

# Constitution of El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx por Activismo (M.E.Ch.A.) at UC San Diego

MC0078 UC San Diego 9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla Ca. 92093-0078

## **Section I: Name of student organization**

The organization will be called Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx por Activismo de UC San Diego or M.E.Ch.A de UC San Diego. M.E.Ch.A. is a Latinx-based organization dedicated to student advocacy and inclusiveness for all.

## **Section II: *Statement of Purposes***

The primary goal of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx por Activismo de UC San Diego, hereinafter referred to as M.E.Ch.A de UC San Diego is to create a greater community that fosters a greater consciousness which reflects the issues we face politically, culturally, and socially as well as celebrating those aspects of our identities and society. Through this community, the goal is to offer support, opportunities, resources and trust among students who often feel marginalized in traditional and oppressive higher education circles.

M.E.Ch.A. de UC San Diego provides an opportunity for all student advocates to work together towards common goals, collectively help each other with problems one encounters at this University and to develop leadership qualities among its members, and ultimately, with the goal that these values be institutionally implemented for the greater collective.

M.E.Ch.A is a campus based community organization, integrating the academic community with the larger community. M.E.Ch.A sponsors and cosponsors University events such as Raices Awareness week and community events. M.E.Ch.A believes that student involvement in the social, political and cultural areas of the Latine experience will contribute to the academic educational process as well as the greater Latine community.

## **Section III: Nonprofit statement**

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx por Activismo at UC San Diego is a non-profit student organization.

## **Section IV: *Mesa Directiva Structure***

Only registered UC San Diego students may hold a position within the organization. Only registered UC San Diego students may vote in elections for the selection of the organization's officers.

A. Currently, the Mesa Directiva Structure consists of:

1. Co-Chairs(s)
2. Internal Responsable(s)
3. External Responsable
4. Director of Publicity
5. Director(s) of Finance
6. Raices Graduation Responsable(s)
7. Raices Youth Empowerment Responsable(s)
8. Raices Awareness Week Responsable(s)
9. Social Responsable
10. Academic Responsable
11. SIGUE (Retention) Coordinator
  - a. Hiring of committee members for SIGUE and Academic Responsable in mid/late fall
12. Xoxotlani (Access) Coordinator

13. Student Affirmative Action Committee (SAAC) Liaison
  14. Trabajadorxs Liaison
  15. Chicanx and Latinx Studies Coordinator
  16. Gender and Sexuality Responsable
  17. 2 MEChA Interns
  18. Community Liaison
  19. Director of Transfer and Commuter Affairs
  20. (Students with) Disability Support and Advocate Responsable
- B. All of the above-mentioned positions are elected by the general body members in the spring or fall quarter of the previous year or can be appointed by the Mesa Directiva through applications and interviews if there is a position vacant.
- C. It is the responsibility of the Mesa Directiva to coordinate the work of the organization. They should meet after each general body meeting to prepare the agenda, which is a list of items of discussion and committee reports.
- D. All Mesa Directiva Members must be full-time students at UC San Diego.
- E. All members must commit for one full year and be available as a resource for one full quarter after the termination of their term in office. Especially for the first two weeks after elections
- F. All Mesa Directiva members are responsible for facilitating and maintaining a committee (for those applicable) and having consistent meetings.
- G. Mesa Directiva will allocate time during the GBMs to promote and check in with committees.
- H. All the Mesa Directiva must alternate the position of (Facilitator).
- I. All the Mesa Directiva must help recruit students to become MEChistAs.

### **Section V: Mesa Directiva Functions and Responsibilities:**

The following are descriptions of the Mesa Directiva positions and related committees that are currently working on issues that affect students.

