

M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis Chapter Constitution

Preamble

As Mechistas we believe that self-determination should be actualized through our culture, history, education, and political involvement. By taking our destiny back into our own hands we will rise above the oppression of classism, sexism, homophobia and racism. This reclamation process will be guided by humanitarian concerns for all our brothers and sisters.

As Chicana/Chicano students of the University of California, Davis, we must take responsibility to promote the advancement of nuestra gente through the development of critical consciousness. Thus, through our outreach efforts we must promote not only higher education, but the liberation of our minds as well. In order to encourage Chicanismo within the community, politicize our Raza, continue to struggle for self-determination of the Chicana/Chicano people. And move toward the liberation of the nation of Aztlán, we hereby establish this constitution.

Article I. Name and Symbol

- Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A) de UC Davis.
- Section 2. The official symbol of this organization will be the eagle with its wings spread bearing a macuahuitl in one claw and the dynamite stick in the other with the lighted fuse in its beak. The acronym M.E.Ch.A. will be above the symbol with the phrase, "La Unión Hace la Fuerza" below.

Article II. Organizational Goals

- Section 1. M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis outlines the following organizational goals:
- A. To carry out the objectives established in El Plan de Santa Barbara, El Plan de Aztlán, and the Philosophy of M.E.Ch.A.;
 - B. To strive for social, educational, cultural, economic, and political empowerment within the Chicana/o Community;
 - C. To encourage Chicana/Chicano student to seek higher education, graduate, and promote Chicanismo within the Chicana/o Community;
 - D. To promote the retention of the Chicano student population on the Davis Campus;
 - E. To maintain and further the unity and involvement among the Chicana/Chicano students on the Davis Campus;
 - F. To promote our cultura and historia;
 - G. To retain and advance our Chicana/Chicano identity;
 - H. To maintain contact with the Penutian M.E.Ch.A. Central, the Alta Califas Norte M.E.Ch.A. Región, California Statewide M.E.Ch.A., and National M.E.Ch.A.

Article III. Membership

- Section 1. Membership of M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis will not be refused to any person based on religion, class, gender, sexuality, nationality, or ethnicity.
- Section 2. Active members of M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis must meet the following requirements:
- A. Be registered students at the University of California, Davis;
 - 1. Undergraduate students are limited to six years of active membership in an office or voting position.
 - 2. Graduate students will be limited to a two-year non voting advisory role and will not hold an officer position, in order for new leadership to develop.
 - B. Identify with the goals and objectives of M.E.Ch.A. ;
 - C. Attend 2/3 of the regularly scheduled general assembly meetings,
 - 1. Attendance shall be taken into consideration once dues are paid.
 - 2. Exemptions to this requirement must be brought up to the general assembly.
- Section 3. Active membership will allow MEChistAs the opportunity to:
- A. Affect the direction that the general assembly takes:
 - 1. Make motions
 - 2. Vote on motions;
 - 3. Place items in the agenda for general assembly consideration;
 - B. Attend and participate in external M.E.Ch.A. Conferences (e.g. Statewide, National, etc.)
- Section 4. Active membership in M.E.Ch.A. can only be refused to a person by a 2/3 majority vote of the active members for having conspired and/or participated in any action(s) which were/are detrimental to the goals and objectives of M.E.Ch.A.

Article IV. Mesa Directiva

- Section 1. Officers will be elected to the Mesa Directiva by the following procedure:
- A. With two meetings remaining of the winter quarter, nominations will be open to active members on behalf of the active members;
 - B. At the following meeting a question and answer period will take place between the nominated individuals and the general assembly:
 - 1. General Assembly will follow;
 - 2. Voting will be done by secret ballot.
 - C. Terms term will last one academic year ending at the conclusion of the winter quarter;
 - D. In the event of a vacant position, individuals may fill vacant positions at any time during the academic year through a similar process with terms ending at the conclusion of winter quarter.
- Section 2. Mesa Directiva officers and responsibilities are as follows:

