

UCONN TRAVEL MODEL UN CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Whereas there is no other organization serving as an outlet to practice international diplomacy at the University of Connecticut, and competitive Model UN offers incredible business and political skills, we hereby remodel the International Relations Association as Travel Model UN.

ARTICLE I

SECTION A: OFFICIAL NAMES

The organization bound under this constitution shall hereby be known as “Travel Model UN” for all official purposes, including, but not limited to, dealings with Student Activities and Events and Services. “Travel Model UN” shall be considered to be the organization’s formal and official name.

SECTION B: ALTERNATIVE NAMES

Travel Model UN may also be referred to by the following alternative names for purposes other than those included in Section A:

- UConn Travel Model United Nations
- UConn Travel Model UN
- Travel Model United Nations
- Travel MUN
- TMUN
- Travel Model UN Club
- Travel Model UN Team

ARTICLE II

SECTION A: MISSION STATEMENT

Our purpose is not merely to serve as an institution for students to practice diplomacy and Model UN, but to also serve as a competitive travel organization with the overarching goal of ranking the University of Connecticut nationally in Model UN. To help achieve this purpose and for the development of our members, we will invest heavily in training the team in business and life skills, such as public speaking, negotiation, and networking. Through service to our membership and partners and through the prestige associated with becoming a nationally ranked Model UN school, we will improve the status of the University of Connecticut.

ARTICLE III

SECTION A: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

To be considered a general member of Travel Model UN, and have the privilege of traveling to conferences, members must not have more than four unexcused absences in a semester.

SECTION B: PERSONAE NON GRATAE

Any person who is considered to be a persona non grata will not be permitted to be considered a general member or to attend meetings of Travel Model UN. The Executive Board may declare to be a persona non grata any individual who has done any of the below:

- Joined the organization in bad faith to influence a vote or election.
- Has been continually disruptive or disrespectful.
- Has participated in illicit or unconscionable activity that damages the reputation of TMUN.
- Has perpetrated severe instances of the inappropriate actions during travel events in Section C of this article.

Persona non grata status may be lifted by a vote of the Executive Board a semester no less than a semester after it is given.

SECTION C: INAPPROPRIATE TRAVEL BEHAVIOR

Grossly unacceptable behavior that will result in a member being no longer accepted to TMUN travel events and declared a Persona Non Grata after a simple majority vote of the Executive Board includes:

- Behavior physically endangering themselves or others.
- Conscious repeated disobeyal of rules set by TMUN authorities on the trip.
- Publication of media inappropriate or damaging to team members or the TMUN organization.

SECTION D: LATENESS DURING TRAVEL EVENTS

Lateness during travel events will result in a strong demerit when a member is considered for future trips in the following severe instances:

- Jeopardizing the ability of other club members to go on the trip.
- Missing or causing others to miss buses/planes/cars and other forms of transportation.
- Missing or causing others to be late to important events (committee meetings, mandatory-attendance ceremonies, etc).
- Causing general delays of thirty minutes or more.

SECTION E: ELIGIBILITY

All students attending the University of Connecticut who have not been declared personae non gratae under Section B of this article are eligible to become members of Travel Model UN, regardless of race, religion, sex, gender identity, sexuality, or political alignment.

SECTION F: EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall consist of the four members of executive leadership (the COO, the CSO, the CFO, and Secretary). The COO, CSO, and CFO shall have the power to do the following by majority vote:

- To declare an individual a persona non grata.
- To make administrative decisions on behalf of Travel Model UN.

- To determine when and if elections shall be held for executive leadership positions.
- To draft amendments to the constitution of Travel Model UN.
- To set organization meeting times and locations.
- To deem who is competent to chair meetings, including anyone on the board.

ARTICLE IV

SECTION A: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

The Chief Operating Officer shall be an elected position with the following powers and responsibilities:

- To serve on the Executive Board.
- To oversee the operations of all staff and general membership of Travel Model UN.
- To ensure administrative tasks are being completed by those they are delegated to as well as to complete administrative tasks, such as general USG interactions, trip organization, etc.
- To handle human resources affairs.
- To ensure conferences are logistically-sound.
- To lead the Executive Board in choosing a Head Delegate per trip to manage logistics specific to that trip.
- To oversee the Secretary, who is elected by the club, and their respective duties.
- In cases where the COO sees fit, he or she can veto an Executive Board decision in conflict with the Constitution. This must be overturned by a two-thirds vote of the club.

SECTION B: CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER

The Chief Strategy Officer shall be an elected position with the following powers and responsibilities:

- To serve on the Executive Board.
- To oversee the creation and instruction of a training curriculum focusing on key professional skills such as public speaking, networking, and negotiation.
- To plan and promote a strategic campaign of conferences to the club.

