

# **National UNITY Council Constitution – Proposed Amendments (Redline Draft)**

## **Article VI – Standing Committees**

### **Section 1. Operations Committees**

#### **(a) Credentials & Membership Committee**

- Membership & Credentials Committee
- Credentials Committee
- There shall be a single **Credentials & Membership Committee** responsible for:
  1. Verifying good standing of UNITY Youth Councils.
  2. Confirming authorized delegates and alternates.
  3. Managing registration, alternates, and voting credentials at National and Midyear Conferences.
  4. Confirming eligibility of all candidates for Executive Committee office.

#### **(b) Elections Committee**

- Election Procedure Committee
- There shall be an **Elections Committee** responsible for:
  1. Managing filing and nomination forms.
  2. Preparing ballots.
  3. Conducting balloting and tabulation.
- **Candidate eligibility shall be confirmed solely by the Credentials & Membership Committee.**

#### **(c) Program & Conference Committee**

- Program Committee
- The **Program & Conference Committee** shall:
  1. Set themes, content, and agenda priorities for UNITY conferences.
  2. Recommend sites and coordinate with UNITY staff on logistics.
  3. Develop youth training, cultural, social, fitness, and service events.
  4. Coordinate with the Communications Committee for messaging and outreach.

#### **(d) Roles & Responsibilities Committee**

- The **Roles & Responsibilities Committee** shall:
  1. Support conference execution, including hospitality, facilitation, and volunteer mobilization.
  2. Model peer leadership.

3. Enforce the Code of Honor, including curfew and attendance.
  4. Coordinate with the Peer Mediation Committee for Code of Honor violations.
- This Committee shall also assist in daily operations of the National UNITY Conference, including logistics, greeting, and setting priorities.

**(e) Resolutions & Rules Committee**

- No change, except to clarify:
  - The Committee shall provide guidance on **the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules.**

**(f) Communications Committee**

- The **Communications Committee** shall:
  1. Manage all internal and external communications of the National UNITY Council.
  2. Lead media and outreach efforts.
  3. Coordinate with the Program & Conference Committee to ensure consistent messaging.
- The Program Committee shall serve as a liaison with the Communications Committee.

**Section 2. Program Committees**

**(a) Code of Honor Committee (new)**

- The **Code of Honor Committee** shall review and recommend updates to the Code of Honor for approval by the National UNITY Council.

**(b) Peer Mediation Committee**

- The **Peer Mediation Committee** shall:
  1. Facilitate mediation and resolution processes for Code of Honor violations.
  2. Support conflict resolution among youth participants.
- **All enforcement issues shall first be addressed by the Roles & Responsibilities Committee. Unresolved disputes shall be referred to the Peer Mediation Committee.**
- Peer Mediation Committee shall facilitate meetings and decisions for those who do not uphold the Code of Honor.

**(c) Youth Council Advisors Committee (new)**

- The **Youth Council Advisors Committee** shall provide training, resources, and support for advisors, strengthening advisor–youth council partnerships.

**Section 3. Action Committees**

- The following Action Committees shall be maintained:
  1. Native Culture & Heritage
  2. Environment

3. Healthy Lifestyles
4. Community Service
5. Higher Education
6. New & Special Initiatives

### **Summary of Key Structural Changes (Redline Notes)**

- **Merged:** Membership & Credentials + Credentials → **Credentials & Membership Committee.**
- **Clarified:** Elections handles process only; Credentials handles eligibility.
- **Reorganized:** Program Committee → **Program & Conference** (planning only).
- **Clarified:** Roles & Responsibilities (execution + enforcement).
- **Defined:** Peer Mediation (resolution, not enforcement).
- **Separated:** Code of Honor review vs. Code enforcement.
- **Added:** Youth Council Advisors Committee + Code of Honor Committee.
- **Strengthened:** Coordination between Program ↔ Communications, and Roles ↔ Peer Mediation.

# Rationale for National UNITY Council Constitution Proposed Amendments

## Article VI – Standing Committees

These amendments modernize and clarify the structure, function, and coordination of the National UNITY Council’s Standing Committees. The intent is to streamline committee operations, eliminate duplication, and ensure clearer accountability for conference management, youth engagement, and constitutional compliance.

Key reasons for amendment include:

1. **Efficiency and Clarity:**
  - Merging overlapping committees (e.g., Membership and Credentials) reduces confusion and ensures a single point of responsibility for verification and eligibility.
  - Separating duties between Elections and Credentials strengthens the integrity and transparency of the voting process.
2. **Program Coordination and Communication:**
  - Reorganizing the *Program Committee* into a *Program & Conference Committee* establishes clear planning oversight while integrating logistical collaboration with UNITY staff.
  - Strengthening coordination between the *Program & Conference Committee* and *Communications Committee* ensures consistent messaging and branding across UNITY events.
3. **Youth Leadership and Accountability:**
  - The *Roles & Responsibilities Committee* is clarified to focus on youth leadership in hospitality, conference logistics, and Code of Honor enforcement.
  - A new *Code of Honor Committee* formalizes the periodic review and updates of UNITY’s behavioral expectations, aligning with UNITY’s evolving values and safety priorities.
4. **Conflict Resolution and Peer Support:**
  - Clarifying the *Peer Mediation Committee’s* role emphasizes resolution and restorative practices rather than enforcement.
  - Coordination with the *Roles & Responsibilities Committee* creates a two-step process—first enforcement, then mediation—to ensure fairness and due process.
5. **Advisor Support and Youth Development:**
  - Establishing the *Youth Council Advisors Committee* formally recognizes the role of advisors as partners in youth leadership and development, providing training and support resources to strengthen UNITY’s national network.
6. **Continuity and Governance:**
  - The *Resolutions & Rules Committee* remains unchanged but gains clarified authority to advise on the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules—ensuring governance alignment and procedural consistency.