A) Internal Coordinator

- 1) Must have active membership status within M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis for at least one year prior to appointment;
- 2) Will facilitate M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis meetings;
- 3) Will be responsible for setting the agenda for meetings in collaboration with the Mesa Directiva;
- 4) Will make sure meetings run efficiently and productively;
- 5) Will remain informed and work with all committees and the M.E.Ch.A events;
- 6) Will remain informed on external M.E.Ch.A. affairs;
- 7) Will have a non-biased, non-voting status;
- 8) Will be the deciding vote in case of a tie, in agreement with the external coordinator as only one vote can come from them;
- 9) Will act as the representative for the organization when campus issues are concerned when elected to do so;
- 10) Will be an official voting member of the Junta
- 11) Is responsible for attending Central and Regional meeting when External coordinator is unable to do so;
- 12) In an even of a vacancy of the External Coordinator position, will take on all responsibilities of that position.

B) External Coordinator

- 1) Must have active membership status within M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis for at least one year prior to appointment;
- 2) Will make sure meetings run efficiently and productively;
- 3) Will work with the Internal Coordinator remaining informed and working with all committees and M.E.Ch.A. activities;
- 4) Will have a non-biased, non-voting status;
- 5) Will be the deciding vote in case of a tie, in agreement with the internal coordinator as only one vote can come from them;
- 6) Will act as the representative for the organization when off-campus issues are concerned when elected to do so;
- 7) Will represent M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis in all Central and Regional meetings;
- 8) Will facilitate M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis meetings when the internal coordinator is unable to do so;
- 9) In an even of a vacancy of the Internal Coordinator position, will take on all responsibilities of that position.

C) Secretary/Historian

- 1) Will record the minutes of all general assembly and mesa directiva meetings;
- 2) File minutes accordingly;
- 3) Responsible for maintaining and updating M.E.Ch.A. files
- 4) Will keep updated records of active membership;
- 5) Responsible for M.E.Ch.A. correspondence, including the reading of pertinent mail at meetings;
- 6) Responsible for collecting all M.E.Ch.A. publications and documents (i.e. newsletters, flyers, programs, etc)
- 7) Will keep a journal of early events and documentation for filing at the end of the year;

- 8) Will facilitate meetings when coordinators are unavailable to do so;
- 9) Responsible for the maintenance and distribution of a M.E.Ch.A. phone list.

D) Treasurer :

- 1) Responsible for collecting dues;
- 2) Responsible for keeping accurate record of members and budget proposals;
- 3) Will keep updated financial records of the organization;
- 4) Will spearhead fundraising activities;
- 5) Responsible for overseeing the writing and submitting of budget proposals;
- 6) Responsible for submitting the Club Finance Council (CFC) application and appearing before the CFC;
- 7) Along with the Internal Coordinator, responsible for reserving locations for meetings and events

E) Political Chair:

- 1) Responsible for maintaining political ties between M.E.Ch.A and the Chicana/o community
- 2) Will keep Mechistas and the Chicana/o community informed and aware of political issues/events that affect Raza;
- 3) Will spearhead MEChA's involvement in political events;
- 4) Will facilitate the development of a political consciousness among Mechistas;
- 5) Will act as a liaison between M.E.Ch.A and the California Affirmative Action Coalition (CSAAC) and attend all meetings

F) Educational Chair;

- 1) Will act as the Liaison between schools and M.E.Ch.A;
- 2) Will spearhead the establishment and continual development of the M.E.Ch.A outreach program;
- 3) Will spearhead outreach activities which emphasize the importance of Chicanismo and critical consciousness;
- 4) Will be an official voting member of La Junta;
- 5) Responsible for spearheading educationals every other week.

G) Raza Youth Empowerment Conference (RYEC) Chair:

- 1) Act as the coordinator for the annual Raza Youth Empowerment Conference;
- 2) Will establish sub-committees for the RYEC;
- 3) Will facilitate communication between schools via phone, letters, and workshops.

H) Cultural Chair:

- 1) Responsible for maintaining our diverse, cultural identities;
- 2) Will facilitate the development of cultural awareness, emphasizing the importance of Chicanismo;
- 3) Will facilitate historical briefs pertinent to our cultura and historia;
- 4) Will spearhead the organizing of Dia de los Muertos Workshop;
- 5) Will spearhead the organizing of the Annual Cuauhtémoc Run/Walk;
- 6) Act as a liaison between La Raza Cultural Days and M.E.Ch.A.

