

Table of Contents

Grove, Andrea - #827 - Model United Nations program	1
IRA Activity Budget	3
IRA Additional file	6

Application Summary

Competition Details

Competition Title:	IRA Applications for 2021-2022
Category:	Internal Funding
Award Cycle:	2021-2022
Submission Deadline:	11/12/2021 11:59 PM

Application Information

Submitted By:	Andrea Grove
Application ID:	827
Application Title:	Model United Nations program
Date Submitted:	03/1/2021 3:12 PM

Personal Details

Applicant First Name:	Andrea
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Additional Applicant Department:	Political Science

Application Details

Proposal Title

Model United Nations program

Total Amount Request from IRA

4,729

Brief Activity Description

Model UN has become a signature program of the Political Science and Global Studies programs and a premier learning experience for students across all majors. Model UN events are academic conferences for students for which they engage in research and then discussion about the global community's most pressing problems. The conferences provide students with a unique opportunity to develop an understanding of the complexity of specific issue-areas in global politics. Benefits for students include skill development in research, conflict analysis, thinking from different perspectives, negotiation, public speaking, and mentoring/leadership for those who participate more than once. Students are also able to interact with a diverse range of students from around the country. These are all qualities that benefit any major, as well as more specifically related political science majors, communications majors and global studies majors and minors. However, we encourage interdisciplinarity in the team, and as part of the application and selection process always choose a team from a cross section of majors. Participating students are enrolled in POLS 427, a 3-unit course.

This application is for funding to take students to one Model UN event in fall, the Northwest MUN in Seattle, and two in the spring, the Northwest MUN conference in Portland, Oregon and Model UN of the Far West in Burlingame. The budget below is estimated for sixteen students and two faculty.

By receiving funding to keep the program running as a program, we have been able to include many students from diverse backgrounds and to build leadership skills of those who do return. For example, several students have been selected to staff the conferences, and we even had an alumnus serve as Secretary-General at one conference.

Activity or Event Date

08/23/2021

List all classes that relate to proposal

Model UN is integrally related to several courses: POLS 427: Model UN offered each semester. Students who participate this spring will be enrolled in that course. POLS 329, International Law and Organizations, is offered most academic years. In addition,

Learning Outcomes & Relation to Course Offering

The direct relationship is with POLS 427. The conferences are an integral part of the course and all course work prepares students for the topics at the conferences. We meet each Friday for 2.5 hours during the semester to prepare, and after the conferences to debrief and engage in writing activities to assess.

The SLOs are as follows.

Upon leaving the course, students should be able to:

- present a country background brief
- articulate the positions of assigned countries on selected global issues based on their research;
- debate the pros and cons of the issues and resolutions to those issues with delegates from other countries; -- negotiate solutions and compromises to the issues under scrutiny;
- write a United Nations resolution in proper format in a collaborative setting

Is this activity off campus ?

Yes

Off Campus - Describe benefit brought back to campus

Model UN students bring back the benefits of their Model UN experience by contributing to classes and participating in International Week presentations. Students who participate in the Model UN experience show a marked improvement in class engagement and leadership, in their other International Relations and Comparative Politics courses. Also, Model UN students hold presentations during the campus-wide International Education Week. In these presentations, students make posters or other kinds of presentations about the issues that they studied and negotiated on at the conferences.

CSUCI - IRA Travel Activity Budget

2021-22

Proposal/Activity Title: Model United Nations

IRA Applicant's Name: **Andrea Grove and Christopher Scholl**

Number of Students Participating:	16	Where- Location	Seattle, Portland, Burlingame
Number of Faculty:	2	When - Month/Year	