- To organize marketing efforts including but not limited to:
 - Media Outreach, Social Media and Internet Presence, Direct Recruitment, Speaking Tours in Lectures and Otherwise, Public Relations, and Traditional Club Marketing (posters, banners, etc).
- To manage organizational partnerships meant to create value for all groups involved.
- To oversee PR Directors, Organizational Ambassadors, or similar roles, elected by the club or appointed by the Executive Board.

Note: Chief Marketing Officer and Chief Strategy Officer may be separate positions in the future.

SECTION C: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chief Financial Officer shall be an elected position with the following powers and responsibilities:

- To serve on the Executive Board.
- To oversee and implement funding requests to USG.
- To oversee fundraising efforts for Travel Model UN.
- To oversee Travel Model UN funds.
- To aid Travel Model UN members in acquiring money for trips by legitimate means including locating employment, entering competitions in the club's area of expertise, etc.
- To ensure conferences are financially viable or find a path to make them viable.
- To oversee an auxiliary treasurer to ensure no period where the club cannot obtain funding, elected by the club or appointed by the Executive Board.

SECTION D: SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be an elected position with the following powers and responsibilities:

- The Secretary position is a non-voting member of the Executive Board.
- The Secretary is charged with maintaining the UConntact roster and taking the general and Executive Board minutes.

SECTION E: NON-C-LEVEL POSITIONS

These positions are meant to assist the C-Level Officers with their respective duties. Examples of these roles include: PR Director, Auxiliary Treasurer, and Secretary. The C-Level Officer in charge of these roles may choose a figure they would like to work with and either attempt to have them appointed to the position by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board or elected by a simple majority of the entire club. The exception being the Secretary, who will be an individual that is always elected as they have to go through RSO training.

SECTION F: FUTURE POSITIONS

These roles may be amended and added to. For example, if an individual with strong experience building a Model UN strategy and training curriculum emerges concurrently with a strong marketer in the future, it would be natural to split CSO into Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Marketing Officer. Additionally, if the task of managing relationships with other non-USG organizations becomes overwhelming, that role may be individualized into a Chief Relationship Officer (Chief Outreach Officer has a conflict of acronym).

SECTION G: ELECTIONS

The Executive Board, as designated in Article III, Section D, may call for an election, the date of which is up to them to determine but must be at least two weeks after the announcement. In the two weeks prior to an election, any member of Travel Model UN may announce their candidacy for one of the three executive positions. On the day of the election, all candidates for an office will be able to give a brief speech regarding why they should be elected. All members of Travel Model UN, including the candidates, will be able to cast a ballot. The candidate who receives the most votes will assume the position. In the event of a tie between candidates, a runoff election will be held. If the runoff election results in a tie, the position will be decided by a simple majority vote of a random council of five members of the club.

ARTICLE V

SECTION A: GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings of Travel Model UN will take place at a time and place determined by the Executive Board. General meetings will follow the following format:

- A member of the Executive Board will commence the meeting.
- The purpose of the meeting, such as conference organization, important news discussion, club affairs, practice conference, skills workshop, etc, will be announced and pursued.
- Practice conferences will follow the procedure outlined in the UConn Travel Model UN edition of Robert's Rules of Order.
- Crisis committee procedure will be a variation of Robert's Rules of Order.
- The meeting will be adjourned with a "Motion to Adjourn."

SECTION B: EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Any member of the Executive Board may call for it to meet at a given time, with the support of a majority of the members. Official meetings of the Executive Board will follow the following format:

- When a quorum of members are present, the meeting will begin.
- Any motions will be voted on, requiring a simple majority to pass, with the exception of constitutional amendments, the procedure for which is outlined in Article VI, Section A.
- The meeting will be adjourned with a "Motion to Adjourn."
- Meetings are open to all members.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION A: HUSKYMUN

The Executive Board may choose to host a college MUN skirmish or mini-conference at the University of Connecticut one or more times a year. The purpose of this event is to provide a training opportunity for all members and a glimpse of competitive MUN for those who have not yet travelled.

ARTICLE VII

SECTION A: FORMING TRAVEL GROUPS

When accepting delegates for conferences, the Executive Board will balance the organization's competitive agenda with a desire for all members to travel:

- The Executive Board will strive to send as many delegates as possible to conferences to avoid having to deny candidates.
- Members with successful competitive records will be favored for conferences heavily-weighted in national rankings.
 - The CSO is the main resource and record-keeper on the competitive qualifications of a candidate.
- For all other conferences, members who have travelled the least will be favored.
- Executive Board members will be favored for administrative purposes.
- The Social Media Director will be favored in order to capture media from the event.

SECTION B: COUNTRY/POSITION ASSIGNMENTS

The Executive Board will prioritize fairness and transparency when giving country/position assignments to a travel group. The default method of providing assignments below may only be overridden by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board because of administrative obstructions:

- Travel group members will be split into tiers by previous college conferences attended, including HuskyMUN, as follows:
 - 0-2 (conferences attended)
 - 3-5
 - 6-8
 - 9-11
 - 12+
- Members with the highest tier will be given first choice. This reflects not only a desire to respect the members' faithfulness to and long career with the organization but

additionally gives them the opportunity to avoid repeating positions they may have had in the past.

