

LATIN AMERICA(N) MATTERS (LAM)

Statute of Constitution

1. THE NAME

The name of the organization is Latin America(n) Matters ("LAM").

2. MISSION

Latin America(n) Matters seeks to promote the discussion and better understanding of economic, social and political issues in Latin American countries through a public policy approach.

In that character, LAM will:

- 2.1. Promote activities to increase the awareness of the economic, social and political situation in Latin America from a public policy perspective, both at the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy and at The University of Chicago.
- 2.2. Establish an information channel for Latin American issues among LAM members and non members, taking advantage of the diversity of origin of our members;
- 2.3. Promote a better understanding of the culture and idiosyncrasy of Latin American countries within the University of Chicago community;

3. MEMBERS

- 3.1. LAM membership will be voluntary and limited to students enrolled at The University of Chicago and alumni. It will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation or physical disability.
- 3.2. *Eligibility.* Currently registered University of Chicago students committed to the mission of the organization will be eligible for become members of LAM.

4. ASSEMBLY

- 4.1. *General assembly.* The General Assembly will be in charge of the government of LAM. It will be democratically conducted and composed of all Active Members.
- 4.2. *Responsibilities.* The General Assembly will have exclusive authority to adopt decisions regarding (i) the election of the Executive Committee, (ii) the reports of the Executive Committee; and (iii) the amendment to this Statute of Constitution.
- 4.3. *Meetings.* The General Assembly will conduct the following meetings:
 - 4.3.1. *Spring Term Meeting.* The Spring Term Meeting will be held each year in the spring academic term, during the last week of May. At the Spring Term Meeting, the Executive Committee, with salient authorities, will present a report on the activities of LAM during

the previous term. Active members present at the meeting will vote in the election of the President according to the voting procedures.

4.3.2. *Fall Term Meeting.* The Fall Term Meeting will be held in the fall academic term, when classes initiate during the second and third weeks of October. At the Fall Term Meeting, (i) the Executive Committee Report will be delivered, (ii) the rest of the members of the Executive Committee –Secretary/ Treasurer and Program/ Public Relations Coordinator- will be elected by the Active Members in good standing, and (iii) proposals for future activities will be presented, discussed and voted. The Executive Committee, acting in the best interest of LAM, will have the authority to add, suspend or discard the approved list of activities in the course of the academic year.

4.3.3. *Special Meeting.* Special Meetings could be summoned by the Executive Committee whenever deemed necessary or when a petition signed by at least one-third of the General Assembly is presented to the Executive Committee

4.4. *Quorum and Voting Procedure.* The meeting of the General Assembly will be summoned by the President, or any other member of the Executive Committee acting on behalf of the President, at least two weeks in advance of the proposed date and will be announced through the Mailing List and any other means deemed to be appropriate. Quorum of at least half the active membership is required. Active membership is defined as having registered and paid the membership fee. The decisions will be taken by a majority vote of the members holding a right to vote and present at the meeting. Ties will be broken by a vote cast by the President.

5. ELECTIONS

5.1. *Time of Elections.* The members of the Executive Committee will be elected at the Spring Term –President- and Fall Term –Secretary/Treasurer and Program/Public Relations Coordinator-.

5.2. *Candidates.* Every Active Member will be allowed to be a candidate for Elective Positions, either through self-nomination or nomination by other active members. Candidates will be guaranteed the opportunity to present their views and answer questions either at the Spring or Fall Term Meeting as applicable. The Executive Committee will determine the time allotment and other administrative requirements, which will be equal for all candidates. If only one candidate either through self-nomination or nomination by others is presented for any given position, the candidate will be appointed automatically.

5.3. *Vacancies.* All vacancies in the Executive Committee due to resignation or any other reason will be filled within two weeks by the remaining members of the Executive Committee for the remainder of the office.

5.4. *Removal of Officers.* Officers may be removed only at a Special Meeting and by a two-third vote of the Active Members present at the Special Meeting.

6. DIRECTION AND ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1. General. The direction and administration of LAM will be conducted by the Executive Committee.
- 6.2. Composition. The Executive Committee will be composed of three officers: a President, a Secretary/ Treasurer and a Program/ Public Relations Coordinator
 - 6.2.1. President. The President will (i) be the official voice of LAM, and in that character, represents LAM at The Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies, The University of Chicago and other organizations, (ii) summoned and preside the meetings of the General Assembly, (iii) approve the Treasurer's expenditures, (iv) guarantee that the general functioning of the organization complies with general provisions specified by this Statute of Constitution, and v) assure that with the activities promoted the organization is aiming at its established mission.
 - 6.2.2. Secretary/ Treasurer. The Secretary will (i) keep the records of the meetings of the General Assembly and make them available to all members, (ii) maintain and update a directory of the members, (iii) collect the Membership Fee, (iv) maintain the financial books of LAM, (v) pay, with prior approval of the President, all accounts payable; and (vi) present a financial report.
 - 6.2.3. Program/ Public Relations Coordinator. The Program/ Public Relations Coordinator will (i) prepare an agenda of potential activities to undertake in the year following the elections and present it to the General Assembly for approval; (ii) coordinate the organization of the activities approved and seek support from other members in this endeavor, and (iii) seek and nurture the organization's contacts and send official notifications previously approved by the President.
 - 6.2.4. Interim provision. If for any reason the President in function is not able to represent the organization for a period of time or event the responsibilities of this function will be deposited on the Secretary of LAM.
- 6.3. Special Commissions. The Executive Committee will create Special Commissions if considered necessary to better carry out the activities of LAM. The members of the Special Commissions will be appointed by the Executive Committee and chosen from among all members of LAM. Membership to a Special Commission will not be considered as an elective position.
- 6.4. Term of Office. The term of office will last 1 year and will start June 1 and will end May 30 of the following year-.

7. AMENDMENTS

- 7.1. Petition. Amendments to this Statute of Constitution will be petitioned to the Executive Committee by at least one third of the members of the General Assembly or initiated by the Executive Committee. A Special Meeting will then be called to vote upon the proposed

amendment. Such a vote should take place only with a quorum of simple majority of the active members. Constitutional amendments will become part of this Statute of Constitution if, from this quorum, two thirds vote in favor.

7.2. **Publicity.** Amendments should be publicized through the Mailing List and any other appropriate means for at least two weeks prior to the Special Meeting in which the amendment will be voted upon.

7.3. **Legal Status of Amendments.** Duly approved amendments will (i) be appended to this Statute of Constitution, and (ii) become an integral part of them.

8. TRANSITORY

This Statute of Constitution of Latin America(n) Matters was approved by the General Assembly of said association at a meeting held on October 28th, 2004 at which an Executive Committee was elected to start regular functions in accordance with the provisions of this Statute of Constitution.

President

Secretary/ Treasurer

Program/ Public Relations Coordinator

Founding Members please sign below.-