#### **A. Functions of the Mesa Directiva**

- a. Coordinate information between committees within M.E.Ch.A. and organizations that address themselves to the needs of the Latinx/Chicanx community at large.
- b. Generate an agenda for all meetings
- c. Provide support for events within the space regardless of whether or not you planned it. Maintains an attendance above (70%) to MEChA Events

#### **B. Committee Chairs:**

- a. Each committee chair will be responsible for executing their designated duties.
- b. All Mesa Directiva members are responsible for maintaining and updating a position binder/Google Drive throughout the year and passing it down for the incoming members. The contents of the binder can include but is not limited to digital copies, flash drives, and words of wisdom. Make use of the MEChA External google drive.

#### **C. Detailed description of the Mesa Directiva Positions**

##### **a. Co-Chair(s)<sup>1</sup> :**

- i. To coordinate all the meetings of the Mesa Directiva and GBMs
- ii. To oversee all the activities of the organization and to take full responsibility for its position.
- iii. To see that the policies of the organization are carried out, within the philosophies of M.E.Ch.A.
- iv. To work closely with the External Responsable(s) and Internal Responsable(s) to organize quarterly Mesa Directiva retreats along with other activities.
- v. To be the official voice of M.E.Ch.A. at UC San Diego.
- vi. To serve as the student representative at the Chicano Alumni Federation
- vii. To serve as a M.E.Ch.A. liaison at all mandatory meetings/retreats including, but not limited to: SPACES Board of Directors, Student Affirmative Action Committee, Administration meetings (ex. Campus Climate,

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<sup>1</sup> In the absence of a co-Chair, Two Internal Responsable(s) can facilitate proper division of work for the position in order to help the sole chair

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Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Task Force, Sanctuary Campus etc.)

ix. To maintain communication and accountability between both co-chairs

x. To maintain consistent bi-weekly meetings with Co-Chair(s), External, and Internal

xi. Required to have been on board at least for a full (3 quarters) school year in order to run for this Position

### **b. Internal Responsible(s):**

i. To work along with the Chair(s) organizing GBM, meetings of the Mesa Directiva and the Retreats.

ii. To organize the annual Posada and Pachanga with Co-Chairs through the aid of a possible planning committee (Can involve other Latinx Orgs)

1. Internals, Externals, and Co-Chairs can choose to collaborate with other Latinx organizations on campus

2. Potential Latinx Identities to collaborate with include (but are not limited to):

- a. La Fe
- b. Raza Living Learning Community (ERC)
- c. OASIS
- d. RRC
- e. Greek Life
- f. SOHIL
- g. Tijuana Youth Migrant Mentor Network (TYMMN)
- h. Caribbean and Afro-Latinx Student Association (CARA)
- i. Baile Arcoiris del Sur
- j. Central American Student Association (CASA)
- k. La Familia
- l. Hermanas Unidas
- m. Mariachi La Joya del Sur
- n. Chicana/Latinx for Community Medicine (CCM)
- o. SACNAS
- p. Society of Professional Engineers (SHPE)
- q. MALCS

iii. To organize a committee to plan an end-of-the-year transition event (MEChA's Semi-Formal)

1. MEChA's Semi-Formal Event should invite Latinx students, staff, faculty and other non-Latinx identified students, staff, and faculty

iv. To organize old and new files in the M.E.Ch.A. office.

v. To assist the Chair(s) in supporting and overseeing any unfinished planning or preparation for all MEChA events

vi. To organize and facilitate check ins with Mesa Directiva members and support the planning and brainstorming of events

### **c. External Responsible(s):**

i. To address the issues of the San Diego community as well as those that arise outside of San Diego, as well as to inform the Mesa and the General Body about these issues.

ii. Along with the Internal Chair(s) to be the contact for Statewide and National Conferences and coordinator should know about Robert's Rules of Order.

iii. To attend out of town conferences and meetings that pertain to those issues.

iv. Required to go to both M.E.Ch.A Statewide conferences and Annual M.E.Ch.A National Conference

v. External is responsible for organizing the UC San Diego delegation for these conferences and securing funding (e.g. SPACES budget proposal)

vi. To compile an Alumni/ Ex- MEChista list as a resource to future generations of M.E.Ch.A. de UC San Diego and work in collaboration with RYE Co-Responsables and Academic Responsible to work as alumni liaisons.