IRA Planning Travel Budget 2020-2021

I.	Student traveling expenses:	Cost/ea	# Requested	Total	Comments/Additional Notes
	Airfare	\$850.00	16	\$13,600.00	Est \$325 flights to Seattle and Portland; \$200 reimbursement for BUR-SFO flights
	Cal Travel Store fee per Ticked	\$10.00	48	\$480.00	(\$10/ticket automatically added when using Cal Travel Store)
	Ground Transportation	\$12.00	16	\$192.00	\$6 total to and from airports in Seattle and \$6 Portland (light rail)
	Boat Transportation			\$0.00	
	Lodging	\$14,481.00	1	\$14,481.00	Hotel cost per night 10 nights total, 8 rooms (Seattle: \$4272; Portland: \$4012.44; Burlingame: \$6196.80)
	Registration Fees	\$210.00	16	\$3,360.00	
	Entrance Fees			\$0.00	
	Meals (included)	\$520.00	16	\$8,320.00	\$40 per day per student with receipts for 13 days total
	Cultural Activities			\$0.00	
	Vehicle/Van Rental			\$0.00	
	Other:	\$558.00	1	\$558.00	School reg fees:\$310; debrief dinner at end of semester \$13 each (\$208)
	STUDENT TRAVEL TOTALS	\$16,641.00		\$40,991.00	

II.	Faculty Traveling Expenses:	Cost/ea	# Requested	Total	Comments/Additional Notes
	Airfare	\$325.00	4	\$1,300.00	2 flights, 2 people
	Cal Travel Store fee per Ticked	\$10.00	40	\$400.00	(\$10/ticket automatically added when using Cal Travel Store)
	Ground Transportation	\$527.00	1	\$527.00	airports in Seattle and \$6 Portland (light rail); LAX transport for Seattle and Portland (119.60); transport
	Lodging	\$1,810.21	1	\$1,810.21	Hotels in Seattle, Portland, Burlingame 10 nights total (Seattle: \$534;Portland: \$501.56; Burlingame: \$775.65)
	Registration Fees	\$125.00	1	\$125.00	
	Entrance Fees			\$0.00	
	Meals (included)	\$1,326.00	1	\$1,326.00	Old per diem rates ; \$50 per day for 2 faculty; 13 days; debrief meal at end of semester (\$13 each)
	Cultural Activities			\$0.00	
	Other:	\$250.00	1	\$250.00	Parking: 8 days total for Seattle and Portland conferences (130); luggage 4 flights x \$30 (120)
	FACULTY TRAVEL TOTALS	\$4,373.21		\$5,738.21	

III.	Operating Expense Budget	Cost/ea	# Requested	Total	Comments/Additional Notes
	Supplies			\$0.00	
	CI Facilities Chargebacks			\$0.00	
	Other:			\$0.00	
	OPERATING EXP. TOTALS	\$0.00		\$0.00	

IV.	Out of Pocket Student Expenses	Cost/ea	# Requested	Total	Comments/Additional Notes
	Health Insurance			\$0.00	
	Tuition/Registration			\$0.00	
	Travel Insurance			\$0.00	
	Out of Pocket Meals			\$0.00	
	Other:			\$0.00	
	STUDENT EXP. TOTALS	\$0.00		\$0.00	

V. Please note that Line "B" below is for UNIV 391 and 392 trips ONLY; IRA funds 2/3rds of these, course/lab fees funds the other 1/3rd.

A	Total Fundable Student Traveling Expenses			\$40,991.00	
B	UNIV 391/392: Max IRA funding is 2/3rd of total				
C	Total Faculty Travel Expenses			\$5,738.21	
D	Operating Expenses			\$0.00	
	TOTAL TRIP COST for Non-UNIV 391/392 (total of A,C,D)			\$46,729.21	
	UNIV 391/392 TOTAL IRA FUND REQUEST (total of B,C,D)				
	UNIV 391/392: 1/3 of costs payable by students via lab fee				
	If course fee is setup differently, list here				

IRA Travel Activity Budget

2020 - 2021

SAMPLE

Proposal/Activity Title:

UNIV 392 Intercultural Communication

IRA Applicant Name:

Joe Smith

Number of Students Participating:	15	Where	London
Number of Faculty:	2	When - Month/Year	Dec-20