# Summary of Proposed Amendments (Redline Overview)

## Section 1. Operations Committees

- **(a) Credentials & Membership Committee**
  - Merged *Membership* and *Credentials* Committees into one unified body.
  - Responsibilities: verifying good standing, confirming delegates, managing voting credentials, and confirming candidate eligibility.
- **(b) Elections Committee**
  - Renamed and clarified to handle election logistics only (forms, ballots, tabulation).
  - Eligibility confirmation now falls solely under the *Credentials & Membership Committee*.
- **(c) Program & Conference Committee**
  - Expanded role in setting themes, content, and site recommendations.
  - Coordinates directly with UNITY staff and *Communications Committee* for event planning and promotion.
- **(d) Roles & Responsibilities Committee**
  - Defined as the leadership and enforcement arm during UNITY conferences.
  - Responsible for hospitality, facilitation, Code of Honor enforcement, and volunteer coordination.
  - Coordinates with the *Peer Mediation Committee* for unresolved issues.
- **(e) Resolutions & Rules Committee**
  - No structural change; clarified advisory role on Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules.
- **(f) Communications Committee**
  - Leads all internal/external messaging, branding, and outreach.
  - Works jointly with the *Program & Conference Committee* to ensure alignment of communication and program goals.

## Section 2. Program Committees

- **(a) Code of Honor Committee (New)**
  - Reviews and recommends updates to the UNITY Code of Honor for Council approval.
- **(b) Peer Mediation Committee**
  - Facilitates resolution for Code of Honor and behavioral issues referred by *Roles & Responsibilities Committee*.
  - Promotes peer-led conflict resolution and restorative dialogue.
- **(c) Youth Council Advisors Committee (New)**
  - Provides a platform for training, mentorship, and sharing best practices among advisors.
  - Strengthens advisor–youth partnerships across UNITY’s network.

### Section 3. Action Committees

- Maintains existing committees on *Native Culture & Heritage, Environment, Healthy Lifestyles, Community Service, Higher Education, and New & Special Initiatives.*

### Overall Summary of Structural Changes

- **Merged:** Membership & Credentials → *Credentials & Membership Committee*
- **Clarified:** Elections = process; Credentials = eligibility
- **Reorganized:** *Program* → *Program & Conference Committee*
- **Defined:** *Roles & Responsibilities* (execution/enforcement) and *Peer Mediation* (resolution)
- **Added:** *Code of Honor Committee* and *Youth Council Advisors Committee*
- **Strengthened:** Coordination between key committees (Program ↔ Communications; Roles ↔ Peer Mediation)

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Would you like me to format this for insertion directly into a formal *Constitutional Amendment Justification Document*(with headers, amendment numbering, and tracked redline summary formatting)? That version would be ideal for circulation or submission to the National UNITY Council Executive Committee.

# National UNITY Council Constitution – Proposed Amendments (Redline Draft)

## Article VI – Standing Committees

Before voting, please review the proposed amendments in detail. Check the box next to your vote for each position and amendment area below.

### Voting – Article VI: Standing Committees (Proposed Amendments)

Committee	Proposed Amendment Summary	NUCEC Vote
<b>Credentials &amp; Membership Committee</b>	Merge Membership & Credentials → Credentials & Membership	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Elections Committee</b>	Clarify that Elections handles process only; Credentials handles eligibility	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Program &amp; Conference Committee</b>	Reorganize Program → Program & Conference (planning only)	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Roles &amp; Responsibilities Committee</b>	Clarify roles: execution + enforcement; coordinate with Peer Mediation	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Resolutions &amp; Rules Committee</b>	Clarify constitutional guidance	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Communications Committee</b>	Strengthen coordination with Program & Conference	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Code of Honor Committee (New)</b>	Establish committee to review and update Code of Honor	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Peer Mediation Committee</b>	Define conflict resolution (not enforcement) role	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Youth Council Advisors Committee (New)</b>	Create committee for advisor training/support	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose

**Voting – Action Committees (Maintain Existing Structure)**

Committee	NUCEC Vote
<b>Native Culture &amp; Heritage</b>	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Environment</b>	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Healthy Lifestyles</b>	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Community Service</b>	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>Higher Education</b>	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose
<b>New &amp; Special Initiatives</b>	X Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned, serving as Co-Presidents and Secretary of the National UNITY Council Executive Committee, hereby certify that the National UNITY Council Constitution Proposed Amendments under Article VI – Standing Committees were duly adopted by the National UNITY Council Executive Committee during a Regular Monthly Meeting held virtually on Sunday, October 12, 2025.

These proposed amendments are hereby approved to be forwarded to the National UNITY Council Business Meeting to be held on January 18, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona.

At said meeting, **10** members were present, with a recorded vote of: **9** in favor; **0** opposed; **2** absent; **1** not voting (Co-President).

**ATTEST:**

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Liliana Mars, Secretary National UNITY Council Executive Committee

**APPROVAL**

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Mazie Countryman, Co-President, National UNITY Council Executive Committee

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Watson Whitford, Co-President , National UNITY Council Executive Committee