vii. To serve as the communications base for the UC San Diego campus in the body of M.E.Ch.A

viii. To work closely with internal chairs and co-chairs.

ix. Required to remain informed on national issues that affect the Latinx Community

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x. To be aware of THE AMENDMENT for (SANCTUARY) INSTITUTIONS

### **d. Publicity:**

- i. To ensure that correspondence to and from the organization goes through the proper channels.
  1. Work closely with the Mesa Directiva to keep track of any and all events.
  2. Communicate these events with Board Members and General Body Members.
- ii. To keep files on all activities related to the organization (FLYERS, HANDOUTS, and ETC).
  1. Keep electronic copies and records of previous flyers, events, handouts, etc/
- iii. To publicize M.E.Ch.A. and its events through all modes of communication (i.e. e-mails, flyers, web page, social networks (The FB, Insta, LinkedIn, etc.)
  1. Keep a document/record of all MEChA's social media usernames and passwords
- iv. Work closely with the External Responsible to publicize MEChA de UC San Diego events to external chapters and the San Diego Community.
  1. Connect with San Diego and nationwide MEChA chapters on social media/other networking platforms
- v. Responsible for maintaining and compiling a scrapbook for the year and updating it each quarter
  1. Keep a collection of photos or different events
  2. Can be done collaboratively with other interested positions and can be organized in any creative way (ex. Zine, multimedia piece, videos, etc.)
- vi. To coordinate the purchasing of MEChA GEAR/SWAG along with Finance Responsible(s) in the case of enough MEChA Funds
- vii. Communicate with other Latinx organizations on campus about events that MEChA is holding
- viii. To organize the annual professional Mesa Directiva Photos during Week 0 of Fall Quarter
- ix. Compose public service announcements through communication outlets
  1. Closely inspect the wording and professionalism of any statements with the Mesa Directiva collectively, before releasing to the public
- x: Ensure that MEChA de UC San Diego's branding is consistent and up to date with current political, social, and cultural stances

### **e. Finance Responsible(s)**

- i. Finance Responsible [focusing on fundraising for Nationals, Statewides, and MEChA gear]
  1. To monitor M.E.Ch.A.'s Bank and AS accounts, including operational funds
  2. To keep record of all monies given or disbursed to M.E.Ch.A.
  3. Create and turn in a budget for the following school term.
  4. Help organize and create at least two or more fundraising events per quarter.
- ii. Both Finance Responsables will discuss where the money fundraised will be allocated (merchandise, snacks for GBM, scholarship, etc.)
- iii. Provide strategic guidance and oversee operational decisions with all events, programs, and/or fundraisers associated with any MEChA event (RAW, High School Conference, Graduation, etc.)
- iv. Finalize agendas, provide updates, and co-facilitate meetings for the Fundraising Committee (up to Finance Responsible(s) to organize this committee)
- v. Is authorized to sign checks that will be deposited in the off-campus account and is authorized to sign checks that will withdraw funds.
- vi. Report a weekly finance status of the MEChA account during Board Meeting
- vii. Document every reimbursement and be responsible for following through with following through
  - a. An excel sheet of the finance transactions should exist to keep documentation
- viii. In the case that this position is vacant the Chair will be authorized to be the signer on the off campus MEChA account
- ix. Collaborate with RYE's in promoting the scholarship MEChA de UC San Diego Fundraising Committee offers
- x. Have a yearly scholarship for general body members for minimum of \$500 in total
- xi. Collaborate with other board members to fund their events with AS operational funds and/or other monetary resources
- xii. One finance responsible will be responsible for creating and handling the university bank account with

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the university credit union and completing all required tasks to continue the organization bank account.

