

# **The Constitution of Mecha de University of Utah**

## **Preamble**

As Mechistas we constitute a small percentage of the population at the University of Utah. Mechistas must take it upon themselves to organize and politicize our communities to build power to enact a liberatory politics. This means not only combating the legacies of colonization such as capitalism and white supremacy, but creating a movement that centers Black, Indigenous, Queer, Trans, and Femme people. We must never let our goal be assimilation as representation will never equal liberation, rather we must build the power of our communities to abolish the structures that maintain our collective oppression. We do the work of politicization to struggle for the self-determination of all people, as even the empowerment of Mechistas alone will never be enough. This means we must devote ourselves to ending settler colonialism, anti-Black racism, heteronormativity, borders and prisons because our liberation does not exist until these legacies of colonization are abolished. Our work against colonization does not stop here; we must combat its continuation through promoting anti-imperialist politics and ending the ways in which we ourselves uphold colonization. All this, for the purpose of liberation itself.

## **Article I: Name**

### **Section 1: Name**

The name of this organization shall be Mecha de University of Utah.

### **Section 2: Symbols**

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 the lighted fuse in its beak. The name Mecha de U of U shall be above the symbol with the phrase "La Unión Hace La Fuerza" below.

## **Article II: Organizational Objectives**

### **Section 1: Objectives**

National Mecha outlines the following organizational objectives:

1. To strive for educational, cultural, economical, political, and social empowerment within our community in order to liberate nuestra gente;
2. To undertake the responsibility of retaining our identity and furthering our cultural awareness;
3. To undertake the responsibility of uplifting and mobilizing Mechistas through higher education;
4. To implement plans of action concerning our community

### **Section 2: Compliance Statement**

We agree to abide by all regulation described in the Guidelines for Recognized Student Organizations, all University policies, in addition to all federal, state, and local laws.

### Section 3: Non-Discrimination Statement

This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, or status as an individual with disability, or as a protected veteran, and any other status protected by applicable state or federal law. (University of Utah, Policy 6-400, Section II-E)

## **Article III: Membership**

### Section 1: Eligibility for Membership

Membership shall be open to any currently enrolled student or employee of the University.

### Section 2: Open Space

Membership is open to all regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, or ability.

### Section 3: Active Membership & Voting Rights

Membership is defined by the following:

1. Active members shall have voting rights after attending the book club for one semester. An active member is a student that attends at least 3 meetings, and is involved in planning and assisting in activities and projects.
2. If circumstances do not permit a member to attend 50% of official meetings, it is the responsibility of the member to stay updated on current issues and events and to keep other members informed of their situation with regard to their current involvement.

### Section 4: Affiliate Membership

Affiliate members will consist of high school students and community members. Affiliate members will be allowed voting rights as long as they follow the rules outlined in Article III Section 2. Affiliate members cannot run for Chair positions.

### Section 5: Advisor Role

Concerning the advisor of Mecha de University of Utah. In order for the advisor to fulfill their responsibilities in a neutral and objective manner, they will not retain voting rights. Mecha is a student-run organization; therefore, it is not the role of the advisor to dictate actions or to influence individual members of the group, or the group as a whole. However, it is the role of the advisor to:

1. Provide academic resources and counseling as well as personal resources and counseling as necessary.
2. Act as a contact on campus and in the community.
3. Attend all the meetings and events unless excused by members ahead of time or in the case of unplanned emergencies.
4. Remain flexible and open to any and all other responsibilities that may arise.
5. Participate in providing all necessary tools and resources when there is a transition in officers."

## **Article IV: Chairs and Departments**

### Section 1: Chairs/Oversight Department

Chairs shall consist of active members of Mecha de University of Utah. Chairs who serve as such by virtue of their being elected as chair of Mecha shall take office following elections and shall serve in that chair for a term of one year or until a successor is qualified. Each chair will be assigned to work within a corresponding department that encapsulates their responsibilities.

### Section 2: Co-Chairs

Number of Positions: 2

Co-Chairs are equal in responsibility. They are responsible for being aware of and overseeing every aspect of the organization which is divided into two positions; Budgeting Chair & Historian/Secretary. Both Positions are mutually responsible for the following:

1. Creating Agendas for Leadership Meetings
2. Mutual Aid
3. Driving overall organization goals
4. Creating Semester plans for the organization
5. Community Issues & Events
6. Working with Advisor and Departments within Mecha

Budgeting Chair Responsibilities:

1. Developing a Budget Plan
2. Allocating Funds
3. Monitoring Spending
4. Talking to ASUU in any official capacity
5. Seeking Donations
6. Grant Proposals

Historian/Secretary Responsibilities:

1. Noting Taking
2. Organizing Files
3. Sending emails
4. Documenting and tracking events
5. Keeping track of deadlines
6. Check-in's with Departments

### Section 3: Department of Education

Number of Positions: 3

Education chairs are equal in responsibility. They are responsible for developing educational materials and aiding the education of members with the following:

1. Book club
2. Creating an education plan for the semester
3. Social media
4. Monthly lectures
5. Creating educational opportunities for community members
6. Creating material that focuses on
  - a. Capitalism
  - b. Imperialism
  - c. Marxism
  - d. Neoliberalism
  - e. Mexican centrism
  - f. Gender and sexuality
  - g. Liberation
  - h. Settler colonialism
  - i. Neo-colonialism
  - j. Palestinian liberation
  - k. Indigenous, Black, and Proletarian Feminism
  - l. Disability Justice

### Section 4: Department of Fundraising

Number of Positions: 3

One Chair of Fundraising will assume the Treasurer title for administrative purposes.

