as maintain and organize the office.

Web Design (2): shall be responsible in the upkeep of the MEChA de UW website and update other social networks, such as Facebook and Twitter. They are also responsible for gaining access to the website as dictated by University of Washington policy. The preceding office holder shall transfer the access information once the new position holder is elected.

Gender and Sexuality Chair (2): shall serve as the liaison and will be responsible for communicating updates from the national committee. They are the local extension of the national Gender and Sexuality committee will be the chapter-specific Gender and Sexuality chair. The Gender and Sexuality chair shall hold the chapter accountable for ensuring the safety and accessibility of women, queer, and trans* MEChA and community members. They shall work with Educational Chairs to ensure La Mujer and Gender & Sexuality Caucuses take place throughout the year. They are also responsible for creating a resource list for members to know of spaces to go to seek health, counseling and/or other services.

Section 4: The faculty advisor(s) shall be mandated to attend at least one general body meeting per quarter and work in close contact with the officers.

Section 5: Removal of officers shall consist of a two-thirds vote during a regularly scheduled meeting in which the recall vote has been publicized for at least two weeks in advance. A temporary suspension of the officer's duties can be implemented through a unanimous vote of the remaining officers until the next scheduled general meeting.

Article V: Meetings

Section 1: Bi-weekly meetings of this organization shall be held. An alternative, weekly schedule may also be held.

Section 2: Meetings cannot start until quorum is reached. Quorum shall consist of half of the members present at any regular or special meeting.

Article VI: Elections

Section 1: Elections of officers shall be held during the month of May.

Section 2: Length of office shall be one (1) year starting in June of the election year.

Section 3: Vacancies shall be filled by a two-thirds vote of members at a regular meeting in which the pending election has been publicized at least a week in advance.

Article VII: Advisors

Section 1: There shall be at least one faculty advisor who will serve the organization.

Section 2: We, as a group, will select the advisor(s) understanding that they will benefit the group by advising, consulting, and being liaison between the group and faculty.

Section 3: The organization shall decide by two-thirds vote who shall be the advisor, at the time of the election of officers for the following year.

Section 4: The faculty advisor(s) shall be mandated to attend at least one general body meeting per quarter and work in close contact with the officers.

Article VIII: Community Advisory Board

Section 1: There shall be a community advisory board consisting of community members who are able to offer advice, support, and ideas to the organization. The advisory council shall meet with the general body at least once per quarter and attend at least one organization event per year.

Section 2: The board shall be selected by the organization and will require a majority vote in order to be elected. The term shall consist of one year.

Article IX: Committees

Section 1: Committees shall be formed as the need arises.

Section 2: Gender and Sexuality. In response to the changing needs, issues, and identities that our organization faces, el Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA), has voted to develop a committee responsible for promoting and remaining accountable for the safety and awareness of the women, queer, and trans* members in our community. Its purpose is to actively promote awareness of gender and sexuality topics. Furthermore, the Gender and Sexuality Committee will assist in the organization and coordination of educational programs concerning gender, sexuality, identity awareness and equality. The Gender and Sexuality Committee (GSC) also reviews and makes recommendations to the National and Regional Chair Committee and relevant MEChA Commissions on gender, sexuality, identity awareness, queering spaces, and sexual assault programs within MEChA.

Article X: Amendments

Section 1: The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote from eligible student members (as defined in article three, section three), who are present at a regularly scheduled meeting. All amendments to the constitution can be voted upon only if they have been publicized for at least two weeks in advance.

Article XI: By-Laws

Section 1: Proposals may be presented at regular meetings to be voted upon. A majority vote is necessary to pass the proposals to which the proposals will be voted upon at the next general meeting.

Section 2: By-Laws will require a two-thirds vote to be approved.