

Constitution

Constitution and Bylaws

Of

LATINO STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Christopher Newport University

Article I Name:

This organization shall be called Latino Student Association of Christopher Newport University. Membership in this organization is open to all CNU students and will not be restricted on the basis of age, ability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, color, religion, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or political affiliation except in circumstances outlined in federal and state laws.

Article II Purpose:

Mission Statement: Our objective is to celebrate, enhance, and raise awareness of Latinx and Hispanic culture at Christopher Newport University. WE aim to provide a safe space for students from all backgrounds and remind them of their Latinx roots. We are Latino based but not latino exclusive therefore we thrive to be educated on ideals that specifically affect the Latinx Community to others that support our community. LSA provides relaxing outlets, honors sacred events, and educates students. This organization wants to bestow pride and acceptance of this culture on campus.

Article III Membership:

Section I: Any student regularly enrolled in Christopher Newport University may become a member of the Latino Student Association with voting and office-holding privileges. In order to be an active member and have the privilege to vote, members must be in good standing with the organization.

Section II: In addition to maintaining a good standing with the university and the organization, members are also responsible for contributing ideas and be willing to volunteer for LSA related activities.

Section III: Dues of \$10 Dollars must be paid per academic year to be considered a member in good standing with the organization. New members are not exempt and dues must be paid at the time of joining.

Section IV: The Latino Student Association shall not haze any prospective member for the purpose of admission into or affiliation with the organization. Members of The Latino Student Association are free to leave or dissociate without fear of retribution or harassment. The Latino Student Association shall not discriminate based on race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, and sexual orientation.

Clause I: A member may be revoked of their membership if he/she becomes hostile or disrespectful in which a disturbance and uncomfortable environment is created within the organization for any one member. To begin the revoking process, a formal meeting is required with executive members. If further advising is needed, that will be communicated.

Article III Organization:

Section I: There shall be an executive board composed of the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Public Relations , Social Chair, as well as the Faculty Advisor

Clause I: All officers are elected for terms lasting one school year.

Clause II: Executive Members shall be full time students, as defined by taking a minimum of 12 credits, Have a GPA of 2.50 and above, and must be in good standing with the organization including an attendance of 85% and above

Clause III: Any organizational changes brought to the executive committee's attention will be addressed by the organization's President, Vice-President, including the organization faculty advisor.

The duties of each shall be as follows:

President:

- a. To conduct executive board and general monthly meetings
- b. To act as the official spokesperson for the organization
- c. To monitor and delegate responsibilities throughout the executive officers and members
- d. To uphold and strengthen the goals of the organization
- e. To lead by example and motivate teamwork within the group dynamic
- f. To enforce attendance policy on exec members at exec meetings
- g. To ensure adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws of Latino Student Association
- h. Is required to have served on the Latino Student Association Executive Board for at least two semesters during the previous academic year. In the case that no person with this qualification runs for the presidency, then other nominees who have served on the Executive Board will be eligible to run for this office.

j. The president of the organization is required to meet at least quarterly with the faculty advisor.

Vice President:

- a. To assume the president's duties in case of absence or incapacity
- b. To work in tangent to the president by overseeing all relations and operations
- c. To uphold and strengthen the goals of the organization
- d. To serve as a liaison between the president and the executive members
- e. To develop community outreach opportunities and co-sponsorships with other organizations
- f. Is required to have been an active member in good standing for at least two semesters. In the case that no person with this qualification runs for the presidency, then other nominees who have served on the Executive Board will be eligible to run for this office
- g. The vice president and the president of the organization are required to meet at least quarterly with the faculty advisor.

Treasurer:

- a. To maintain an accurate budget of the organization's funding
- b. Responsible for working with the President and Vice-President to draft an annual budget, uphold and maintain forward funding.
- c. Responsible for keeping records of all events.
- d. Record and monitor financial transactions and present a written report on the group's budget periodically to the Executive Board at the end of every month.
- e. propose fundraising activities to the group periodically and assist in the coordination of fundraising activities and also oversee grant writing.
- f. Coordinates the following year's budget during the spring semester; along with the President, in order to be presented to the organization
- g. To uphold and strengthen the goals of the organization

Secretary:

- a. To keep official minutes of Executive Board meetings
- c. Responsible for sending out reminder emails **48** hours prior to any Executive Board meetings, general body meetings, and any other LSA related activities
- d. To regularly check emails and inform the President, Vice president and executive board members of all communications.
- e. To maintain an accurate roster of Latino Student Association members
- f. They will also perform other such duties as may be required of the Executive Board.
- g. To uphold and strengthen the goals of the organization

Public Relations:

- a. To handle publicity and advertisement for Latino Student Association events and co-sponsorships
- b. Update all social media platforms frequently and repost other organizations events to keep networking
- c. To advertise and promote Latino Student Association
- d. Coordinate effective co-sponsorships with all Executive Board members
- e. To uphold and strengthen the goals of the organization

Social Chair:

- a. To attempt to attend all organization activities and keep an accurate account of the events that transpired
- b. To maintain a photograph compilation of Latino Student Association events, which should include summaries of club events to pass along to Public Relations Chair
- d. To develop social events and membership outreach activities
- e. To uphold and strengthen the goals of the organization

Section II: Elections will be held approximately three weeks before final examinations begin and will hold a meeting for candidates to present a speech. Proceeding the speeches voting will take place via a google form. The google form will remain open for 24 hours after the speeches. Once the votes are tallied the new Executive team will be notified and announced via social media and Groupme.

Section III: Any officer may be impeached or a membership revoked in a general body meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, but the officer or member must be informed of the impeachment or membership-revoking vote prior to the vote taking place.

Section IV: If an elected Executive Board member must relinquish their duties due to an unforeseen circumstance, a special election to fill that position will occur at the next general body meeting with a simple majority vote.

Article IV Faculty Advisor:

Section I: The Faculty Advisor will be a faculty member or administrator interested in Latino Cultures and in aiding Latino Student Association in all of its endeavors.

Section II: His or her responsibilities shall include:

- a. Interpretation of University policy
- b. Representation for the organization to faculty and administrators
- c. Provide general guidance in all aspects of organization activity
- d. To uphold and strengthen the goals of the organization

Section II: If the advisor is deemed unfit for the organization, a removal process will be voted on by members present at the following general body meeting with a simple majority vote.

Article V Housekeeping Rules:

Section I: Meetings will be monthly with additional special activities taking place during each month and monthly dinners at local restaurants

Section II: An email reminder will be sent out to all members informing them of meeting time and location.

Article VII Hazing:

The Latino Student Association, in keeping with CNU's expectations for a positive academic and social environment, unconditionally opposes hazing. No individual member of our group or the group itself may engage in or plan any activity that may be defined as hazing.

The Latin Student Associaton opposes any situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule to its members or potential members. In addition, no individual nor recognized organization may by physical or mental stress or by subtle or covert technique, impair, make captive, or destroy an individuals' freedom of thought and choice.

Hazing, under Virginia law, is defined as activities for the initiation or induction into an organization which include calisthenics or other strenuous physical activity; exposure to inclement weather; consumption of food, liquid, beverage, drug or other substance; confinement in any room or compartment; spraying, painting or pelting with any substance; burying in any substance; burning, branding or tattooing or another activity which may result in physical injury or endanger the health or life of the individual being hazed.

J17-101 Section 18.2-56 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, which declares hazing illegal, establishes conditions for civil and criminal liability and outlines the duties of the university when a student has been found guilty of hazing.

It is hereby incorporated as part of this constitution and will serve as a guide for action by the university and *The Latino Student Association* if there is an instance of hazing by this organization or any of the members of this organization. It will be the duty of the officers of *The Latino Student Association* to educate the membership of this policy.

Article VII Infractions:

Latino Student Association of Christopher Newport University shall recognize and uphold the rules and regulations of the University.

Article VIII Amendments:

Section I: The Constitution may be amended by the Executive Board.

Section II: Notification of and voting on the amendments made to the Constitution by the Executive Board shall take place among the general body members of the organization during the following meeting.

Section III: Two-thirds majority of the general body members of the organization present during the respective meeting may amend the constitution upon agreement.

Article IX Ratification:

This constitution shall become effective upon approval by a simple majority vote of the membership. Ratified constitutions must be submitted to the Student Activities & Involvement office within 10 days for final approval.

Exec Member Name: _____

Exec Position: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____