### **f. Raíces Graduation Co-Responsible(s)**

- i. To organize the Raices Graduation ceremony.
- ii. To create and oversee task committees for the event that will include: Fundraising and Endorsements, Printing and Duplication, Reservations Decorations, Security, and Food
- iii. To create a waitlist should there be more applications than spaces available.  
(Applications are up for consideration.)
- iv. To keep communication with M.E.Ch.A. Board and general body.
- v. Report a weekly finance status of the MEChA Raices Grad Expenses.
- vi. Document every reimbursement and be responsible for following through with them.

### **g. Raíces Youth Empowerment Co-Responsables**

- i. To motivate and encourage Latinx/ Chicanx students to pursue higher education.
- ii. To establish relations with the local high schools
  1. Make use of the SPACES Tracking Forms
  2. Make a contact list of the point person at the affiliated high schools (get from SPACES) and keep that list updated
- iii. To organize the annual Raices Youth Empowerment Conference. This entails responsibility for the event's speakers, workshops, and entertainment, and for contacting staff, faculty, and/or community for financial donations
  1. Raices Youth Empowerments Responsible(s) will be the lead(s) of the High School Conference and will work closely with the Xoxotlani to secure funding
- iv. To outreach to students and encourage them to attend the annual Raices Youth Empowerment Conference
- v. To organize regular visitations to local schools and inform students about the possibilities of higher education
  1. Network with counselors and establish partnerships
- vi. To encourage students to apply to any/all higher education institutions.
- vii. To be responsible to create a subcommittee within MEChA to coordinate year long outreach efforts to local Latin/Chicanx Youth (including but not limited to workshops, SAT prep, A-G requirements, college life, college applications, high school exit exam, and anti-military recruitment).
  1. Raices Youth Empowerments Responsible(s) will be the lead(s) of this committee and will recruit GBMers to aid in RYE efforts
- viii. The youth outreach subcommittee will work in conjunction with SPACES to organize community outreach programs throughout the year
- ix. To be the liaison between SIAPS and MEChA de UC San Diego as well as weekly meeting with the SPACES / MEChA Intern
- x. Encourage parents to motivate students to go into higher education.
- xi. Organize MEChA/BSU's *Annual Fuerza* and Unity Function

### **h. Raíces Awareness Week Co-Responsible(s) (RAW)**

- i. To make MEChistAs aware of both M.E.Ch.A.'s history in general as well as that of M.E.Ch.A de UC San Diego
- ii. To organize a weeklong series of events that focus on the political, the cultural, and the social background of the Latinx/ Chicanx community
- iii. To promote activities and events which have been determined on a collective basis.
- iv. To organize a committee that will carry out the decision making process of the week's events and delegate authority within this committee
- v. Create a budget for the week's events
- vi. Collaborate with other Latinx organizations (MIRA, CARAS, etc.)

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vii. Will work collaboratively with SIGUE in order to secure funding from SPACES

### **i. SIGUE Coordinator**

- i. To create a program where upper division Latinx y Chicanx (3rd, 4th and 5th) serve as guidance and support: socially, culturally, politically and emotionally, for lower division Latinx/Chicanx students (1st and 2nd). The pairs will be called Chicahuas, the Nahuatl word used by the Aztecs meaning both to become stronger and to strengthen, or to grow.
- ii. To open Chicahua application process and organize the Unveiling event during the first couple weeks of each quarter
- iii. Two events must be organized in the Fall quarter and at least one event per quarter after that in order to insure mentor/mentee interaction
- iv. To coordinate with OASIS and ally Resource Centers for Study Jams that should take place 2-3x per quarter
- v. To serve as the liaison between MEChA and the Academic Success Program (ie. attend meetings and promote ASP events).
- vi. To promote other committee's events to the Chicahua program (Facebook, text messages, emails, word of mouth)
- vii. To organize retreats for the general body

