

Constitution of the Multicultural Leadership Council

Preamble

We, the Multicultural Leadership Council, being the members of student organizations at Vanderbilt University, shall ensure integration and cooperation between multicultural organizations and the University, and shall ensure integration and cooperation among the different multicultural organizations on campus.

Article I - Name

This organization shall be named the Multicultural Leadership Council of Vanderbilt University.

Article II - Purpose

Emerging from a desire to increase cooperation and communication among the existing Multicultural student organizations, a diverse group of students came together to form the Multicultural Leadership Council (MLC). Advised by the Office of Intercultural Affairs and Advocacy. The MLC was established to advocate and address issues facing the multicultural community at Vanderbilt University and greater Nashville. The purpose of the MLC is to:

- A. Support and encourage greater collaboration among student organizations.
- B. Draw attention to international cultures, issues, and even politics (separate and apart from cultural celebrations).
- C. Promote scholarship and diversity education as basis for intellectual achievement.
- E. Provide programs and services to member organizations.
- F. Act as a liaison between organizations and other student groups on campus, the student body, the faculty, and the administration of the University.
- G. Foster the development of leadership and positive relationships between the Vanderbilt community members, student organizations, and the Nashville community.
- H. Formed to explore and to find the common bonds among different ethnic, cultural, gender, sex, and religious groups of Vanderbilt students in order to increase power and social capital through collaboration.
- I. Institute policies and rules that will further the pursuit of these stated objectives.
- J. Follow such rules established by said Council so as not to violate the sovereignty, rights, and privileges of member organizations.

Article III - Membership

Section 1

All diverse, gender, sex, cultural, religious, and ethnic groups recognized by the University may be eligible for membership to the Council.

Section 2

The MLC serves as a panel in which open dialogue between organizations' members can occur. Each organization must have representation of their group involved in the council. Representation is to include two members from each organization. This must include the organizational president or vice president (if the president has a recurring conflict during our meeting times) and an (1) organizational representative (i.e. Secretary, member at large, or member not part of the exec board). The council will then work towards goals with the aid of these individuals and their representative organization.

Section 3

Each organization is responsible for having at least one representative attend all meetings. If either representative is not able to attend the meeting, the following actions may be taken:

1. The president may appoint a replacement to attend the meeting. Prior to the meeting the MLC executive board president or Vice President must be notified of this replacement.
2. Notify the MLC Executive board President or Vice President no later than two hours prior to the meeting. This will be noted as an excused absence. Failure to have a representative of your organization at ALL council meetings will result in an unexcused absence and will count against the member organization. In instances of unexcused absences, the following action may occur:
 - One unexcused absence: The member organization is notified that have received a warning.
 - Two unexcused absences: Council will notify the organization and meet with the organization concerning the status of membership. At that time new representation can be appointed. The second unexcused absence can result in the **removal** of said organization from the council if the organization does not communicate with the MLC President or Vice President.

Section 4

MLC Executive officers shall not be allowed to represent their organizations in place of an absent organization representative, or vote on behalf of their organization.

Section 5

Groups will be required to host a program in conjunction with the MLC during Multicultural Awareness Month. The groups may decide whether the project will be new or an addition to an existing program. These duties are founded on the hopes of encouraging greater collaboration between existing organizations.

Section 6

Groups will be required to sit on rotating programming committees, one in the Fall and one in the Spring.

Section 7

At each InVUsion each org will be required to perform or host a booth.

Article IV - Authority

The MLC is a student organization that is advised by the Office of Intercultural Affairs and Advocacy. The MLC shall have the authority to legislate on any matter of common interest to its member organizations and to adjudicate any matter set forth under the provisions of the Vanderbilt University Code of Conduct.

Article V - Transactions of Business

Section 1

A quorum for the transaction of any business by the Council shall consist of two-thirds of the voting members of the Council. All transactions will be conducted by ballot.

Section 2

When voting on the election of new officers, a two-thirds majority of voting members present is required for confirmation. If none of the candidates for a position reaches a two-thirds majority, then a run off will occur between the two candidates gaining the plurality of the vote. The candidate then winning the majority of the vote will be confirmed.

Section 3

When voting to admit new members onto the Council, three-fourths majority of voting members present is required for confirmation.

Section 4

For all other points of business, binding upon member organizations, a three-fourths majority of voting members present is required for confirmation.

Article VI - Officers/Elections

Section 1

There shall be an executive board within the Multicultural Leadership Council. The executive board of the MLC will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Special Activities Co-chairs, and First Year Liaison. If there is not a person holding office as treasurer, the Vice President will function in dual responsibilities.

Section 2

The President of the Multicultural Leadership Council will be the MLC liaison for the Student Leaders Summit.

Section 3

Each officer of the Council shall hold office for one academic year from the date of their appointment by the council and by their respective organization.

Section 4

Elections of new officers shall occur in the spring semester of the academic year. Turnover will occur during the first two weeks of April.

Article VII - Meetings

Section 1

Regular meetings of the council shall be held bi-monthly during the regular school term and shall be open to all council members and any invited guests.

Section 2

All special meetings shall be called at the discretion of the council and shall be open to all council members and any invited guests.

Section 3

Order of Business:

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) Reading of minutes and action thereon
- 3) Reports by Council members
- 4) Unfinished Business
- 5) New Business

Article VIII - Amendments

Amendments to this constitution shall require a majority vote of the MLC and must be approved at the MLC meeting. When voting on amendments to the constitution, all said members of the council can vote for or against any amendment. This includes Executive Board members.

Article IX - Ratification

This Constitution shall become effective when ratified by a two-thirds vote of all members of the Multicultural Leadership Council. As of date the ratification of the constitution, it shall remain as the guiding structure for said Council.

Article X - Admission of New Members

Section 1

The Council will have two admission periods, one at the onset of each academic semester. The exact dates are left to the discretion of the Executive Council.

Section 2

The application process is as follows:

- A. The petitioning organization must submit a completed application to the Executive Council,
- B. Upon review, the petitioning organization will formally present its application to the Council, after which an interview will take place,
- C. Voting upon the admission of petitioning organizations will occur immediately following the interview.

About the MLC:

Emerging from a desire to increase cooperation and communication among the existing Multicultural student organizations, a diverse group of students have come together to form the Multicultural Leadership Council (MLC). The MLC was established to advocate and address issues facing the multicultural community, at Vanderbilt University and the greater Nashville area. MLC's additional purpose is to support and encourage greater collaboration among the existing student organizations and to draw attention to international and American cultures, issues, and even politics (separate and apart from cultural celebrations). The coalition that MLC represents is an embodiment of the vision and desire to explore and to find the common bonds among different ethnic, cultural, and religious groups and to increase power and social capital through collaboration.

ORGANIZATIONS

African Student Union
Asian American Students Association
Caribbean Student Association
Korean Undergraduate Student Association
Masala-SACE
Middle Eastern Student Association
Muslim Students Association
NAACP
National Black Law Students Association
National Pan-Hellenic Council
Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.
Peabody Coalition of Black Graduates
Russian Eastern European and Central Asian Club

Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.
Vanderbilt Association of Hispanic Students
Vandy Fems
Vanderbilt Hillel
Vanderbilt International Students Association
Vanderbilt Undergraduate Chinese Association
Vanderbilt Undergraduates Encouraging and Empowering Sisterhood
The Vanderbilt Lambda Association