Fundraising chairs are equal in responsibility. They are responsible for maintaining the finances

of the organization which includes but is not limited to:

1. Maintaining up-to-date and accurate records of all bank transactions.
2. Assist the Oversight Department with annual budget proposals to ASUU with the approval of the active members.
3. Assist other Mecha departments with their budgets and projects.
4. Collect and keep a record of annual dues.
5. Report Mecha financial standing to members on a monthly basis.
6. Create a detailed fundraising plan for each semester with appropriate goals.
7. Coordinate fundraising events.
8. Collaborate with community partners and campus student organizations.
9. Execute and oversee at least one community aid project per semester.
10. Provide volunteer opportunities for members through community service projects.

#### Section 5: Department of Propaganda

Number of Positions: 3

Propaganda Chairs are equal in responsibility. They are responsible for publicizing events, actions, new info, communicating with other organizations, and et cetera by doing the following:

1. Outreach for collaborations
2. Social media
3. Creating digital art
4. Creating physical propaganda
5. Planning tabling events
6. Creating a plan for the propaganda department

#### Section 6: Department of High School Conference

Number of Positions: 4

High School Conference:

High School Conference chairs are equal in responsibility, responsibilities will be divided by finance, design, outreach and logistics. They are responsible for organizing the annual high school conference and working closely with the University of Utah Admissions by doing the following.

1. Creating a plan for the high school conference department
2. Outreach and maintain contacts with the various schools across the state.
3. Collectively searching for speakers/presenters and allied organizations.
4. Reserving spaces
5. Establishing a theme for the conference
6. Create conference schedule
7. Working with the fundraising department to budget and report expenses
8. Attending HSC meetings and staying up to date.

In addition, the success of the high school conference depends not only on the high school conference chairs, but on the department and chapter. It is the responsibility of the chapter to assist the department.

Youth Outreach:

Responsible for working alongside high schools in providing resources and materials needed to create their own Mecha chapter in their school. As well as coordinating collaborations with youth to provide educational, cultural, and community involvement opportunities.

## **Article V: Impeachment and Resignations**

### Section 1: Call for Impeachment

Impeachment can be proposed by a Chair or active member. However, the actual impeachment of an officer requires a majority vote of the Chairs.

### Section 2: Impeachment

If impeachment is proposed by a member of the Chairs, a special closed meeting will take place among the Chairs only to determine if impeachment is warranted

1. Grounds for removal include the inadequate fulfillment of aforementioned duties or the violation of regulations described by the University policies or any federal, state, or local laws
2. If impeachment is not deemed appropriate the chair will remain in their position
3. If impeachment is deemed to be appropriate, the Co-Chairs shall be voicing the concerns to the impeached Chair
4. If impeachment is proposed by an active member, the Co-Chairs shall hold a special meeting with the membership to determine if impeachment is warranted
5. The impeached Chair will then have the opportunity to state their case to the Chairs
6. Impeachment may be overturned so long as there is a majority agreement of the Chairs. However, if the majority of the Chairs wish to proceed with impeachment, the impeached Chair may choose one of the following options:
  - a. Resign and no public knowledge will be made regarding the impeachment, or  
Opt to present the issue to active members. If this option is selected, see points three through five of Article V Section 3
  - b. listed below

### Section 3: Impeachment Proceedings

1. If impeachment is deemed to be appropriate by membership, the Co-Chairs shall be voicing the concerns of the impeached Chair
2. The impeached Chair shall have the opportunity to state their case to the membership; upon which the membership will then have the opportunity to ask any questions that are believed to be pertinent to the situation
3. Impeachment may be overturned so long as there is a majority agreement of all the active members and the Chairs, a majority of both is needed to impeach
4. All events shall be documented
5. The Co-Chairs shall facilitate any special closed-door meetings. If any of the Co-Chairs is impeached then the Education Chairs facilitate the meeting

### Section 4: Filling Impeached Chair

If a position becomes available because of an impeachment, the following steps shall be taken:

1. If either Co-Chair position is vacated, new elections will be held and the longest term Chair will assume the responsibilities of the Co-Chair until the position is filled.
2. If more than one position becomes vacant, the Chairs may appoint new Chairs or choose to hold special elections to fill the vacant positions

### Section 5: Resignation

If a Chair resigns, no documentation shall be made regarding the incident surrounding the resignation. If a position becomes available because of resignation, the same steps outlined in Article V Section 4 shall be applied

### Section 6: Advisor Removal

Article V applies to the advisor of Mecha with the only exception that Chairs have the power to impeach.

