

M.E.Ch.A de Brown Constitution

Preamble

We the Members of M.E.Ch.A. de Brown feel compelled to form a united front to voice our community's concerns. Through intense discussion, devoted study, and unceasing activism we seek to raise our consciousness and enrich our futures and of those who will come after us. Together we must motivate, educate and activate our minds, our studies and our espíritus. It is our duty to our families, our communities, and ourselves to carry out various responsibilities as members of M.E.Ch.A. de Brown and the community at large.

We represent not just ourselves but our families. It is their love that we carry within us, the faith of our communities whose confidence is behind us, and the heritage of our ancestors which has molded our personas, to which we will always express nuestro orgullo.

Article I: Name of Organization

The name of the organization shall be El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlán de Brown, hereafter referred to as M.E.Ch.A. de Brown or simply M.E.Ch.A.

Article II: Purpose

Accordingly with the Preamble, M.E.Ch.A.'s main goals are to provide the successful completion of higher education, cultural and social awareness of the concerns facing their communities, and a drive for activism within all M.E.Ch.istas. M.E.Ch.A. will intend to:

1. Promote the educational, cultural and social well being of the M.E.Ch.istas;
2. Develop a strong support base for student's academic, cultural, and social needs;
3. Serve Chicana/o students of the Brown University community under the umbrella of the Latin American Students Organization (L.A.S.O.);
4. Raising the political, social, and cultural consciousness of ourselves and that of our gente.

Article III: Membership

1. Membership to M.E.Ch.A. is open to all persons dedicated to the purpose of the organization as outlined in Article II regardless of sex, race, religion, handicap, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, or national/ethnic origin.
2. Membership is open to graduate students, faculty members, administration, and the Providence community.
3. Members of M.E.Ch.A. are required to:
 1. Uphold this Constitution at all times in adherence with school regulations;
 2. Attend a minimum of two meetings or functions per semester. Functions being M.E.Ch.A.-sponsored activities of a non-social nature.

4. Members who fulfill all requirements are entitled to the privileges that follow:
 1. Priority to participate in M.E.Ch.A. activities.
 2. Voting in all M.E.Ch.A. elections, proposals and actions;
 3. Access to M.E.Ch.A. resources;
 4. Eligibility for office.

Article IV: Officers

1. The governing body of M.E.Ch.A. shall be an Executive Board consisting of:
 1. two Co-chairpersons, preferably one female and one male;
 2. one Treasurer;
 3. one Secretary;
 4. two Historians, preferably first-year students;
 5. one East Coast Chicana/o Student Federation (ECCSF) Representative, preferably not a first-year;
 6. all other Representatives as deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
2. The duration of all officers' terms shall be for one academic year beginning with the final meeting of the spring semester to the end of the following spring semester.
3. All outgoing officers shall be required to train all incoming officers from Elections through Reading Period.
4. The responsibilities of the Co-chairs are as follow:
 1. Organize and conduct meetings;
 2. Ensure that all officers perform their duties;
 3. Ensure that M.E.Ch.A.'s purposes are met;
 4. Facilitate communication with other organizations within the Brown community;
 5. Give authorization of all expenditures;
 6. Act as official spokesperson for M.E.Ch.A.;
 7. Facilitate communication with organizations outside the Brown community;
 8. Assist in tallying ballots at time of elections.
5. The responsibilities of the Treasurer are as follow:
 1. Keep accurate account of records of M.E.Ch.A. funds;
 2. Have all records available for review by any M.E.Ch.A. member;
 3. Prepare and present a budget report at General Body meetings;
 4. Give authorization of all expenditures.
6. The responsibilities of the Secretary are as follow:
 1. Shall keep the minutes of all M.E.Ch.A. meetings;
 2. Shall keep a record of all M.E.Ch.A. members;
 3. Shall keep a record of attendance at all meetings and functions;
 4. Tally and record the official count of all votes;
 5. Announce all upcoming meetings to all members of M.E.Ch.A.
7. The responsibilities of the Historians are as follow:
 1. Keep records of all M.E.Ch.A. activities;
 2. Maintain a M.E.Ch.A. Scrapbook and memorabilia.

