

Central Washington University

M.E.Ch.A. Constitution

Article I – Name and symbol

Section 1 - The name of this organization will be M.E.Ch.A., which is the acronym for Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan.

Section 2 - The official symbol of this organization shall be the eagle with its wings spread, bearing a macahuittle in one claw and dynamite stick with a lit fuse in its beak. A banner will consist of the acronym M.E.Ch.A above symbol with “La Union Hace La Fuerza” below.

Article II – Organization Objectives

Section 1 - The objectives of the organization shall be:

- A. To promote and contribute to the knowledge, awareness, and understanding of the Chicano history and culture.
- B. To strive for educational, cultural, economical, political, and social empowerment within the Chicano community in order to help our people.
- C. To undertake the responsibility of retaining our identity and furthering our cultural awareness.
- D. To undertake the responsibility of uplifting and mobilizing Chicano/as through higher education.
- E. To implement plans of action concerning Chicanos/as.
- F. M.E.Ch.A. will strive to involve itself in the affairs of Central Washington University with an emphasis on working for the betterment of Central Washington University’s environment.

Article III – Affiliation

(National M.E.Ch.A. Organization)

Section 1 - In order to be a M.E.Ch.A. Chapter recognized by National M.E.Ch.A., the chapter must adopt and abide by the following responsibilities:

- A. Orient all members by discussing and reading historical documents of our movement, including El plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan, M.E.Ch.A. Position papers of philosophy, and the national Constitution.
- B. Make important aspects of the Chicano movement relevant to the members.
- C. Send at least both male and female PNMR M.E.Ch.A. Council representatives to the PNMR meetings, state, regional and national conferences.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1 - Membership will be open to all students, faculty, and staff of Central Washington University who are genuinely interested in contributing to the accomplishments of the goals of the organization. We will not discriminate against race, religion, sex, color, nationality, ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.

Article V – Dues

Section 1 - Dues shall be collected each quarter or in full at the beginning of each school year. The amount of the dues shall be determined by the Board at the beginning of the school year. The dues shall not exceed \$15.00 per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring) or exceed \$45.00 per school year (Fall, Winter, Spring).

- A. All students, faculty and staff of Central Washington University who have paid dues are official members for that quarter or school year.

Section 2 - Payment of dues will be required for the following:

- A. For all students, faculty, and staff of Central Washington University attending the Regional and national M.E.Ch.A Conferences.
- B. For all students holding an official officer position.

Section 3 - Those students, faculty and staff sponsored by Central Washington University M.E.Ch.A to attend the Stage, Regional and National M.E.Ch.A. Conferences

will be exempt from Article V Section 2.

- A. Those students, faculty and staff of Central Washington University who regularly attends M.E.Ch.A meetings and has participated in M.E.Ch.A. may not be exempt from Article V Section 2.

Article VI – Officers

Section 1 - In order to qualify for a position on the board of officers, the candidates must have read and understood this M.E.Ch.A. manual, *Article II Section 1* and *Article III Section 1* of this constitution. Only student members of M.E.Ch.A. are eligible for election to office.

- A. The President – The President’s duties shall include the calling of the first meeting of the quarter, providing accommodations for the meetings, preside at all meetings and oversee the committees and activities. Their signature will be needed on the M.E.Ch.A. account. It shall also be their responsibility to speak on behalf of Central Washington University’s M.E.Ch.A. chapter whenever there is a need for public response.
- B. The Vice President of Political Action – The Vice President of Political Action duties shall include gathering, reporting and responding to all political action correspondence. Any information that is found to important to the chapter will be archived by the Vice President of Political Action this will include but not be limited to: photos, letters, flyers and created materials. Their signature will be needed on the M.E.Ch.A. account. The Vice President of Political Action must also fill in for the President when he or she is absent.
- C. Social and Cultural Activity Coordinator - The Social Cultural Activity Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating guest speakers, dinners, dances and all other social and cultural activities. They will also be responsible for coordinating fund-raisers and all funds earned will be turned over to the Secretary/Treasurer.
- D. The Secretary/Treasurer – The Secretary/Treasurer’s duties shall be to take the official minutes at the meetings. Type and disperse the agendas and keep an official membership list. They will also make copies of correspondence including letters and official documents and disperse them to all voting members if needed. They will handle any immediate correspondence through phone or electronic mail. The Secretary/Treasurer shall open and or maintain the M.E.Ch.A. account with their signature on file as the depositor along with the President and Vice President of Political Action. They shall collect and pay any obligations as authorized by the chapter. If obtaining approval at a meeting is not possible due

to time, the Secretary/Treasurer will need an agreement of 2/3's of the officers. Justification for this procedure will be presented at the next regular meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep records of all transactions and report to members and the appropriate officials in accordance with Central Washington University's regulations regarding student organizations and their financial responsibilities. Improper disbursement of funds is ground for impeachment.

