CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE
Whereas the University of Miami is a private independent international University, and

Whereas the University of Miami has always intentionally attracted a large number of Hispanic students, administration, staff and faculty, and

Whereas it is desirable that these Hispanic members of the University participate in the affairs of the University and the community, effectively

Be it resolved, therefore, that the Hispanic Alliance of the University of Miami exists to represent the interests of all Hispanics individually and as a group, and to promote an exchange of cultures, ideas, and backgrounds in accordance with this Constitution.

We, The Hispanic members of the University of Miami community, because of historical and present events and with a firm understanding of cultural interaction, find it necessary to have an Alliance to promulgate our desires and aspirations. Through this Alliance we seek to affect positively educational and human development, to influence the course of events, to improve the standards and practices of education and research and to provide representation and information so as to enlighten others. We, therefore, through this charter, establish ourselves as the Hispanic Alliance of the University of Miami and will exert our energies to improve our status and direct our destiny.

PURPOSE
Section A: To promote, advocate and protect the interests of all Hispanic students, administration, staff and faculty at the University of Miami.

Section B: To bring together the Hispanic students, administration, staff and faculty with campus life and the community where possible.

Section C: To name and nominate official representatives of this Alliance to all University of Miami committees as requested.

Section D: To provide assistance to all Hispanic students, administration, staff and faculty on campus that so request it; in coordinating and harmonizing their campus activities; and addressing concerns particular to the Hispanic culture.

Section E: To help interested Hispanic groups to organize and become registered as approved organizations at the University of Miami.

Section F: To provide services and information related to Hispanic affairs to the University community

The Hispanic Alliance of the University of Miami was established to serve the membership and fulfill on a timely basis the goals and objectives as set forth in the preamble to the charter.
ARTICLE I – Time, Place and Conduct of Alliance Meetings

Section 1 – Place of Meetings

All meetings of the Alliance will be held on the campus of the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, or at such other place as the executive committee of the Alliance may designate. There shall be at least four meetings of the Alliance each year (including the annual meeting). There shall be at least two meetings each academic semester.

Section 2 – Conduct of Meetings

The President or, in his/her absence, the Vice-President shall preside at meetings of the Alliance and the Secretary shall record the minutes of the proceedings. But should such officers not be present, their functions may be performed by any member of the Alliance present as chosen by those in attendance.

Section 3 – Notice of Meetings

A ten-day notice of all regular meetings of the Alliance, stating their time and place, shall be provided to each member by the secretary, personally or by mail to the address of each member as the address appears in the records of the Alliance. However, failure to give such notice shall not affect the validity of such meeting or proceedings thereat.

Special meetings of the Alliance may be held upon notice by the Secretary when directed by the President, the Executive committee or by receipt of a written request signed by five or more Alliance members in good standing. The notice of any special meeting shall, in addition to time and place information, specify the purpose(s) of the meeting.

Section 4 – Annual Meeting

There shall be an annual meeting of the Alliance during March of each year for the purpose of electing officers and members of the Executive Committee and of transacting such other business as may properly come before such meeting.

ARTICLE II – Dues, Voting, Quorum

Section 1 – Dues

The amount and method of payment of annual dues to be paid by members of the Alliance shall be set at the annual meeting and will remain the amount in force until the subsequent annual meeting; except that the amount may be revised at any subsequent meeting of the Alliance upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, or by five or more members in good standing.
Section 2 – Voting

Each Alliance member, current financially and in good standing, is entitled to one vote on any and all matters brought at any Alliance meeting. Voting by written proxy is permitted.

Section 3 – Quorum

Five members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for carrying on the business of the Alliance.

ARTICLE III – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Election, Power, Meetings, Quorum, Vacancies

Section 1 – Election

The Executive Committee shall consist of seven members: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Programming Officer, Miller School of Medicine Campus Liaison, and Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science Campus Liaison, in good standing, from the general membership roster elected at the annual meeting and shall hold office for one year unless any such committee member shall resign, expire or be removed as hereinafter provided or until a respective successor(s) has been duly elected and qualified.

Section 2 – Powers

The Executive Committee of the Alliance shall exercise general supervision, management and control of the affairs and business of the Alliance.

Section 3 – Meetings

An annual meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held immediately after the annual meeting of all Alliance members. Additional meetings shall be held at such time and place as shall be the desire of the Executive Committee or as called by the President of the Alliance.