8. The responsibilities of the ECCSF Representative are as follow:
 1. Attend all four ECCSF conferences as a representative of M.E.Ch.A.;
 2. Relay ECCSF information to M.E.Ch.A.

9. The responsibilities of all other Representatives will be outlined as deemed necessary by the Executive Board. Nominations and elections shall be held as announced by the Executive Board.

Article V: Elections

- 1) Nominations for members interested in running for an office shall take place in the regularly scheduled meetings immediately preceding Spring Recess.

- 2) Elections for new officers:
 - A. Shall take place once a year;
 - B. On the first scheduled meeting following Spring Recess (except as Outlined in Art. IV, Sec. 9 and Art. V, Sec 4);
 - C. Are open only to officially recognized members of M.E.Ch.A., as outlined in Art. III.;
 - D. Candidates must be nominated by two (2) officially recognized members of M.E.Ch.A.;
 - E. Individuals can nominate themselves;
 - F. Individuals wishing to run for an office must be present at the time nominations are conducted.

- 3) A candidate must receive a simple majority vote of officially recognized M.E.Ch.A. members in order to become an officer.
 - A. Absentee ballots are prohibited;
- B. Votes shall be conducted by secret ballot and counted by the Secretary and the Co-chair;
- C. Ballots shall be counted and announced at the same meeting where elections are held, immediately following the tallying of votes;
 4. In the case of a tie, the General Body shall vote again. If a tie occurs a second time, the Executive Board shall vote. This procedure will be repeated until a Candidate receives a majority vote.

- 4) The position of Historian shall be nominated and elected at the second meeting of the Fall Semester.

5. Special elections:
 1. Shall be held upon incapacitation or resignation of an elected officer;
 2. Art. V, Sec. 2 and Sec. 3 shall be adhered to.

6. Recall:
 1. Any officer may be recalled from her/his office for nonperformance of her/his duties and/or not maintaining the spirit of our Constitution's purpose;
 2. The General Body holds the power to have a recall vote of an elected officer with a petition

- of 51% of the General Body's signatures;
3. The recall vote shall be announced to the General Body at least one regular meeting in advance;
 4. A super-majority (2/3) vote is required to remove an officer;
 5. Following the recall of an officer, Art. V, Sec. 5 shall be followed.

Article VI: Meetings

1. General Body meetings:

A. Shall be held about every two weeks during the academic year and shall cease with the beginning of Reading Period each semester;

B. Any individual wishing to add an item to a meeting's agenda should do so at the onset of the meeting;

3. In the event that a requested topic is not discussed it will be tabled to the following regularly scheduled meeting.

2. Executive Board meetings:

1. Shall be held prior to General Body meetings;

2. Shall be in order to set the agenda for the following meeting and for future events;

3. Shall be open to the public, but mandatory for all officers;

4. Closed-door meetings shall be held if deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

3. There is a strict prohibition on the purchase of alcohol with M.E.Ch.A. funds and its consumption at any of the meetings.

Article VIII: Amendments

1. The following procedure shall be used when amending this Constitution:

1. Amendments shall be recommended by a majority of the officially recognized members of M.E.Ch.A. present at the time of the suggested amendment;

2. Amendments shall be adopted upon a super-majority (2/3) vote of the officially recognized members of M.E.Ch.A. present at the meeting where a vote to amend this Constitution is taken;

3. Voting for adoption of proposed amendments shall take place at a regularly scheduled meetings as designated by the Executive Board;

4. Amendments can be proposed at any regularly scheduled General Body meeting;

5. Once M.E.Ch.A. has approved an amendment, it shall be given to the University Council of Students (UCS) Vice President at least two (2) full days before the next regularly scheduled full council meeting. A M.E.Ch.A. representative shall attend this meeting to present the amendment for UCS approval. Upon approval from the UCS, the amendment shall be considered a formal part of M.E.Ch.A.'s Constitution.

Article VIII: Ratification

1. There shall be a ratification meeting designated by the Executive Board;
2. A super-majority (2/3) vote is needed to ratify this Constitution.