

# CONSTITUTION

## MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

### ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be called the Michigan Association for Higher Education, MEA-NEA.

### ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be:

SECTION 1. To promote continuous improvement of higher education in Michigan;

SECTION 2. To share with the Michigan Education Association policy development for education in the State of Michigan; and

SECTION 3. To secure for its members the professional advantages which accrue from cooperative action.

### ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. All faculty members of the two-year colleges and the four-year colleges and universities in Michigan, public and private, who are eligible for MEA active membership are eligible for membership in this organization.

SECTION 2. All eligible persons shall become active members of this organization upon payment of the dues of the Michigan Education Association and the National Education Association.

### ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The elected officers of this organization shall be: President, Vice-President for Two-Year Colleges, Vice-President for Four-Year Colleges and Universities, most recent Past-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

SECTION 2. Officers shall be elected by the MAHE Board of Directors at a regular meeting through a secret ballot and shall serve two-year terms.

## ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers, ~~Parliamentarian, Legislative Chairperson, R.A. Caucus Chairperson, MEA Board Liaison, MAHE MEA-R Liaison, four (4) members~~ **an At-large representative for four-year colleges and universities, and an At-large representative for two-year colleges** elected by and from the MAHE Board of Directors, and MAHE members who are serving as NEA or MEA Board members or officers or as officers of the National Council for Higher Education.

SECTION 2. The Legislative Chairperson, R.A. Caucus Chairperson, MAHE MEA-R Liaison, and Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the MAHE President with the consent of the Board of Directors, and shall serve two-year terms.

SECTION 3. The Executive Committee shall hold at least two (2) meetings each year and shall be empowered to enact rules and procedures governing the conduct of its meetings.

SECTION 4. The Executive Committee shall represent and act for and on behalf of the Board of Directors on all matters affecting general policies and professional interests of MAHE between meetings of the Board of Directors, provided all proceedings of the Executive Committee shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 5. The Executive Committee shall develop the yearly strategic plan for MAHE, submit the plan to the MAHE Board for approval at the next Board meeting, and annually review the plan.**

## ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall be the administrative body of the organization.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of:

- (1) The elected officers;
- (2) the elected MAHE delegate from each unit;
- (3) additional delegates elected from MAHE locals as follows: 101-300 local members, 1 additional; 301 and more local members, 1 additional; provided that a sufficient number of seats for Third World representatives shall be available on the Board so that the percentage of Third World representatives on the Board shall be no less than the percentage of Third World persons in the population of the State of Michigan as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.

- (4) the Parliamentarian, Legislative Chairperson, R.A. Caucus Chairperson, and MAHE MEA-R Liaison shall be voting members of the Board.
- (5) all higher education MEA or NEA officers or Board of Directors members, NCHE officers, and higher education members of MEA or NEA committees and commissions, shall be ex-officio voting members of the Board. The Board may extend to higher education institutions not having a MAHE unit an invitation to send a non-voting representative to Board meetings.

SECTION 3. The Board of Directors shall hold at least four regularly scheduled meetings per year.

#### ARTICLE VII - LIAISON MEMBERSHIP ON THE MEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The MAHE President or designated representative shall serve as the liaison representative to the MEA Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE VIII - ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Local MAHE units shall be chartered through the MEA according to the provisions of the MEA Constitution and Standing Rules.

#### ARTICLE IX - GENERAL MEETINGS

General membership meetings are mandatory within thirty (30) days in any of the following circumstances: by action of the Board of Directors; by petition to the President signed by 15 percent (15%) of the membership of MAHE.

#### ARTICLE X - COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. An Elections Committee shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Board of Directors. The Elections Committee shall supervise elections and serve as the presiding authority in recall actions.

SECTION 2. Ad Hoc Committees may be established by the Board of Directors as needed.

SECTION 3. The Chairperson of each Committee shall be appointed by the President, with the consent of the Board of Directors. The Chairperson shall appoint the other

members of the Committee from the general membership roster with the consent of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XI - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. Nominations and elections shall be conducted in accordance with procedures in the Bylaws.

## ARTICLE XII - FINANCE

SECTION 1. The MAHE funds and the MEA budget line item funds for Higher Education shall be administered from the MEA Headquarters Office.

SECTION 2. The MAHE Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of the budget request and disbursement policies.

SECTION 3. The fiscal year shall be the same as the MEA fiscal year.

## ARTICLE XIII - RULES OF ORDER

SECTION 1. Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the transaction of business of this organization not specifically provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 2. The Parliamentarian shall assist the President in all business meetings of the general membership as well as meetings of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a majority of the total membership of the Executive Committee, a majority of the Board of Directors, or upon receipt of petition presented in accordance with the initiative provisions of Article XVI.

SECTION 2. Amendments to this Constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at a general membership meeting or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of returned ballots from a mail **or electronic** vote.

SECTION 3. A copy of a proposal shall be circulated to the general membership at least three (3) weeks prior to the distribution of the mail **or electronic** ballot, or prior to the general meeting when the vote will be taken.

SECTION 4. Approved Amendments to the Constitution shall be given immediate effect unless otherwise provided.

#### ARTICLE XV - FILLING OF VACANCIES; DECLARED VACANCIES

SECTION 1. A vacancy in the Office of President shall be filled by that Vice-President who receives a majority vote of those MAHE Board of Directors members present, provided that a notice of the meeting at which such election is to be made be given to each local MAHE unit at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors is empowered to fill a vacancy in any MAHE office except that of President. A majority vote of the Board at any regular meeting is required to fill a vacancy.

SECTION 3. A vacancy in any elected position shall be filled, as prescribed in Sections 1 and 2 above, for the remaining term of that office.

SECTION 4. The position held by an officer or Executive Committee member who is absent without exemption from three consecutive regular meetings shall be declared vacant.

#### ARTICLE XVI - INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

SECTION 1. Initiative. In accordance with procedures in the Bylaws, members may propose measures by initiative petitions signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the active members in at least one-half (1/2) of the total local MAHE units, provided that the total number of signatures represents at least ten percent (10%) of the total active membership. Initiative measures shall be adopted or rejected by a majority of the Board of Directors present at its next meeting following receipt of a valid petition. Should the measure be rejected, it shall be submitted to the active membership as provided in the Bylaws.

SECTION 2. Referendum. Members may refer actions of the Board of Directors to the membership by submitting petitions signed by at least fifteen percent (15%) of the active members in at least one-half (1/2) of the local units provided that the total number of signatures represents at least ten percent (10%) of the total active membership. Procedures are set forth in the Bylaws.

#### ARTICLE XVII - RECALL

An officer of MAHE is subject to recall upon initiation by the Board of Directors or the active membership as provided for in the Bylaws.

## ARTICLE XVIII - AUTHORITY

Any portion of this Constitution which conflicts with the Constitution of the Michigan Education Association or the National Education Association shall be inoperative.