IRA Planning Travel Budget 2020-2021

I.	Student traveling expenses:	Cost/ea	# Requested	Total	Comments/Additional Notes
	Airfare	\$1,200.00	15	\$18,000.00	
	Cal Travel Store fee per Ticked	\$10.00	15	\$150.00	(\$10/ticket automatically added when using Cal Travel Store)
	Ground Transportation	\$170.00	15	\$2,550.00	12-Day Travel Card for Zones 1-6 (\$75), Train to and from Brighton, England
	Boat Transportation			\$0.00	boat trips to the Channel Islands via Island Packers; rates for CI = \$54/person to Santa Cruz Island, \$104/person for Santa Rosa Island (SRI)
	Lodging	\$799.00	15	\$11,985.00	This is the same hotel we've stayed at the last 2 times I've led this course; located in Borough Market w/ free Wifi & hot breakfast for buffet students; triple occupancy; close proximity to public transportation
	Registration Fees			\$0.00	
	Entrance Fees	\$350.00	15	\$5,250.00	Special tour guide and entry for Westminster Abbey
	Meals (included)	\$50.00	15	\$750.00	if traveling to SRI, please note a \$15 per person/per day fee (i.e. budget \$45/person for 3-day trips)
	Cultural Activities	\$177.00	15	\$2,655.00	Westminster Abbey (\$25), Buckingham Palace (\$25), London Eye (\$37), Towe
	Vehicle/Van Rental			\$0.00	
	Other:			\$0.00	
	STUDENT TRAVEL TOTALS	\$2,756.00		\$41,340.00	
II.	Faculty Traveling Expenses:	Cost/ea	# Requested	Total	Comments/Additional Notes
	Airfare	\$1,200.00	1	\$1,200.00	
	Cal Travel Store fee per Ticked	\$10.00	1	\$10.00	(\$10/ticket automatically added when using Cal Travel Store)
	Ground Transportation	\$170.00	1	\$170.00	
	Lodging	\$1,600.00	1	\$1,600.00	This is the same hotel we've stayed at the last 2 times I've led this course; located in Borough Market w/ free Wifi & hot breakfast for buffet students; triple occupancy; close proximity to public transportation
	Registration Fees			\$0.00	
	Entrance Fees			\$0.00	
	Meals (included)	\$900.00	1	\$900.00	\$90/day for 10 days (slightly less than CSU's actual per diem)
	Cultural Activities	\$177.00	1	\$177.00	Westminster Abbey (\$25), Buckingham Palace (\$25), London Eye (\$37), Towe
	Other:			\$0.00	
	FACULTY TRAVEL TOTALS	\$4,057.00		\$4,057.00	
III.	Operating Expense Budget	Cost/ea	# Requested	Total	Comments/Additional Notes
	Supplies			\$0.00	
	CI Facilities Chargebacks			\$0.00	[charges for large campus rooms: 1) Grand Salon \$395/day; 2) Petit Salon \$265/day; 3) Malibu #100 \$265/day]
	Other:			\$0.00	
	OPERATING EXP. TOTALS	\$0.00		\$0.00	
IV.	Out of Pocket Student Expenses	Cost/ea	# Requested	Total	Comments/Additional Notes
	Health Insurance			\$0.00	
	Tuition/Registration			\$0.00	
	Travel Insurance			\$0.00	
	Out of Pocket Meals			\$0.00	

CSU Channel Island

	Other:		\$0.00	
	STUDENT EXP. TOTALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	
V. Please note that Line "B" below is for UNIV 391 and 392 trips ONLY; IRA funds 2/3rds of these, course/lab fees funds the other 1/3rd.				
A	Total Fundable Student Traveling Expenses		\$41,340.00	
B	UNIV 391/392: Max IRA funding is 2/3rd of total		\$27,697.80	
C	Total Faculty Travel Expenses		\$4,057.00	
D	Operating Expenses		\$0.00	
	TOTAL TRIP COST for Non-UNIV 391/392 (total of A,C,D)		\$45,397.00	
	UNIV 391/392 TOTAL IRA FUND REQUEST (total of B,C,D)		\$31,754.80	
	UNIV 391/392: 1/3 of costs payable by students via lab fee		\$13,642.20	
	If course fee is setup differently, list here			

Dr. Andrea Grove

5/4/20

Model UN

Reflection Paper

Response One:

Since this was my second semester doing Model United Nations, I have learned even more than my first semester. With understanding how to conduct research and being able to translate that more effectively on paper is a very difficult skill that I have not mastered and still need more experiences. However, with that said this course has pushed me in a way to become more accurate and efficient with words. Since I was chosen to be a part of the Security Council, conducting research for any potential interruption to the meeting was exciting. I remember looking at both the killing of the Iranian general and when Covid-19 was just beginning to surface it fulfilling to be prepared for these interruptions even though they did not surface at the conference.