- Within each tier, members will receive first choice by academic class seniority (seniors before juniors, etc). This honors delegates who do not have the chance to attend as many conferences in the future because of graduation.
- If there are multiple members in the same conference number and academic class tier, the order of selecting positions shall be determined by random number generation.
- Executive Board members will receive first choice of positions before the above tier system to reward the extensive work they put into the club. If conflicts over position arise on the Executive Board, and the above tier system shall be used to resolve further issues.
- If a member truly believes they are a better fit for a position that another delegate with earlier preference selected, they may contest the assignment:
 - A member may only contest one assignment per conference.
 - The contesting member and the original member who selected the position may each make a two minute speech on why they should hold the position.
 - The original member who selected the position may choose to give up the position, or a simple majority vote of the travel group may take place.
 - If the original member who selected the position loses, they will receive first pick of the remaining positions.
 - This may be used to transfer a position from an Executive Board member to a general member.
- If a delegate requests a refund after paying for a conference and being put on the trip roster, the Executive Board will:
 - a. Organize a refund or partial refund if possible on a case-by-case basis.
 - b. Use the extra funds to lower the cost of the trip for the remaining members of the group equally.
 - c. Use the funds to pay for a replacement delegate.

ARTICLE VIII

SECTION A: DUES

As a result of conflicts between the student organization funding system in-place at the University of Connecticut and the financial schedules for college MUN conferences, dues of the following nature are necessary:

- For the immediate financial security of the club, we ask that all members intending to travel please pay dues by the end of the first three meetings of the Spring 2018 Semester.
 - If a member never signs up for and is accepted to a trip, they will be refunded at the end of the semester upon request.
 - Dues of members who have not signed up for a trip (declaring their absolute availability for that time period) will be preserved until they are accepted into a trip group to ensure a refund is possible at the end of the semester.
 - If a member is highly uncertain whether they will be able to travel and is not comfortable paying in the first three meetings regardless of the assurance of a refund, a delayed payment may be in order; however, trip preference will be given to members who have paid and have not yet traveled. The Executive Board will handle this on a case-by-case basis.
- Dues shall be \$20 paid once every academic year.
- The Executive Board will determine whether or not to continue the above policy in Fall 2018 after assessing the financial health of the organization.
 - Dues will only immediately apply to returning members so as not to deter new members.
 - New members will be asked for dues lumped with their first conference (possibly as early as Yale) or at the beginning of the Spring 2019 semester.
- Following Spring 2018 and possibly Fall 2018, the organization will switch to a policy of members only being required to pay their yearly dues lumped in with the fees for the first conference they are accepted to. The price of dues may also be adjusted.
 - If the section two policy holds over to Fall 2018, delegates who have already paid their yearly dues at the beginning of the year, will not have to pay again in Spring 2019.

- This subsection reflects a desire to shift the pressure off delegates in terms of predicting whether or not they will be available for and accepted to a trip that semester. If the payment is lumped with their conference cost, then it is already confirmed that they are going on the trip and have been accepted into the trip group.
- Furthermore, this is more convenient, as delegates only have to bring their wallets once during the trip payment rather than twice at the beginning of the semester and during the trip payment.

ARTICLE IX

SECTION A: AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of Travel Model UN may be amended through the following procedure:

- An amendment to the constitution must be drafted by a member of Travel Model UN.
- The members of Travel Model UN will vote on the amendment in question, requiring a supermajority of two-thirds of the members to pass.

SECTION B: DECISION-MAKING MODEL

Actions may be pushed past the Executive Board by a two-thirds of the vote of by the general membership.

ARTICLE X

SECTION A: BENEFICIARY ADDENDUM

If Travel Model UN ceases to exist, the money in our account will go towards the organization known as UConn Model United Nations.

SECTION B: ADVISOR

The advisor of Travel Model UN will be a faculty member of The University of Connecticut.

SECTION C: FUNDING

As stated above, the CFO will be in charge of handling all financial matters of the club. The organization will procure funding through fundraisers, USG funding requests, dues, or donations.

- If no CFO is present, the COO will handle finances.

ARTICLE XI

SECTION A: ENABLING CLAUSE

This constitution shall go into effect January 29, 2018. An approval of two-thirds of the members of Travel Model UN is necessary for it to pass. It shall replace and render void any and all previous constitutions of this organization.

SECTION B: SIGNATURES

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER: FABIO SACCOMANNO

CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER: NICHOLAS HARTUNIAN

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: MIHIR NENE

SECRETARY: MAURA GOSS

DATE OF SIGNING: 2/5/2018