### **j. Xoxotlani Access Coordinator**

- i. Serve as main liaison between partner site and MEChA Raices Youth Empowerment Co-Responsible.
- ii. Coordinate access events and programs that pertain to the experience of Latinx students.etc.).
- iii. Collaborate with the Raices Youth Empowerment Co-Responsables to develop, coordinate and maintain the year-long program at the partner site.
- iv. Have consistent communication with the staff at the partner site.
- v. Recruit and train volunteers for the Xoxotlani x RYE committee that will help execute the program.
- vi. Develop closer relationships with the Raices Youth Empowerment Co-Responsables to promote and strengthen each other's events/programs these relationships can help to be a support outside of the SPACES workroom.

### **k. Social Responsible**

- i. Organize volunteers for MEChA events (ex. Annual MEChA High School Conference, etc.)
- ii. Assist in the Chicahua programming (ex. pair Chicahuas, plan events for Chicahuas, etc.)
- iii. Plan 1-2 social events during Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters
  1. Plan at least one off campus event per quarter can be in collaboration with other San Diego MEChA chapters, other Latinx Student Organizations, community partners, etc.)
- iv. Plan Dia de los Muertos event during Fall quarter
- v. Plan a SAAC Community event at least once a school year
- vi. Coordinate bi-weekly meeting with the MEChA SIGUE
- vii. Assist the Internal Responsible in the planning of 2/3 social events (ex. Posada, Pachanga, Semi Formal, etc.)
- viii. Collaborate with Finance Responsible(s) in planning fundraising events

### **l. SAAC Responsible (Student Affirmative Action Committee)**

- i. To attend regular SAAC meetings, representing the organization of M.E.Ch.A
- ii. Keep open line of communication with the general body and the mesa directiva
- iii. To keep a contact list of key SAAC members
- iv. To work with the SAAC Board to coordinate one all SAAC GBM per year about a political issue
- v. Create close-relationships within SAAC overtime through GBMS/events
- vi. Organize a SAAC 101 GBM History of SAAC

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vii. Keep a relationship with the Cross-Cultural Center's Leadership affiliate

### **m. Trabajadorx Responsable**

- i. To inform M.E.Ch.A (General Body and Board Members) of latest information on activities done with Trabajadorxs
- ii. To work closely with campus workers and advocate for their rights through UC San Diego institutions such as Associated Students, with the formation of resolutions and petitions whenever necessary (Students for Workers Rights)
- iii. To keep a close connection with other economic and worker justice organizations on campus by attending and organizing meetings, events, and actions (i.e. The Student Worker Collective)
- iv. To maintain a close connection with local labor unions (i.e. AFSCME, SEIU)
- v. To invite and confirm workers attendance to M.E.Ch.A. events (i.e. Raices Awareness, M.E.Ch.A. Semi-Formal)
- vi. To create awareness about workers issues on campus
- vii. To coordinate quarterly luncheons with the trabajadorxs.
- viii. Work with RYE's to Coordinate Parent Component that will run parallel to Raices Youth Empowerment Conference in which:
  1. Conference will outreach to parents from the community and
  2. Conference will include (but is not limited to) workshops about A-G
  3. Requirements. college Life, Financial Aid, Anti-Military recruitment, and support methods from home.
- ix. Encourage parents to motivate students to go into higher education.
- x. Have an event during raw week

