

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán de Stanford Constitution

Article I. Name

- Section 1. The name of this organization will be the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) de Stanford.
- Section 2. The official symbol of this organization will 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 MEChA will be above the symbol with the phrase, “La Union Hace La Fuerza” below.
- Section 3. The motto of this organization will be “La Union Hace La Fuerza.”

Article II. Purpose, Goals, and Objectives

- Section 1. The purpose of MEChA de Stanford will be to serve the needs of the Chicano/Latino community at Stanford by promoting political, cultural and social awareness on campus and in the community. In order to best serve the interests of Chicana/os, Mexican Americans, Hispanics, and Latino/as we will fight for and support the following goals and objectives:
- A. Increasing the access, admission, hiring, and representation of Chicana/os, minorities, women, and other working class people at all levels of higher education;
 - B. Increasing the funding and resources for all ethnic studies programs, as well as programs designed for the welfare of all working people;
 - C. Increasing the level of political representation of Chicana/os, minorities, women, and other working class people at all levels of government;
 - D. Increasing the access, hiring, and representation of Chicana/os, minorities, women, and other working class people at all levels of civil society, including, among others, law, medicine, industry, and business;
 - E. Ensuring the fair access to health care, the access to pertinent, scientific, and medical information, and the awareness of medical issues of Chicana/os, minorities, women, and other working class people in our society;
 - F. The involvement of Mechistas in the electoral process at all levels, from the university level to the national level, in the election of democratic, liberal, and progressive candidates as the only rational choices for our people and for all working people;
 - G. The struggle for the social and economic equality of all peoples, and for the elimination of poverty, hopelessness, and despair too often experienced by minorities and working people in our society;

- H. The active involvement of Mechistas in the struggle of all working people, in particular for the farm worker, for union representation, and for better wages and working conditions;
- I. The struggle for greater democracy in the running of Colleges and Universities, including the representation of students and employees in the decision making bodies of higher educational institutions;

Article III. Membership

- Section 1. General Membership shall consist of any student who accept, believe, and work for the goals and objectives of MEChA de Stanford (refer to Article II) with the following restrictions:
 - A. Active members must be currently enrolled at Stanford University.
 - B. Undergraduate Students are limited to six years active membership in an office or voting position.
 - C. Graduate students will not hold an office position, and will be limited to a two years active membership.
 - D. There will be no dues.
- Section 2. Voting privileges are outlined as follows:
 - A. Members will gain voting privileges by attending two consecutive, regularly-called meetings.
 - B. Members will lose voting privileges by missing four consecutive, regularly-called meetings.
- Section 3. Individual Mechistas cannot offer the endorsement of, or formally represent, MEChA without the authorization of the general membership.

Article IV. Mesa Directiva (Officers)

- Section 1. The Mesa Directiva shall consist of two (2) Co-Chairs (one male and one female), two External Representatives, one Treasurer, one Secretary/Historian, and the chairs of all standing and special committees.
- Section 2. There shall be six standing committees that are Familia, Cultura, Educación, Labor, Youth, and Política—the chairs of which shall serve on the Mesa Directiva.
- Section 3. When necessary, the voting membership may assemble special committees and delegate their responsibilities and duration. Chairs of these special committees shall be elected by the voting membership and shall serve their term during the said duration of the committee.
- Section 4. Co-chairs will serve as ex-officio chairs of all committees.
- Section 5. All Mesa Directiva members shall be elected at the election meeting at the end of each academic year to serve their one year term and until their successors are elected. Their term shall begin upon the adjournment of the last scheduled meeting of the academic year.

Article V. Nomination and Election Procedures for the Mesa Directiva

- Section 1. All voting, undergraduate members are eligible for nomination and election to the Mesa Directiva. No member shall hold more than one office at a time.
- Section 2. Nominations procedures are outlined as follows:
- A. Nominations shall be made by any voting member, and must be seconded by another member.
 - B. Nominations will open up on the meeting prior to the election meeting.
 - C. Nominations will close during the election meeting.
 - D. Nominees must be present to accept nomination.
- Section 3. Elections procedures are outlined as follows:
- A. Elections will take place during the Election Meeting at the end of each academic year.
 - B. Only voting members shall cast ballots for election.
 - C. Nominees must be present at time of election.
 - D. Nominees not present at the election meeting will lose their nomination.
- Section 4. Special Elections procedures are outlined as follows:
- A. In the event of a vacancy, a special election will occur to fill the vacancy, using Article V, Section 1, Section 2A, 2D, Section 3B, 3C, and 3D.
 - B. Nominations shall take place at a regularly scheduled general meeting.
 - C. Elections shall take place at the next regularly scheduled general meeting.
- Section 5. The Election process is described as follows:
- A. All Mesa Directiva officers shall be elected by majority vote (50% +1) of voting members attending the election meeting using the closed ballot method.
 - B. If there are more than two candidates running for a position, the candidates will enter an instant run-off. Voters will rank their preferences for the position. If a majority vote is not attained during the first vote, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes is dropped from the ballot. Votes will be recounted as if the dropped candidate had not run. This process will be repeated until a candidate receives a majority of votes.

Article VI. Removal from the Mesa Directiva

- Section 1. Any member of the Mesa Directiva who fails to fulfill her or his respective duties may be removed from his or her office.
- Section 2. The Procedure for Section 1 will be outlined as follows:
- A. A written grievance will be presented at a general meeting by a voting member outlining the failure of duties.

- B. At the following general meeting, both the member presenting the grievance and the officer in question will be given an opportunity to present their respective case. If either party is absent, he or she loses the chance to explain his or her case.
- C. The general membership will discuss the grievance and proceed with a vote on the grievance.
- D. A two-thirds (2/3) vote will be necessary for the removal of an officer from the Mesa Directiva.

Article VII. Meetings

- Section 1. There will be at least one general meeting every week during each academic session. Quorum will be 30% of the voting membership, one co-chair, and 25% of the Mesa Directiva.
- Section 2. There will be at least two Mesa Directiva meetings every month during each academic session. Quorum will be 50% of the Mesa Directiva.
- Section 3. All committee meetings will be determined by the respective committee members and committee heads and will be announced beforehand at each general body meeting.
- Section 4. Any individual, who seriously disrupts a general body meeting, will, with a two thirds (2/3) vote, be removed from the meeting.

Article VIII. Dissolution of the Organization

- Section 1. Uncommitted funds at the end of each academic year will return to the Associated Students of Stanford University (ASSU) fund if they are from ASSU resources.
- Section 2. Uncommitted property will follow the procedure outlined in Article VIII, Section 1.

Article IX. Amendments

- Section 1. A constitutional amendment may be proposed by any voting member of MEChA de Stanford.
- Section 2. Amendments must be written and distributed to all voting members.
- Section 3. At the next regularly scheduled general meeting, the general body shall discuss and vote on the proposed amendment.
- Section 4. The amendments must be approved by a two thirds (2/3) vote of all voting members present.

Article X: Ultimate Authority

Ultimate authority over any interpretation or application of this constitution, as a whole or in part, shall be decided by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members of MEChA de Stanford.