My first semester I was blessed to represent a more influential member state, the second semester I was blessed to be represent a smaller member state. I describe these both as blessing because partial of my ignorance it is important to understand the opportunities smaller nations have when projecting their ideals. Although the Dominican Republic had scarce information on some of their positions, this drove me to begin reading further into statements each nation has done at multiple Security Council meetings. This gave me more insight in what other nation's proposals were and being able to cross reference those with the Dominican Republic's allowed me to hit the ground running at the conferences. Then being chosen to represent CSU Channel Islands in the security council was an honor for myself and showcased the difficulties of having to deal with specific egos that was not necessarily present in ECOSOC at the Seattle Conference.

Although many people looked down on the smaller nations, being able to provide the insight that I learned from reading the transcripts allowed me to challenge aspects of what the P5 proposed in speeches and discussions. I will also say, being able to work with my colleagues within the class is something I do not want to overlook. I have learned an enormous amount of techniques that I believe I would have never learned if I were not chosen to be a part of this course, and grateful for the relationships that were forged through the shared struggles of both writing the papers and proposing ideals in meeting rooms.

Response 2:

I was most proud for the ability to fence with other member states while in discussion. I know this is not the most diplomatic approach, however as I have mentioned having to manage everyone's egos and their perception of what should be discussed was difficult. The P5 (outside of the gentleman who was representing France) would hijack discussions at times and not allow other states to speak, taught me how to be cordial and allowing other perspectives to be presented at their discontent. Meaning that being able to bridge discussions with other member states and share critical information that is required to answer what were the true underlying issues that were presented during the topic; all the while choosing specific words and cross referencing other resolutions was enthralling and allowed us to pass a paper without P5 objections.

It was reassuring to be pulled aside and acknowledged by the staff at the conference and Dr. Grove that I was doing a satisfactory job, because after the first night I was discouraged by not being able to be accurately understood or my information not being considered. I want to give a large shout out to Nona, she has helped me with both grappling with the egos and discussing how we could better relate our information. Although we did work together, we were

able to present our ideals through different means, strengthening what needed to be discussed. I was also proud of myself for stepping up my displeasures on the poorly written resolution that was for topic two, although the topic was very important I felt strongly that what was discussed in that resolution was not mandated in the Security Council nor would it be a true representation of other nations ideology. It was pleasant to gain a P5 in that discussion for France spoke as a partner in the 30 second against when it came to the voting for the resolution. I felt that it gave the smaller member states legitimacy for their resentments of resolution for topic two and ultimately being withdrawn from the discussion all together.

At MUNFW = ☹️ (darn Covid)

Response 3

I could have done a better job on topic two. Although I was adamant about how the Resolution, and that was marginally passed, I felt like I should have been more concise with my displeasures. I have a hard time thinking on the spot at times and used too many filler words during my 30 second against argument. When I played football, my coach taught me a lesson, “leave everything on the field, come back with no regrets,” meaning that do everything you could to win a game, although this is not about losing or winning, I felt that I should have worked a little harder to find the correct words to use. Another issue, as it was in my first conference, is facial expression. Although I am a passionate person, keeping a poker face is important and I should have not allowed the personalities of the room get to me as much. This is a very important lesson that I could draw from the conference in Portland, I do want to give one disclosure, this does not mean I did not have a great time nor was I unsatisfactory, this conference taught lessons as I gain more opportunities to discuss and debate ideals.

Response 4:

One underlying lesson that was taught from this year is that do not take anything for granted, although this does not directly correlate to the conference itself, what this semester has taught me is that through the shared struggles that each of us individually went through between the research, typing the position papers, and executing our findings at the conference is that we did that as a class. We were a team, friendships gained, and that is something I will always cherish from this class, thank you. From the conference itself, being able to perform with the information that I gathered, as discussed by Dr. Scholl and Dr. Grove, we become an expert with that information and that is something to be proud of. In retrospection again to draw from the world event, is how people are susceptible to miss information and are not willing to perceive aspects of reality. What this class has taught me is that there is hope, with all the genuine good programs within the United Nations (that I did not know about without taking this course), that there are people across the globe willing to fight for the betterment of humanity, in terms of the economy, human rights, equal access to technology, etc. This hope, a now foundation, is something I am excited to build off this foundation whenever I begin my career and continue my future studies. I am grateful for the selection to the Model UN team, it has greatly impacted my world view. Thank you to the both of you, Dr. Scholl and Dr. Grove, for this consideration and allowing me to be a pupil in this class.