### **n. Chicana/o/Latinx Studies (CLS) Responsable**

- i. Maintain Chicana/o/Latinx Studies objective as one of the top priorities of M.E.Ch.A
- ii. To work closely with the CLS coordinator (i.e. on a bi-weekly basis) in creating a Chicana/o/Latinx Studies major by first promoting and establishing substantial support and enrollment in the CLS minor.
  1. Compile Chicana/o/Latinx resources for those who are unable to register in CLS courses
  2. Maintain the book club
  3. Host teach-ins (could be GBMs) every quarter with the support of a CLS/LAS/ETHN professor(s) as an alternative classroom
- iii. Actively seek classes (i.e. student-led special studies classes, Ethnic Studies classes, etc.) and recruit progressive faculty and staff for the Chicana/o/Latinx Studies major and minor.
- iv. Assist and support the CLS program on events, and attend event planning meetings (i.e. Admit Day, Cesar Chavez celebration, Major/ Minor Fairs, CLS info sessions, Concilio Mtgs, etc.)
- v. To provide handouts of CLS classes and syllabus at GBM meetings (especially before quarterly enrollments), fundraisers, MEChA tablings and events, etc.
- vi. To outreach to all campus student organizations about the minor with specific focus on SAAC organizations about the minor with focus on SAAC organizations and all Latinx organizations.)
- vii. To attend central and regional forums, conferences, and meetings that discuss the conditions of Chicana/o/Latinx Studies.
- viii. To have a mandatory annual trip to a different campus to learn about their Chicana and Chicano studies programs and department to reflect or expand on within the UC San Diego campus.

### **o. Gender and Sexuality Responsable**

- i. To raise awareness and create dialogues around gender and sexuality by coordinating at least 1 event per quarter, bridging understandings of the Chicana/o queer, mujer, hombre and third space identities.
- ii. To empower general body members through consistent healing circulo committee meetings, to both

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serve as an open or closed space to support the coordinator logistically and process media as a group.

- iii. To keep open communication with the Queer people of Color organization and other chapters.
- iv. This position shall be held by a self-identified mujer, LGBT, Queer individual to these communities to ensure the integrity safe space.
- v. Host annual Queer Mixer in Fall Quarter

### **p. M.E.Ch.A Interns**

- i. To work closely with the Mesa Directiva and gain leadership skills.
  - 1. Will help upkeep the office/documentation of documents when not working with Mesa Directiva
- ii. The interns will be nominated and elected by the Mesa Directiva annually
- iii. The two interns will be responsible for the 9th week meeting of each quarter. iv. Will be active members of the finance committee to help the Finance Responsables 1. This committee will coordinate the process of choosing scholarship recipients.
- iv. Will be responsible for keeping a "Suggestion Notebook"
- v. Accept application by winter quarter.
- vi. (Note: The interns should preferably be first year or transfer students.)

### **q. Community Liaison**

- i. Uniting, mobilizing, outreaching between the greater San Diego Community and M.e.ch.a. de UC San Diego
  - 1. This includes creating community annual events like an annual soccer or other sports
- ii. Work with Concillio and Union del Barrio, Centro Cultural de la Raza and the UC centers geared towards minorities and POC. iii. Connect with local non-profit, non-governmental, advocacy groups, and community organizations (ex. MANA de San Diego, TRiO Outreach Programs, UC San Diego EAOP, etc.) and other high schools (ex. Monarch School, King-Chavez Community High School, etc.) and possibly work with the RYE
- iii. Collaborate with MEChA Xoxotlani Coordinator and assist them with the annual high school conference
- iv. To collaborate and support the outreach efforts of the Xoxotlani program
- v. Work together with SAAC responsable to support core orgs (SAAC) in outreach, educational retainment, political involvement and community building
- vi. Serve as a liaison to other Latinx/Chicana entities on campus (ex. Multicultural Greek Life, Hermanos Unidos, Hermanas Unidas, etc.)

### **r. Academic Responsable**

- i. To oversee the academic retention and success of all members of MEChA de UC San Diego by emphasizing good academic standing and the role of student activism
- ii. To coordinate and create a space for study hall hours on a weekly basis during the academic year.
  - 1. This includes all board members (if possible) so we have a flexible schedule for student hours
- iii. Will maintain and keep an up-to-date record of the academic hours
- iv. To obtain and distribute information regarding scholarships, internships, and resources that will benefit the Mesa Directiva and General Body's academics.
- v. Will provide academic counseling and advice to Mesa Directiva and General Body by providing office hours to discuss pertinent topics regarding the academics of the individual. (i.e. grad school, academic advising, major, etc.)
- vi. Host at least 1 event on Postgraduate opportunities (ie. grad school, entering the workforce, etc) or organize and coordinate an annual Resource Fair to provide members of MEChA de UC San Diego with resources and outlets that will help further their academic retention.
- ix. Create and manage a MEChA de UC San Diego Alumni contact list.