## **Article VI: Chair Application Process**

### **Section 1:**

There will be an annual application process held before the National Conference in which members will apply to be elected into Office; active members with voting rights are the only members allowed to apply. There will then be a one-week period during which the applicants will be interviewed by the department chairs, and other chairs. At the end of said week there will be a mandatory meeting for all chairs to decide which applicants will be accepted into office. If a vacancy occurs, applications to fill that office for the remainder of the year can be made at the next official meeting.

### **Section 2:**

If a chair seeks re-election, they must first seek approval from all the chairs in Mecha by majority. Mecha chairs will evaluate whether the chair seeking re-election has made a positive impact during their term to determine if the chair seeking re-election can run again. If approved to do so they will be allowed to go through the process outlined in Section 1.

## **Article VII: Meetings**

### **Section 1: Dates**

Chairs shall determine the frequency of mandatory meetings. Chairs can call emergency meetings when necessary.

### **Section 2: Notice**

The Department of Propaganda must provide two days' notice for all meetings called.

### **Section 3: Time**

Meetings will start at designated time and members are expected to be punctual. Business that has already been covered will not be readdressed for late-comers.

### **Section 4: Notes**

Meeting notes should follow this outline: Name/point of the meeting, start time, date, assigned facilitator and note-taker names, names of attendees, Agenda, next week ongoing discussions, end time.

### **Section 5: Outline**

The meetings will follow this outline: unity clap, land recognition, community guidelines, introductions, and so on. If meeting through a video conferencing platform, then play a video of the unity clap through that platform.

### **Section 6: Definitions**

#### **Unity Clap**

In the 1960s, organizers from the United Farm Workers needed a way to bridge the communication gap between Latinx and Filipinx farm workers who did not share the same language. They created the “unity clap” — a tradition that’s used by activists, community organizers and labor movements to this day. It starts out slow, like a heartbeat, and picks up speed as more and more people join in, until everyone is clapping together. Someone will then yell “Isang Bagsak!” before ending with a final, collective clap.

#### **Land Recognition**

We acknowledge that this land, which is named for the Ute Tribe, is the traditional and

ancestral homeland of the Shoshone, Paiute, Goshute, and Ute Tribes. We recognize and respect the enduring relationship that exists between many Indigenous Peoples and their traditional homelands. Throughout the past 500 years, the impact of colonialism has been detrimental to indigenous lands and languages, affecting their livelihood. Many people who live in Utah are unaware of this history. Indigenous peoples' identity is tied to the land. Like our own bodies, we must respect and care for it and we urge everyone to do the same. We challenge you to educate yourself about the history and the communities who continue to thrive today. Moving forward, it is vital to honor and respect that you are always on Indigenous land.

#### Community Guidelines

1. 3 people to block a proposal
2. Stay on topic and not trail off
3. Use "I" statements
4. Speak with best intentions
5. Keep agenda private
6. ELMO (enough let's move on)
7. No shade towards others
8. No cutting others off, raise your hand and wait your turn
9. Ask for clarification before arguing
10. Respect pronouns and use inclusive language

#### Section 7: Mecha 101

Every 1st meeting of every semester must be a Mecha 101 meeting where we cover:

1. History of how Mecha began
2. History of Aztlan and "La Raza"
3. History of name
4. Explanation of los papeles
5. Current philosophy and ideology
6. Explanation of book club
7. Explanation of where we are now and organizational structure

## **Article VIII: National Conference**

#### Section 1:

Mecha de University of Utah chairs and members shall review el Plan Espiritual de Aztlán, el Plan de Santa Barbara, and the Mecha philosophy prior to attending the National Conference. To better understand Mecha history and objectives, at least one presentation on them should occur before the National Conference. Preference to go to the National Conference will be given to active members who attend 50% of all meetings. Chairs shall be responsible for documenting attendance of members within their respective departments.

## **Article IX: Constitution and Bylaws**

#### Section 1: Amendments

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the voting officers and members at any official meeting, provided that the voting officers and members be given two-2 weeks notice week and copies of proposed amendment(s) to the voting body are provided.

#### Section 2: Presentment

A copy of any amendments to these bylaws must be submitted to the Co-Chairs of Mecha de

University of Utah within two weeks after adoption so they can submit those amendments to the Center of Student Involvement for final approval. Amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to and approved by the Department of Student Leadership & Involvement before they become effective.

## **Article X: Ratification**

### Section 1:

1. In order for the constitution to be ratified, a majority vote of active members is required
2. Upon ratification of this Constitution, all prior constitutions shall be null and void
3. If ratified, or changed in any way, one new copy of the Constitution must be submitted to the Center of Student Involvement (ie ASUU or other)
4. Shall be reviewed every year after National Conference