THE CONSTITUTION OF
M.E.Ch.A.
UW-Madison
October 30, 1997

Preamble

Chicana and Chicano students of Aztlán must take it upon themselves the responsibilities to promote Chicanismo and education within the community, politicizing our Raza, with an emphasis on Indigenous Consciousness to continue the struggle for the self-determination of the Chicano people for the purpose of liberating Aztlan.

Article I Title and Symbol

Section I The name of this organization shall be M.E.Ch.A., (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán).

Section II The official symbol of this organization shall be the eagle with its wings spread, bearing a macahuittle in one claw and a dynamite stick in the other, with a lit fuse in its beak. The acronym M.E.Ch.A. shall be above the symbol with the phrase "La Unión Hace La Fuerza" below.

Article II Purpose and Goals

The philosophy and goals of this organization are set forth as follows:

Section I

UNITY: To unite and organize Chicanas/os with purpose of educating and making them aware of their Indigenous heritage.

CULTURAL: To promote and reinforce the Chicano culture and retain our identity in order to establish a permanent interest within the community.

EDUCATION: To offer whatever assistance is necessary and required that will encourage and enable more Chicanas/os to complete their higher education and to become involved in all other aspects of education.

POLITICAL: To serve as a vehicle for raising the political consciousness of Chicana/o students to better serve the community and to promote and implement plans of action concerning Chicanas/os.

Section II Send two representatives, at least one Chicana, as elected by voting members to the regional and national meetings to be recognized as a voting chapter unless participation is otherwise decided by the organization.

Article III Membership

Membership in this organization shall be open to anyone regardless of age, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation. An official member;

Section I Is a recognized and enrolled as a student at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Section II Is an honorary member as distinguished as any individual who has vested interest in the advancement of M.E.Ch.A. and the Chicano community.

Section III Agrees to accept and adhere to the Purpose, Constitution, and By-Laws of M.E.Ch.A.

Section IV All members must be oriented by discussing and reading historical documents of our movimiento, including: (a) El Plan de Santa Barbara, (b) El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán, and (c) the M.E.Ch.A. Position Papers Of Philosophy, Constitutions, Relationship to Outside Organizations, and Goals & Objectives.

Section V All members are required to pay a yearly membership fee of *$5 by their second meeting in order to be recognized as an official member and receive voting privileges. (* Extenuating circumstances taken into consideration.)

for next consecutive meeting

Article IV Voting

Voting privileges are granted to members in good standing as defined as follows:

Section I Must pay membership fee.

Section II Members missing (a) three or more consecutive meetings or (b) a total of six meetings per academic year will lose their voting privileges.

Section III Members must actively participate in at least one event or activity per semester.

Article IV Officers

Section I The responsibilities of the elected officers of this organization shall be as follows:

(A) **President** whose functions are to facilitate all general and officers

meetings, represent M.E.Ch.A. on and off campus, act as spokesperson of the organization, and provide direction in programming to insure the accomplishment of constitutional and organizational goals.

(B) **Vice-President** to assist the President in all duties including meetings. To be an official representative of M.E.Ch.A. in the President's absence. To coordinate all committees and components to maximize efficiency.

(C) **Treasurer-** to handle all financial matters and transactions of M.E.Ch.A. and to oversee fund raising, including keeping financial records and reporting at all meetings when appropriate.

(D) **Secretary-** to record and distribute minutes at all general and special meetings. They must announce all upcoming meetings and keep an up-to-date file of members' Basic Information Sheet, to include members' addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.

(E) **Parliamentarian** to conduct order at all general and officers' meetings using Robert's Rules of Order as a guide until a better alternative is found. M.E.Ch.A. meetings will be conducted under the concept of one voice, one vote with a general principle of respect for each member's opinion and opportunity to be heard.

(D) **Historian-** to maintain records of M.E.Ch.A. meetings and functions.

Section II A.) The officers shall be elected among those members presented as eligible candidates by secret ballot for each office by members of the organization, provided they have had one semesters involvement with M.E.Ch.A. related activities. The positions of President and Vice-President must be held by students wile the remaining positions are open to all members. Nominations for officers should be done one week prior to elections. The candidates for each office receiving a simple majority of the actual vote shall be declared elected.

B.) Interim officers shall be elected in the event that elected officers will not be present to out responsibilities of their positions over the summer.

Section III The terms of office shall be the duration of one academic year at UW-Madison and elections shall take place the last meeting of the Spring semester. Officers-elect shall take office the last day of the spring semester.

Section IV Any officer who violates the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of

their office as set forth by the Constitution may be removed from office by 3/4 majority vote of the members in a meeting, provided that the body has been given one (1) week's notice prior to voting.

By-Laws:

1. Regular MEChA meetings shall be held every other week or at such other times as may be decided upon by a majority of the members at a previous meeting.

2. A simple majority of those present will carry any motion. A "simple majority" is equal to (50% +1) of the voting body.

3. An official committee of M.E.Ch.A. must be created and recognized by the body. Committees shall forward all business to the organizations as a whole.

4. If an officer(s) resigns and /or office(s) become vacant, procedure in Article IV Section II of this constitution shall be used.

5. Amendments to the constitution can be carried by a two-thirds(2/3) vote of the general membership. Amendments shall be proposed, typed, copied, and distributed to each member, at least one meeting prior to when the vote will take place.