### **s. Director of Transfer and Commuter Affairs**

- i. To connect with MEChA Chapter in community colleges in San Diego
- ii. Create retention programs for transfer students



- iii. Create access for community college to university education pipeline
- iv. Provide information on internship opportunities for transfer students
- v. Compile a list of resources for commuter students

t. Disability Support and Advocate Coordinator

- i. Work closely with the Disability Student Alliance organization (DSA).
- ii. Work closely with the Office of Students with Disabilities.

**Section VI: Risk Management**

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana x por Activismo at UC San Diego is a registered student organization at the University of California, San Diego, but not part of the university itself.

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana x por Activismo at UC San Diego understands that the university does not assume legal responsibility for the actions of the organization.

**Section VII.I: In Case of Travel Outside the University**

Our organization chapter attends each year the M.E.Ch.A. national conference. The conference's location changes yearly according to the hosting chapter's location. Foreseeable risks could include injury whilst traveling. For this case we will have a list made before each trip with emergency numbers and other information that medical response would find necessary in case they were to need it.

**Section VII.II: In Case of Interaction with Minors and/or the Elderly**

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana x por Activismo at UC San Diego is aware that all registered student organizations that serve minors or the elderly have access to training on child and elder abuse prevention for its members via the Center for Student Involvement, online or in person (in person by request only). Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana x por Activismo at UC San Diego will develop plan(s) for activities and events where members will be interacting with minors or the elderly such that members will receive education and/or training on Child Abuse Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA), common sense measures to both avoid child or elder abuse allegations (i.e. avoiding one-on-one situations; working with minors in plain view of others; limiting calls/texts/social media posts or other communications with minors), and how to properly report potential harm or neglect to minors or the elderly with whom they are working.

**Section VIII: The Principles of Unity**

The general body has approved the following Principles of Unity. Throughout work and activities, M.E.Ch.A is fully committed to carrying out these principles.

A. To defend and promote the welfare of the Latinx/Chicana x Community within the University of California.

B. To expose and carry on work against:

- Racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, and all other forms of oppression.
- Inequality and oppression within and outside of the University of California system.

This work is to be fulfilled by taking an active stand on regional, national and international issues.

C. To establish communication and build relations between all segments of Latinx Society.

D. To work with and support progressive struggles, including those in the foreign countries and working class people.

E. To strive to promote critical learning about race, class, gender, and socioeconomic status consciousness among Latinx/ Chicana x students, staff and faculty, in cooperation with other progressive/BIPOC groups in the community.

F. To keep objectivity at all times and encourage the practice of criticism, self –criticism, and implement restorative justice practices.

G. To refrain from obstructive elements which impede the principles of unity.

H. To promote, develop, and learn diverse views, whether they be political, religious, cultural, social, etc., in order to create true unity.

**Section IX: *Guidelines for General Body M.E.Ch.A. members***

- A. There are no requirements needed to become a General Body M.E.Ch.A member. All are welcome to participate within the organization.
- B. Voting members shall be active members of the organization and current undergraduates of UC San Diego. This is not meant to exclude, rather to encourage an active participation. People are encouraged to attend because we believe that through regular attendance, people will become more involved.
- C. Active members of the organization are those people involved in either organizing or carrying out the policy of the organization through work in a committee or representation in one of the campus committees.
- D. Active members who participate in the policy decisions of the organization will be held accountable for their decisions and, furthermore, may be questioned by other active members in terms of their right to vote.
- E. We must be cautious of outside intrusions into M.E.Ch.A. and, therefore, demand that every member be a UC San Diego student.
- F. Students elected for Mesa Directiva positions must be active members and current undergraduates of UC San Diego.

