MEChA Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlàn

Whereas the purpose of MEChA Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlàn at the University of Wisconsin Madison is to unify its members by functioning as a collective organization to reaffirm the principals and philosophies of MEChA;

Whereas Jonathan Semer and Stephanie Tremblay have violated Objective 12, #2 of the MEChA philosophy papers by voting at the resolution circle at the 1998 National MEChA Conference held at the University of Los Angeles California on Sunday, April 11, 1998, and thereby subordinating the authority of Nora Herrera, President and elected representative of the MEChA body, by ignoring her written directive to abstain from voting without the majority of the delegation present.

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Objective Twelve: M.E.Ch.A. must adopt principles to insure that M.E.Ch.A. functions democratically. These principles include: 1) Leadership should be based on the collective, with equal representation of Chicanas and Chicanos: **2) Authorized Representation means that individual M.E.Chistas should not offer the endorsement of, or formally represent, any M.E.Ch.A. chapter without the authorization of the body;** 3) Central and Campus Autonomy, that accept the Regional Process and its positions statements, should be allowed to resolve local disputes without interference; 4) Organizational issues should be brought before the body for democratic discussion and resolution, without individuals or small groups deciding outside of the chapter since this promotes factionalism: 5) Personal issues should be handled in an individual and private manner so that they do not affect organizational unity: 6) Slander and Rumor Spreading causes misinformation, disunity, and dissension and cannot be tolerated by M.E.Ch.A.: 7) Decisions of the Body must be respected and not undermined by individuals of small groups acting outside the recognized structure of M.E.Ch.A.; 8) Conflict of Interests between and individual's outside interests shall call for an abstention; 9) Honest Representation by M.E.Chistas in disclosing outside organizational interests must be mandatory. Anyone attempting to orchestrate organized secret activity for any outside organization inside of M.E.Ch.A. must face expulsion and public exposure; and 10) Respect for M.E.Ch.A.'s Integrity and Autonomy as an organization is requisite requirement for membership in M.E.Ch.A.;

Although, the violation of Jonathan Semer and Stephanie Tremblay did not have serious ramifications, the conscious disregard for the decision of an official representative of M.E.Ch.A. confirms the lack of respect these members have for the M.E.Chistas elected to these positions and promotes the undermining of the guidelines under which M.E.Ch.A. operates. Even though the University of Wisconsin Madison M.E.Ch.A. does not strictly abide by a rigid structure within our chapter, this incident was extended to the National M.E.Ch.A. Conference where this violation was made public.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the University of Wisconsin Madison M.E.Ch.A. will hold Jonathan Semer and Stephanie Tremblay accountable for their violation by the maximim disciplinary action of mandatory resignation or the minimim disciplinary action of the suspension of voting privileges from this day on to the end of the Fall semester of 1998, at which time an evaluation will be made as to their dedication to the M.E.Ch.A. organization.