I) Social/Publicity Chair:

- 1) Responsible for the ongoing recruitment of new Mechistas;
- 2) Serve as an informational source for both members and the outside Chicana/o Community;

- 3) Responsible for the publicity of all M.E.Ch.A events (i.e. meetings, rallies, forums, etc.);
- 4) Organizing social events with the intent of uniting Mechistas in the spirit of fellowship and hermandad;
- 5) Organize the monthly M.E.Ch.A. platicas;
- 6) Organize Quarterly M.E.Ch.A retreat.

J) La Chicana Chair:

- 1) Address the issues of la Mujer in the Chicana/o Community
- 2) Facilitate forum and/or programs that stress the importance of Chicanas in our movimiento;
- 3) Serve as support for Chicanas;
- 4) Act as the Coordinator for the annual Chicana Conference.

K) RROC Representative:

- 1) Must have experience and involvement with the Student Recruitment and Retention Center (SRRC) one year prior to appointment;
- 2) Represent M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis at the Recruitment and Retention Organizing Committee (RROC);
- 3) Act as a liaison between Yik'al Kuyum and M.E.Ch.A.
 - i) Meet regularly with Yik'al Kuyum staff;
 - ii) Meet regularly with Yik'al Kuyum Program Director
- 4) Will be the official voting member and the Chairperson of the junta.

L) Gender and Sexuality Chair:

- 1) Will keep Mechistas and the Chicana/o community informed and aware of gender and sexuality issues that affect Raza as stated in the PPA;
- 2) Will collaborate with Yik'al Kuyum and other resources on-campus (i.e. LGBTRC, La Familia, WRRC, etc.) to ensure that there is one event per quarter that addresses gender and sexuality issues;
- 3) Will ensure that at least one educational per quarter addressing issues of gender and sexuality;
- 4) Will ensure at least one workshop in the Chicana Conference and Raza Youth Empowerment Conference address gender and sexuality issues.

Section 3. All Mesa Directiva members are required to:

- A. Attend all M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis Meetings (i.e. General Assembly, Mesa, etc.);
- B. Inform the internal Coordinator if they are unable to attend a M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis meeting prior to that meeting.
- C. Maintain Accountability within Mesa Directiva;
- D. Organize educational segments;
- E. Attend at least one regional and one central per quarter.

Article V. Withdrawal and Expulsion/Impeachment Procedures

- Section 1.** Active members may reserve the right to withdraw their membership status from M.E.Ch.A. at any time without any form of penalty except in the event that any property of M.E.Ch.A. he/she may hold must be returned and any debts owed to M.E.Ch.A. be paid within thirty (30) dates after withdrawal date.

Section 2. Any member working contrary to the goals and objectives of M.E.Ch.A. (including but not limited to party building and cadre raiding; (refer to Philosophy of M.E.Ch.A.) shall be subject to expulsion and impeachment (in case of officers), by the following procedures:

A. A written statement against an individual or group of individuals must be submitted by 1/3 of the active members to the general assembly meeting;

B. At the following regularly scheduled general assembly meeting an expulsion/impeachment inquiry will take place in the following manner:

1. Meeting logistics shall be facilitated by a non-partisan active member chosen by a 2/3 vote of the general assembly.

2. The persons accusing the individual(s) will state the reasons behind, need for, and purpose of the expulsion/impeachment

3. The individual(s) being accused will have the opportunity to refute the allegation;

4. General Assembly discussion will follow.

5. At the following regularly scheduled general assembly meeting, the decision to expel/impeach must be made by a 2/3 vote of the active members of the general assembly

Section 3. Upon the removal of an individual(s), the general assembly must address the following by 2/3 vote:

A. Period of the time during which a petition for reinstatement will be considered;

B. Condition that must be met before a petition for reinstatement will be considered;

C. The number of the times a petition for reinstatement will be considered.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1: The first general assembly meeting shall take place no later than two weeks after the beginning of each quarter, as decided upon by general assembly.