Model United Nations

Dr. Grove/Dr. Scholl

Spring 2020

Model UN Reflection

This past semester has been the fourth semester I have participated in Model United Nations. The experience that I have and what I learn is the reason why I continued to take it every semester. It teaches me new things about myself, what I'm capable of, what I want to pursue in a career, and where I see my life going. Before taking this class, I was lost in where I saw my life going when it comes to a career. This class really opened my eyes to my love for law and politics and helped me settle on a path to follow after I graduate college. Aside from what I learn personally, it also opens my eyes to so many issues occurring in many different regions in the world. I truly love learning about new topics and new countries at each conference. Being given the opportunity to learn new things I have also been able to approve upon my ability to research, public speak, negotiate, work alongside other people diplomatically, and construct a document that outlines solutions to the topics and issues we were given. Another thing I learned through participating in the Model UN class, and even more so by being a returner, is my ability to mentor and help out my classmates. Outside of being given the opportunity to help out when it was needed, I also wanted to make sure that the people who were doing it for the first time knew that they could come to me if they needed any help, had any questions, or just wanted me read over their papers. Despite the little amount of time we had to prepare for Portland, seeing everyone do so well and winning so many awards including the outstanding delegation award, was only validation that we are a great team.

Every conference I have been to, I didn't think it was possible to learn more about the negotiation and diplomacy process, but each time I am presented with new challenges to overcome. At the portland conference, it was a very different experience as I had served on the Human Rights Council during the Universal Periodic Review as a state under review. Writing the position papers I was used to researching each topic and learning about it from the perspective of my country. In the case of the Universal Periodic Review and individual countries being the topic, I was only tasked with writing about my country and learning very little about the others. This presented a challenge for me going into the conference because when I was not the state under review, I had to quickly learn about the other countries and where I stand with their biggest issues. This taught me that I can learn on my feet quickly, but also taught me how important it is to work with other people. You are not necessarily the expert in anything and leaning on stronger delegates who are more familiar with a topic than you may be is another way to encourage diplomacy and negotiations. One mistake I made in past conferences is letting the high stress situations get to me and letting that reflect on my relationships with other delegates while negotiating. At the Portland conference, I was able to take that lesson and learn from it by staying calm, cool, and collected, even when tensions were high. That helped me in my ability to maintain relationships with other delegates and demonstrate key skills in negotiating on different issues.

Getting to go to so many conferences and learn so much, I am always proud of my ability to keep an open mind when learning new things and being put in uncomfortable situations. In particular, in Portland, being a state under review was very different. I was constantly put on the spot and having to respond to the wrong doings my country was being put on the spot for. I am proud of my ability to remain calm and professional when responding to speeches and

negotiating and maintaining that diplomacy throughout. I am also especially proud of my ability to create speeches on the spot to respond to other delegates. I am also proud of my ability to maintain my focus throughout the conference. Being as sick as I was throughout the conference made it hard to maintain my focus on top of an already very tiring process. Getting through each day was a struggle, but it was rewarding at the end to see everybody's hard work validated. I am extremely proud of how well our delegation did as a whole and being able to be a part of that and contribute to that success made it all the more worthwhile. Outside of performing under pressure as a state under review I am also proud of being able to help guide some of my classmates through the conference. Doing the conference for your first time can be intimidating and I am proud that I was able to help a few people through that fear so that they could also do the best they could.

One thing I always come back to that I can improve upon is being able to keep an open mind about certain issues and solutions. There are times I get too caught up in representing my country that I may be stern in my stances and refuse to compromise. So much of Model UN is learning to compromise to reach a consensus. Sometimes it takes me a while before I am willing to compromise because I am so focused on representing my country to the fullest, I lose sight of the ultimate goal. Another thing I feel I could have done better was getting more involved when the other states were under review. Going into the committee not knowing what to expect I feel like I could have done a better job at preparing for the other states that were under review. Since I only wrote about my country when writing the position paper, I was only able to do a limited amount of research on the others with the time we had before the conference. I should have made a better effort to be prepared when it came to the other states that were under review.