Section 4 – Conduct of Meetings, Quorum

The President or, in his/her absence, the Vice-President, shall preside at meetings of the Executive Committee of the Alliance and the Secretary shall record the minutes of the proceedings. But in the absence of either or any of such officers, their functions may be performed by any member of the Executive Committee selected by those present. Five members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5 – Vacancies

An Executive Committee member may resign at any time by filing a written notice of resignation with the Secretary with such resignation to become effective upon the filing thereof, unless a later date is fixed by its terms.
By an affirmative vote of a majority of the Alliance membership in good standing, the Alliance members may, at any special meeting called for such purpose, remove any or all members of the Executive Committee.

Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the Executive Committee membership, it shall be filled by the election of another member(s) of the Alliance who shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Alliance or until a successor shall be elected and qualified.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS: Election, Responsibility, Vacancies

Section 1 - Election

Officers of the Alliance shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Alliance. A President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected and shall hold office for the term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. Officers shall be current financially and in good standing.

Section 2 - Office of the President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Alliance and at meetings of the Executive Committee. In addition, the President shall be responsible for the general supervision and management of the Alliance, subject to the control of the Executive Committee. The President shall have such duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by this charter and by-laws or delegated to her/him by resolution or other appropriate action of the Executive Committee.

Section 3 – Office of the Vice-President

The Vice-President shall discharge the duties of the President in his/her absence or disability, and, in addition, such other and special duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by this charter and by-laws or delegated to her/him by a resolution of the Executive Committee or by the President.

Section 4 – Office of the Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a complete and permanent record of all proceedings of the Alliance and of the Executive Committee and shall have general charge of the records and books of the Alliance except such as are properly kept by other officers. The Secretary shall give notice of meetings as prescribed by this charter and by-laws and shall perform such other and special duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by this charter and by-laws or delegated to him/her by resolution of the Executive Committee or by the President.
Section 5 – Office of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be the fiscal and dispersing agent of the Alliance and shall keep an account for all monies, credit and property received and dispersed. The treasurer shall endorse all checks, notes, bills of exchange and other evidence of indebtedness and income and shall deposit all funds in such depositories as may, from time to time, be designated by resolution of the Executive committee and shall in addition perform such other and special duties as may, from time to time, be vested in the treasurer by this charter and by-laws or delegated to her/him by resolution of the Executive committee.

Section 6 – Office of the Programming Officer

The Programming Officer shall coordinate all events for the Alliance, and keep track of all events, gatherings and meetings related to the University's Hispanic community, and shall perform such other and special duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by this charter and by-laws or delegated to him/her by resolution of the Executive Committee or by the President. This office may be occupied by more than one person, as determined and voted upon by the Executive Committee, according to the needs and obligations of the Alliance.

Section 7 – Office of the Miller School of Medicine Campus Liaison

The Miller School of Medicine Campus Liaison shall serve as spokesperson and representative of the Alliance to the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine campus, and, in addition, perform such other and special duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by this charter and by-laws or delegated to her/him by a resolution of the Executive Committee or by the President.

Section 8 – Office of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science Campus Liaison

The Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science Campus Liaison shall serve as spokesperson and representative of the Alliance to the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science campus, and, in addition, perform such other and special duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by this charter and by-laws or delegated to her/him by a resolution of the Executive Committee or by the President.

Section 9 – Vacancies

Whenever any vacancy(ies) shall occur among the officers from resignation, removal, expiration or disability, the executive committee may elect a successor to hold office until the annual meeting of the Alliance or until a successor is elected and qualified by all members of the Alliance.
ARTICLE V – Subcommittees

Section 1 – Subcommittees

The Executive Committee may create subcommittees of the Executive Committee in order to perform specific tasks. Such subcommittees shall consist of two or more members of the Executive Committee plus any number of members from the general membership roster as shall be deemed necessary in order to complete the task. The subcommittee, when properly constituted, may have and exercise the powers of the Executive Committee.

Section 2 – Quorum of Subcommittee

A majority of the members of a duly constituted subcommittee shall constitute a quorum and be able to conduct any and all business as assigned by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – Amendments

Provided that a 30-day written notice had been given to associated members, a two-thirds majority vote of those members present and in good standing shall be required to amend any section of the charter and by-laws of the Alliance.

Adopted by the Hispanic Alliance of University of Miami
March 24th, 2006

Roberto Castro, presiding

Cristina Florez, presiding

Subscribers at March 24th, 2006 Meeting