

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 have come together to form the Multicultural Leadership Council (MLC). Advised by the Office of Leadership Development and Intercultural Affairs, The MLC was established to advocate and address issues facing the multicultural community, at Vanderbilt University and the greater Nashville area. 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 basic to intellectual achievement.
- D. Act in conjunction with national organizations to maintain a status of national recognition in collegiate activities.
- 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 this University.
- G. Foster the development of leadership and positive relationships between the Vanderbilt community members, student organizations, and the Nashville community.
- H. Form as the embodiment of the vision and desire to explore and to find the common bonds among different ethnic, cultural, and religious groups of Vanderbilt Students and 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 undergraduate cultural, religious, and ethnic groups recognized by the University may be eligible for membership to the Council.

Section 2

This organization (MLC) and its component organizations shall not discriminate for purposes of membership or participation on the basis of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran's status.

Section 3

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 council. Representation is to include two members from each organization. This is to include but not limited to the organizational president and a (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 individual and their representative organization. The limited size of the council will help streamline efforts such as brainstorming, organizing, and planning for events, thereby increasing the efficiency of the council.

Section 4

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 advisor must be notified of this replacement.
2. Notify the MLC Executive board President or Advisor 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:

1. One unexcused absence: The member organization is notified that have received a warning.
2. 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. Second unexcused absence can result in the **removal** of said organization from the council if organization does not communicate with Council exec board.

Section 5

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 6

Any new organization on campus whose mission is centered on cultural awareness or diversity will be admitted as a full member into said Council following official application to the University as a functioning organization. Council shall be presented with organization and agree upon the organization inception in to the MLC.

Section 7

Groups will be required to host a program in conjunction with the MLC during Multicultural Awareness Week. 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.

Article IV - Authority

The MLC is a student organization that is advised by the Office of Leadership Development and Intercultural Affairs. 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

A quorum for the transaction of any business by the Council shall consist of two-thirds of the voting members of the Council. Concurrence by a two thirds vote of its members shall be required for making any action of the Council binding upon the member organizations.

Article VI - Officers/Elections

Section 1

There shall be an executive council in the Multicultural Leadership Council. The executive board of the MLC will consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, Treasurer, Transitional Chair and Advisor. 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 Vanderbilt Student Government (VSG) Community Relations committee.

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 the fall semester.

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 two-thirds 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.

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 Students Union
Asian American Students Association
Beta Chi Theta, Fraternity, Inc.
Black Student Alliance
Caribbean Students Association
Community Vanderbilt
International Awareness Council
Iranian Student Association
Lambda
Lambda Theta Phi, Fraternity, Inc.
Masala-SACE
Middle Eastern Students Association
Muslim Student Association
Vanderbilt Association for Hispanic Students