It is hard to get through this reflection paper without touching on the crisis that we are currently in and the repercussions it has had on the class. Very early on before any stay at home issues were ordered, the San Francisco conference was cancelled. The San Francisco conference is one of the conferences I look forward to the most. I was especially excited this year because I was going to be representing Israel in the World Health Organization. In each conference I had always wondered what it would be like to represent Israel. Being from the country and understanding so much about the conflict in the region from both sides, I was really excited to represent it from a different perspective. I am so disappointed that I will never have that opportunity, but am glad I got to research on the topics we were given in the WHO. I was also excited to be in the World Health Organization. In the past when my goal was to work in the field of health, I had a particular fascination with the WHO and its influence on health in the international arena. I wish we could have gone to San Francisco this year, because I feel as though our entire delegation would have done an amazing job at representing our university and only improving on our performance in Portland. I am truly sad that my last semester doing Model UN was cut short, but my experience these past two years is something I will never forget and always reflect on in everything I do.

Reflection Paper
POLS 427

The most important thing I learned by participating in MUN was, I gained a more worldly knowledge. MUN forced me to become educated on current news, more precisely for Albania and Kuwait. When I was at the Portland conference not only did I have to understand my state's viewpoints but it also helped to have an understanding of the other states' viewpoints and personalities. When I started researching Albania I was excited to learn more for the country since I actually worked in Albania for a month. I was on the United Populations Fund (UNFPA) committee and had the topics of Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Youth Participation in Leadership. At the beginning of the conference, I was so nervous to start negotiating and was pretty embarrassed that when they did roll call I yelled "here" instead of "present" and everyone giggled. It was a little intimidating being the first country alphabetically. In Portland, I had to negotiate with other states to gain resolutions that supported Albania's viewpoints. I also took into consideration foreign policy with Albania and the EU. After watching the General Assembly speech by Albania's Prime Minister, Edi Rama, I gained the knowledge that Albania's main goal was to gain admission to the EU. With this in mind, it helped me make negotiations throughout my Portland conference to further advance the state of Albania's goals. With this knowledge it was easier for me during the conference to align Albania with those already in the EU as well as other states with similar policies. When representing Albania being confronted with opposing points of view, being able to adjust and negotiate helped me practice the difficulties of diplomacy. The problem arose when the delegate of Canada continued to publicly speak about sexual education for LGBTQ students. When everyone was writing the working paper we agreed on less harsh writing to include states who have opposing viewpoints, yet even after the delegate

agreed that was okay, the delegate of Canada changed her mind. This was frustrating because I thought we had already come to an agreement after we spoke on the topic countless times. I was curious and researched on my own what Canada's views were to find that the delegate was truly playing the role. After the delegate of Canada started working on her own working paper it was difficult to decide whether the state of Albania would support the second working paper or not. When researching I could not find any information on if Albania supports sexual education for LGBTQ students so I researched what other states in the EU viewpoints were towards the topic such as; Germany, and at the time the UK I decided to work with Canada on the second working paper. When researching Kuwait I was on the Commission of Women (CSW), I was surprised to learn that the state of Kuwait supports organizations such as the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in supporting Resolutions that state women are to have equal rights within society. After doing further research it was clear that women do not have equality in Kuwait, yet I still had to suggest what was in Kuwait's best interest. I also learned that due to other states' sovereignty they can legitimize how they choose to proceed with topics such as human rights. I also learned how to be more detail orientated when researching, to find articles that supported my country's viewpoints. I'm most proud of how I stepped out of my comfort zone at my first conference. I was very nervous to speak since I had no idea about the format of the speeches. After watching the other students I quickly gained an understanding of the format and volunteered for almost all opportunities to speak. I was also proud of how I was able to quickly understand how to write a resolution, when in all honestly I was completely lost. In the Portland conference I think I could have improved on my writing skills for the resolution as well as writing the position paper. When writing the position paper for Portland I was totally confused about everything but for MUNFW I definitely understood the context, and how to research

