

# Multicultural Alliance

## Mission & Goals

**The Multicultural Alliance** is comprised of leaders and members of student organizations supported by the Hedgeman Center for Student Diversity Initiatives and Programs.

The Alliance provides opportunities for leaders and organizations to:

- Network with each other about common student organization issues and experiences
- Learn about each others' cultures, issues and organizations;
- Collaborate on initiatives, programs and services;
- Share information and resources;
- Discuss, problem solve and address campus and diversity issues; and
- Serve as advocates for each other.

The Alliance is chaired by the Multicultural Alliance Coordinator, a Hedgeman Center student employee.

### **Goals of The Alliance:**

1. Offer support to student leaders and organization
2. Build stronger relationships between student organizations
3. Share information, problem-solve, advocate for issues that affect students (i.e., alienation, isolation, discrimination, academic support, social issues)
4. Coordinate the scheduling of events that groups sponsor
5. Increase co-sponsorship and collaboration on programs
6. Establish a common ground for discussing Hamline issues, experiences and realities in order to speak with a collective voice on matters of importance to students from historically marginalized populations.

### **Some Issues the Alliance have dealt with in the past:**

1. Advocating for rehiring of a new Admission's Multicultural Recruiter when there was a vacancy and threat of getting rid of the position
2. Retention of Faculty/Staff, students of color
3. Building community among all students of color and student-of-color organization (i.e., Student of Color Retreat, Admissions events, MISA Happy Hour, MISA Tournament of Champions, etc.)
4. Diversity issues within HUSC/ Increasing number of students of color in HUSC.
5. Reorganization of the MISA Office into the Hedgeman Center, with international student services realigned under Off-campus Programs and the inclusion of gender and sexual orientation initiatives.

### **Multicultural Alliance Member Organizations** (*in good standing as of August 2011*)

- Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC)
- Commitment to Community (C2C)
- FUSION (multi-racial and trans-racial adoptee student organization)
- Hamline African Student Association (HASA)
- Hamline American Indian Student society (HAISS), formerly NASA
- Hispanic and Latino Organization (HALO), formerly Alma Latina
- Hmong Student Alliance (HSA)
- PRIDE Black Student Alliance (PRIDE BSA)
- Spectrum (LGBTQIA student organization)
- Students for a Free Tibet (SFT)
- Students of South Asia (SOSA)

# Multicultural Alliance Membership Policy

Policy will take effect Fall 2011

## Membership Meetings and Requirements:

- Alliance meeting will be determined in advance with regularly scheduled meetings (same day/ same time) every three weeks.
- Every organization must send at least one representative to each meeting.
- Students may only represent one organization during each Alliance meeting.
- Student organizations are given two “free” excused absences during each semester.
- After the third missed meeting, an organization will be placed on probation.
- Probation means organizations’ will lose Alliance benefits until they meet with Alliance Coordinator and Hedgeman Director to discuss attendance issues and reinstatement.
- If an organization is placed on probation twice in one semester, they will be suspended from the Alliance for the remainder of that semester and must petition the Alliance for reinstatement.
- Representatives must RSVP/ confirm their attendance at meetings.
- Attendance will be kept at each meeting.
- During official votes, each organization is entitled to one vote.
- Organization not represented at the meeting a vote takes place will forfeit their vote.
- Organizations representing ethnic/racial/cultural groups which have less than 1% of the undergraduate student body may be exempted from Alliance requirements (i.e., less than 20 students).

## Benefits for Membership

- Use of Hedgeman Center supplies and space, including the conference room, kitchen, lawn.
- Assistance with funding/ large-scale purchasing (e.g., contracts, purchase cards)
- Voting privileges in Alliance matters.
- Eligibility for the Hedgeman Center Student Diversity Programming Grant.
- Publicity/ inclusion in Hedgeman Center events calendar, newsletter and “Hedgeman Happenings” weekly announcements.
- Participation in Alliance leadership retreats.
- Coalition-building opportunities with other diversity-oriented organizations, programs and initiatives.
- Eligibility for Hedgeman Center’s Multicultural Alliance Student Organization of the Award.

**The Multicultural Alliance Student Organization of the Year Award** is given annually to a student organization that has made significant contributions in helping our office achieve our mission of creating and sustaining an inclusive community that appreciates, celebrates and advances student and campus diversity at Hamline University.

This award, selected by the multicultural alliance coordinator and office staff, is given to a student organization that has:

- Maintained active membership in the Multicultural Alliance by participating in at least 75% of the meetings and activities;
- Assumed leadership in Alliance activities;
- Demonstrated outstanding leadership and service in the university and surrounding communities;
- Implemented successful diverse initiatives inclusive of social, cultural, educational and advocacy programs and activities;
- Intentionally and proactively collaborated with other student organizations;
- Achieved success in recruiting and retaining new and returning members leading to the empowerment of new student leaders; and
- Implemented activities throughout the entire academic year that support the missions and goals of the organization and the Hedgeman Center (e.g., programming, meetings, service initiatives, leadership development, fund-raising, advocacy, diversity education and student support endeavors).

The recipient of this award will receive a plaque at the Hedgeman Honors and Awards and will be awarded a \$250 programming grant for the following academic year.