**Section X: *Reasons for Dismissal***

- A. M.E.Ch.A. reserves the right to dismiss any member that:
  - 1. Causes dissension and threatens the unity of M.E.Ch.A.
- B. M.E.Ch.A. reserves the right to dismiss any mesa Directiva member that:
  - 1. Fails to comply with the officer's duties.
  - 2. Does not attend three-fourths (3/4) of all meetings without prior notification to the mesa directiva.
  - 3<sup>2</sup>. Fails to communicate absences and/ or tardiness in a timely manner (3 days priors) for events, meetings, retreats, etc.

**Section XI: *Dismissal Procedures***

- A. In the event of a dismissal, the following steps will be carried out respectively:
  - 1. An informal warning from the internals and/or co-chairs
  - 2. A written ultimatum.
  - 3. A meeting with the Mesa Directiva, at which point the individual will have the opportunity to state their case.
    - a. Refer to safety policy procedure
  - 4. M.E.Ch.A. will then determine the final outcome with a two thirds (2/3) secret ballot vote.

**Section XII: *Guidelines for M.E.Ch.A. Elections***

- A. Elections shall be held in the Winter and/or Spring quarter of the school year.
  - a. Two (2) weeks following the elections, the incumbent Mesa Directiva will remain in office and work closely with the new Mesa Directiva members. This is to facilitate a smooth transition.
  - b. After this (2) week period the new Mesa Directiva will begin their terms.
- B. Terms are for one-year duration until the next Spring quarter.
- C. For vacant positions applications and interviews will be conducted in order to adequately appoint

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<sup>2</sup> Unless it is a personal or familial emergency

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members to said positions during fall and/or spring quarter (depending on availability)

- a. All Board members are responsible for voting on vacant positions and new board members shall receive a simple majority to be appointed

### **Section XIII: *M.E.Ch.A Election Voting Procedures***

A. Each voting member must be an active member.

1. An active member is one described to have attended three (3) of the past four (4) meetings or as described in section IX. article B.

B. Fifty (50) percent plus one (1) of the voting members shall constitute a simple majority.

### **Section XIV: *Annual Events***

- A. Welcome Week Events (e.g. Vamos a La Playa)
- B. Pachanga
- D. High School Conference
- E. Raices Awareness Week
- F. Mujxr Appreciation Dinner
- G. M.E.Ch.A's Semi-Formal
- H. Scholarship Small Celebration
- J. Raices Graduation

### **Section XV: *Other Campus Services and Organizations that Serve Latinx/Chicanx Students***

- A. Voz Fronteriza – Chican@ newspaper at UC San Diego
- B. CCM – Chicanos for Community Medicine
- C. SHPE – Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
- D. CWD-Committee for World Democracy
- E. CARAS – Central Americans Raising Awareness in Solidarity
- F. Student Promoted Access Center for Education and Service (SPACES)
- G. Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services (OASIS)
- H. Campus Community Centers
- I. Nueva Herencia
- J. Hermanas Unidas

### **Section XVI: *Community Service Organizations***

- A. M.E.Ch.A Centra
- B. Barrio Youth Center
- C. Frente Nacional de Accion Popular
- D. Centro Cultural de La Raza
- E. Committee on Chicano Rights
- F. Otras Opciones
- G. Logan Heights family Health Center
- H. S.O.F.A. (Strongly Oriented for Action)
- I. Chicano Federation
- J. Project Yano
- K. Border Angels

### **Section XVII: *General Body Meetings***

- A. All M.E.Ch.A. General Body Meetings are held every Monday at 5p.m. at the Cross Cultural Center to promote the ideals and goals of M.E.Ch.A. (see our Principals of Unity)

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B. M.E.Ch.A. board Meetings are held every Monday after the General Body Meetings.

Updated October 2024