Section 2: Meetings shall be held every week at the same designated time and place unless otherwise announced.

Section 3: Meeting throughout the quarter will be as follows:

A. Every other general assembly meeting will be an educational segment meeting, alternating between political, cultural and educational segments;

B. Committee meetings shall alternate with educational segment meetings. Committees will be formed and dissolve as general assembly sees fit.

Section 4: Mesa Directiva meetings shall:

A. Be held at least once a month;

B. Be scheduled at the beginning of each quarter;

C. Be announced to the general assembly at least two weeks prior to the mesa directive meeting;

D. Be open to all M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis members.

Section 5: Robert's Rule of Order shall run meeting until an alternate method is found.

Article VII. Direction and Authority

Section 1: The ultimate authority of M.E.Ch.A. shall reside in the general assembly. The general assembly shall have the power to achieve, regulate, and the direct the objectives, policies, affairs, and the organization of M.E.Ch.A.

Section 2: Between meetings of the general assembly, the Mesa Directiva shall have the authority to pass decisions in the times of urgent decision making. These decisions are subject to approval and appeal by the general assembly.

Section 3. In an event of an emergency meeting where not all members are able to attend, all individuals present at the meeting will be held accountable to the general assembly for the actions taken and decisions resulting from this meeting.

Article VIII. Amendments

Section 1. Amendments must be submitted in written form to the general assembly at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 2. At the following regularly scheduled general assembly meeting discussion about the revisions to the amendments will take place.

Section 3. At the following regularly scheduled meeting revised amendments will require a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of active members.

Article IX. Interpretations

Section 1. Ultimate authority to any interpretation of this constitution or anything not mentioned within this constitution shall be decided upon by the general assembly of M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of active members.

- On the twenty first of August 1994, the general assembly of M.E.Ch.A de la Universidad de California at Davis passed these amendments and revisions to the Constitution of M.E.Ch.A de UCD
- This Constitution was further amended and revised on June 9, 1999 at the general assembly meeting of M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis.
- This constitution was further revised on February 18th, 2004 at the general Assembly meeting of M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis.
- This Constitution was further revised on February 27th, 2006 at an Emergency meeting of M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis

- This Constitution was further revised on March 1st 2006 at the general assembly meeting of M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis.
- This Constitution was further revised on October 13, 2010 of the general assembly meeting of M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis.

M.E.Ch.A de UC Davis-Yik'al Kuyum Relationship

As stated in the Statement of Understanding (SOU) of the Recruitment and Retention Organizing Committee (RROC), M.E.Ch.A de UC Davis is the founding organization of Yik'al Kuyum: the Chicana/o Latina/o Holistic Student Support Program of UC Davis and consequently the mother organization. With this responsibility, M.E.Ch.A de UC Davis working with Yik'al Kuyum will establish all policies and guidelines for the program.

Section 1: The Official name this committee shall be the Junta

Section 2: The purpose of the Junta is to

A. To discuss policies and changes in regards to Yik'al Kuyum which are to be presented to the general body of M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis for approval, if necessary.

B. Act as the hiring committee for Yik'al Kuyum in the Winter Quarter.

Section 3: The following representatives will make up the official voting membership of the junta:

M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis Internal Coordinator

M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis Educational Chair

M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis RROC Liaison

Yik'al Kuyum Staff Representative (elected by Staff)

Yik'al Kuyum Staff Representative (elected by Staff)

Yik'al Kuyum Staff Representative (elected by Staff)

Chicana/o Latina/o EOP Representative

A. All members of The Junta who have not read the SRRC philosophy, Statement of understanding, and the M.E.Ch.A de UC Davis-Yik'al Kuyum relationship must read them before winter quarter in order to participate on The Junta during hiring. All papers must be provided to all members in the beginning of the Fall Quarter.

B. During the Winter Quarter, the M.E.Ch.A de UC Davis RROC Liaison must contact the EOP representatives to inquire who is willing to sit on the Junta. The Representative must be approved by the general body.

