



September 12, 2009

Dear Advisors,

Welcome to the 44th Annual Montana Model United Nations Conference at the University of Montana. We are serving as this year's Secretary-Generals. Aimee Ryan will serve as the Secretary-General for Internal Affairs (SGI), and Kelsi Steele as the Secretary-General for External Affairs. We are excited to have so many returning schools, as well as several new schools. As always, we invite new schools to participate.

We are working hard to make this year's conference exciting and interesting for all participants. Our goal is for students to reflect on international affairs, understand the inner workings of the UN, and develop their research, writing, public speaking, and negotiation skills. We also strive to introduce students to the UM campus, UM faculty, and current UM students.

In this letter, we will introduce you to the 2009 MMUN staff, announce this year's committees, alert you to registration deadlines, and call your attention to new policies and initiatives.

MMUN Staff

Please allow us to introduce our dedicated staff who are working to make MMUN 2009 a success.

This year, Katie Lucotch is the Assistant Secretary-General for External Affairs (ASGE). William Selph will serve as the High School Liaison for Advisors (HSLA). Owen Javins is fulfilling a new role as the High School Liaison for Delegates (HSLD). Katie, Will, and Owen will be helping Kelsi answer any questions you and your delegates may have.

Thecla Backhouse-Prentiss is the Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Affairs (ASGI). She is in charge of Home Government. Marissa Perry is the Assistant Secretary-General Crisis. She will chair the Security Council. Thecla and Marissa will work with Aimee to update MMUN's parliamentary procedures and oversee "breaking news" releases in each committee.

We are thrilled to have Professor Karen Adams of UM's Political Science Department return again as our faculty advisor. Graduate student Kedra Arnold will be assisting with many aspects of the conference, especially the background guides. Dani McLaughlin of the College of Arts and Sciences, as in past years, is providing administrative support.

Committees

At Montana Model UN 2009, we will simulate the following committees:

- General Assembly Plenary (GAP)
- General Assembly 1st (GA1, security issues)
- General Assembly 2nd (GA2, economic issues)
- General Assembly 3rd (GA3, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues)
- Security Council (SC)

Registration Deadlines

As in recent years, the registration process has three steps:

1. **Registration:** At your earliest convenience, but *before October 9*, email Kelsi Steele at kelsi.steele@umontana.edu to confirm that you will attend the conference this year and to give us an estimate of the number of students you will bring. Please cc faculty advisor Karen Adams at karen.adams@umontana.edu and Dani McLaughlin at dani.mclaughlin@umontana.edu on this email. It is fine to say “about the same number as last year.” As soon as possible after we receive this information, we will send you country assignments for approximately that number of students. *If you add students, we will send you additional country assignments until November 2.* To ensure students have plenty of time to prepare for the conference, we will not assign additional countries after November 2.

2. **Fee Registration:** by *November 2*, please submit your fees and the Fee Registration form that will soon be posted on the Advisor Resources page of the MMUN website, <http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun/>. As in recent years, the school fee is \$50. This year, the delegate fee is \$15.

3. **Credentials Sheets:** by *November 10*, please submit a credentials sheet for each country your students are representing. Credentials sheets will also be posted on the Advisor Resources page of the MMUN website.

Dress and Conduct Code

As a result of the positive feedback from last year, we are maintaining the professional dress and conduct code. It has three elements:

1. Suits and dresses are strongly encouraged. Pants or skirts with sweaters or collared shirts are acceptable. Blue jeans, t-shirts, and other casual attire are prohibited. Students wearing inappropriate attire will be asked to leave the session to change their clothes.
2. As at the actual UN, national symbols such as flags, pins, and crests are prohibited. MMUN staff will confiscate anything deemed disruptive.
3. MMUN staff will not tolerate any attempt to portray a “character” using cultural attire as costume. Students who violate this rule will be asked to leave the committee.

Please be sure your students abide by these guidelines, and let us know if you have any questions about them. These rules are the norm at Model UN conferences. They help to create a professional and respectful environment.

Delegate Materials

Background guides for all committees and topics will be posted in the “Tools for Delegates” section of the website (<http://www.cas.umt.edu/mun/>) by early October. In that part of the website, students will find guides for researching and writing position papers and resolutions, as well as information about the MMUN rules of procedure, which will be slightly modified in the coming weeks. We encourage you to have your students print these documents and keep them in a notebook for reference during their preparations and at the conference. We will notify you once the updated documents are posted. To keep track of other new postings, check the “What’s New” page of the website.

International Trivia Game

We are excited to announce that, during the Monday evening session, we will host an international trivia game. Each of your country teams will compete with other countries in their regions to answer questions about world history, geography, the UN, current events, parliamentary procedure, and committee topics. We hope it will be a highlight of this year’s conference.

Country Assignments

This year, there will be four full-size (GA) committees and one small committee (Security Council). Thus each country will have at least 4 and no more than 5 committee slots. To give your students a cohort with whom to prepare for the conference and to make the trivia game more fun, please assign all of your country

slots before requesting another country.

Because we have more schools attending than Security Council spots, we can no longer guarantee each school a spot on the Security Council each year. If you receive a Security Council slot, please think carefully about which student to assign there. The Security Council works best with well-informed, articulate students, usually seniors.

This year, the first 19 schools to register will receive one country from the "Group of 20" countries (the 20th member is the EU). When you receive your country assignments we will note which of the countries is in the G-20. These, too, are prime slots.

Traveling Workshops

Please let Kelsi know if you would like to host a three-hour, pre-conference workshop at your school. These workshops, which cover position papers, resolution writing, and committee procedures, have been very popular in past years. We are willing to travel to bring one to you.

The 2009 MMUN conference promises to be one of our very best. We are honored to serve as your Secretary-Generals, and look forward to welcoming you to the MMUN conference and UM campus on November 23rd and 24th.

If you have any questions or concerns about MMUN, please contact Kelsi at kelsi.steele@umontana.edu. She will make sure your message gets to the right person.

Sincerely,

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