- E. The Pacific Northwest M.E.Ch.A. Region Representatives – The PNMR Representatives must consist of one male and one female. Their duties will consist of being present at every PNMR meeting. If unable to attend, the PNMR Representatives will be responsible for letting the chapter know so that alternates may be chosen. If no member is able to attend; the PNMR Representatives must let the Pacific Northwest M.E.Ch.A. Region and hosting chapter know. The PNMR Representatives will report the events and outcomes of the PNMR meeting, at the next chapter meeting. They will also address any concerns and ideas of the chapter at the PNMR meeting. PNMR Representatives shall build and strengthen ties between the chapters and community, defer to the planes for further community duties and serve as a high school outreach coordinator. PNMR Representatives will also maintain relations with high school students, providing them with information to encourage higher education, as well as provide opportunities to attend M.E.Ch.A. functions.
- F. Equity and Service Representative – The Equity and Service Representative for M.E.Ch.A. will attend all Equity and Service meetings with the purpose of reporting to the Equity and Service all the upcoming events, fund-raisers and concerns of the chapter in relation to the campus community. It will be the responsibility of this individual to report the information discussed at the Equity and Service meeting to the chapter at the next meeting. The Equity and Service Representative will also attempt to make relations with all Members and allies of the Equity and Service council.

Section 2 - An officer of M.E.Ch.A. may be impeached from his/her office for Incompetence as well as not maintaining the spirit of our constitution purpose. An officer's impeachment must be approved by a 2/3 vote official membership. The vote will be cast by secret ballot. The motion to impeach an officer must be proposed at least one meeting before the meeting when the vote will take place. The officer who is being impeached will be able to defend his/her position in front of the members of the chapter.

Section 3 - If an officer resigns or is impeached, a new officer will be elected by a simple majority vote. If the Presidency is vacant, refer to *Article VI section 1-B*.

Section 4 - Nominations will open at the beginning of spring quarter and close by the 1st of May. All officers elect must have paid their dues by May 1st for that school year to be eligible. Elections will be held during the month of May of every school year. All officers elect will give their reasons for running at a meeting held one week before the

election. All current officers will prepare and aid the officers elect from May to October 1st.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1 - Meetings will be planned and called by the officers of M.E.Ch.A. as an executive council. In no case will meetings be less than once every two weeks, except during school vacations and summer quarter. When possible the last meeting of each quarter will be held before the beginning of final

examinations period

Section 2 - Meetings will be conducted according to Modified Robert’s Rules of Order, as amended in the organization by-laws.

Section 3 - All motions and resolutions voted on will require a simple majority to carry, with the exceptions found elsewhere in the constitution.

Section 4 - a Quorum will consist of 50% +1 of recognized voting members.

Section 5 - Eligibility to vote is determined by official membership at M.E.Ch.A. meetings. Only those members present at the two preceding meetings will be eligible to vote on motions for impeachment or in elections. All members may vote on any other motions or resolutions.

Article VIII – Committees

Section 1 - Certain activities of this organization maybe directed by committees of the organizations as a whole.

Article IX – Amendments

Section 1 - The procedure for amending this Constriction shall be as follows:

- A. Motion to amend mat be made at any meeting. The member may be made at any meeting. The member making the motion to amend must present copies of the proposed changes or amendments and the section effected to each member present at the meeting.

- B. Following a second, discussion may take place, but the vote on the motion to amend will be tabled until the next meeting. No motion to table is required.
- C. The motion to amend will require a 2/3 majority of official membership to carry. This same procedure will apply to by-laws.

Article X – Ratification

Section 1 - All official members in attendance during the meeting which the motion to adopt this Constitution is presented may vote that motion. A 2/3 majority of members will be required to carry.

Article XI – Mission Statement

Section 1 - El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A.) is formed to bring unity to Chicano students. M.E.Ch.A. constantly fights for the rights of students, faculty and staff. It also promotes Chicano Studies and the self determination of the Chicano community.

Section 2 - It is important to promote unity and respect for each other –despite where we have come from, our economic status, religion, sex, political affiliation, sexual orientation, age or marital status.

Section 3 - M.E.Ch.A. Organizations exist on campus to provide personal and political support for those mentioned in Article XI sections 1 and 2. Some of the goals of the organization are.

- A. To provide a support system for Chicano students.
- B. To direct students to financial and educational resources.
- C. To promote cultural awareness through educational and entertainment activities.
- D. To promote campus unity among student groups and to create a strong voice on campus.
- E. To organize on campus for community support.
- F. To raise awareness of Chicano and social issues.

Amended Article VI, Section 1- A, B, C, D, E, F Section 4 on January 10th 2003