C. In case that there are more than one EOP representatives interested in participating in The Junta, those EOP students must attend a M.E.Ch.A. meeting for an informal interview and be elected by the general body.

Section 4: Each official voting member of the Yik'al Kuyum hiring board shall have one (1) vote.

Section 5: During the Hiring process, in the event of a tie, the Student Recruitment and Retention Center Program Manager will act as a tiebreaker.

- Section 6: In the event of one (1) or more M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis representatives that sit on The Junta are applicants to Yik'al Kuyum; the Mesa Directiva has the authority to elect (an) other Mesa member(s) to represent M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis.
- Section 7: The election of the Yik'al Kuyum staff shall be administered and monitored by the M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis Recruitment and Retention Liaison Chair and the SRRC Program Manager.
- Section 8: Representatives will serve on the Junta concurrent with their position in M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis and Yik'al Kuyum (M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis representatives will serve on the committee from Spring-Winter Quarters, with the exception of the M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis RROC Liaison Chair. Yik'al Kuyum representatives will serve on the committee from Fall-Spring Quarters)
- Section 9: The Junta will meet at least once a quarter to discuss and evaluate the progress of Yik'al Kuyum, establish long term goals and objectives with respect to Yik'al Kuyum, and develop and produce all policy and procedures for all aspects of Yik'al Kuyum. The M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis RROC Liaison will be in charge of scheduling the meeting.
- Section 10: All decisions made by The Junta require quorum (50% + 1) of the members.
- Section 11: The M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis RROC Liaison will serve as the chairperson of The Junta and must attend all meetings.
- Section 12: If the M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis RROC Liaison Chair is not a Mechista, he/she has to be a member of the community who has at least one (1) full year experience at the SRRC.
- A. The M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis RROC Liaison Chair must attend all M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis general meetings.
 - B. As a member of the Mesa Directiva, the M.E.Ch.A de UC Davis RROC Liaison Chair must attend all Mesa Meetings, unless agreed otherwise by the discretion of the Mesa Directiva.
- Section 13: The Junta will be responsible for the hiring of all Yik'al Kuyum Staff, with the exemption of the RROC representative.
- A. There will be one hiring process for all Yik'al Kuyum staff during the Winter Quarter of each academic school year.
 - B. Application will be made available at the Yik'al Kuyum office.
 - C. All the YIK'al Kuyum staff wishing to continue to work for Yik'al Kuyum will be considered,
 - D. The Yik'al Kuyum hiring committee will review the applications and chosen applicants will be selected for the interview process.
 - E. No late applications will accepted unless it is decided by the majority of the hiring committee
 - F. Applicant will be interviewed by the Junta.

Section 14: Applicants applying for the libratory Workshop Project will be interviewed by an additional Chicano/Latino advisory Committee.

Section 15: The Following representatives will make up the Chicano/Latino Advisory Committee.
A. La Raza Cultural Days Representative
B. Chicana/o Studies Representative
C. Cross Cultural Center Representative

Section 16: The Chicano/Latino Advisory Committee will serve solely as an advisory committee, and will recommend an applicant to the Yik'al Kuyum Hiring Committee.

Section 17: Applicant for the M.E.Ch.A de UC Davis RROC Liaison Chair will be elected by El Caracolito.

- A. El Caracolito will Consist of:
 - a. M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis Internal Coordinator
 - b. M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis External Coordinator
 - c. M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis Educational Chair
 - d. M.E.Ch.A. de UC Davis Political Chair
 - e. Yik'al Kuyum Staff Representative
 - f. Yik'al Kuyum Staff Representative
 - g. Yik'al Kuyum RROC Representative
- B. M.E.Ch.A decides who sit on the panel in case one or more of the MEChistas is unable to do so.
- C. Yik'al Kuyum staff decides who sits on the panel in case of an empty seat.
- D. Each member has one vote
- E. El Caracolito will only be used to hire M.E.Ch.A de UC Davis RROC liaison Chair
- F. Candidates must have one year experience of involvement with the SRRRC prior to appointment
- G. Meet the responsibilities as stated in Article IV. Mesa Directiva, Letter K (RROC Liaison Chair)