better. If we would have been able to attend the MUNFW conference my goal was to speak every chance I got, and quickly write meaningful speeches. I was also going to push myself to be one of the main contributors to the working paper. Participating in the MUN was actually a very educational experience for me. I was expecting something similar to my mock trial experience in high school but it was completely different. I learned that I love the public speaking part of MUN, I actually wish there were more opportunities to speak. Writing a speech on demand to match what someone said before me is a skill that I would love to continue working on. I also learned that I really enjoyed writing the position papers. In the beginning I was nervous to write the position papers due to grades but I actually think it was extremely beneficial. It forced me to really dig into the research and get familiar with UN websites. The position paper also forced me to become knowledgeable about different sectors of the UN and how it affects other countries. This became really beneficial which I ended up using during my speeches. I also learned that I truly dislike writing resolution papers though. I had no idea the amount of editing that goes into passing a resolution and I now have a bigger appreciation for the work that the UN does. Two of my favorite parts of the Portland conference was meeting students from all over with similar interests. It was also nice being able to balance different ideas off of students. Another part I enjoyed was the lady who spoke at the end. She was a retired foreign service officer and her stories were very motivational. Especially when I was already doing research into that career path. Although my time in this class was short, I made some connections within the class, who have helped me so much throughout the papers and when I was frustrated at the Portland conference. In conclusion, I learned a lot from my first conference, especially how to use all the research I did and use within each situation I faced. With my senior year coming to an end faster than I would have hoped, I

want to take these skills and use them towards gaining a master's degree. I can not express how appreciative I am for the opportunity Dr. Scholl and yourself have given me. It was because of both of you I fell in love with International Relations.

Pols 427

Dr. Scholl & Dr. Grove

3/20/2020

MUN Reflection Portland 2020

1. What are the most important things you learned by participating in the Model UN class and conferences? Please focus on what you have learned about international relations, diplomacy, negotiations, etc.

This semester of Model United Nations, I learned how the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Board works and how they help various people. This experience taught me valuable communication tools, such as how to communicate the needs of the country I represented. I also learned that it is very important to tailor the message that you're trying to send to various audiences.

In some of my speeches, I would highlight certain programs that made India look stronger regarding the topics that the committee was addressing in our working papers. I was attempting to appeal to western (stronger) states by showing the progress India has made in the development of programs addressing the topics, Comprehensive Sexual Education and Youth Participation and Leadership. If I was attempting to appeal to the more conservative states, I tailored my speeches to show that India's policies accounted for and respected various religions and their respective differences.

Furthermore, because the UNFPA Executive Board was very small I found myself speaking very often because we were close to exhausting the speaker's list and were not prepared

to go into voting block. Speaking more often at the Portland Conference helped me become better at compromising. It made me analyze various states' goals and distinguish what points could and could not be negotiated. This tied into the development of my diplomacy skills; for example, if one state was neglecting to be diplomatic, the other states would partner up to ensure that the specific delegate did not get their way. Some delegates would take the high road and continue to work towards a diplomatic solution while others would separate themselves and refuse to cooperate.

2. What are you most proud of, at each conference (individually)?

It was very powerful to know that the UNFPA's mission is to "deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled." I believe that when discussing controversial topics, such as the ones the committee was assigned, sometimes people get frustrated and want to give up; my committee worked through that and produced two resolutions that were adopted by acclamation. I am proud of myself because while representing India and CSUCI I was recognized by the Conference as a Distinguished Delegate. I had put a lot of work and research into my position paper and I was relieved to know that it prepared me to succeed in my committee. Having a better understanding and working knowledge of my country's policies gave me an advantage over other delegates; and other advantages when negotiating and writing our working papers.

Additionally, I was proud that I spoke often during the Portland Conference. I do not really enjoy public speaking, I get very nervous, and at times I have no clue what I want to say, but that experience honed my public speaking skills and helped me grow.

3. What could you have done better at the Portland conference?

During the first two days of the conference, the Dais was refusing to adopt the first topic's working paper as a draft resolution which was frustrating for the committee. It was especially frustrating because some delegates refused to join a working group after both working groups attempted to include preambular and operative clauses that would appease those states' individual/particular needs. During those two days, I did not put in 100% of my effort into the committee, because I felt that no matter what changes we made to the document it would be rejected regardless. I regret not giving those two days my 100% of my effort. However, on the third day, I believe that the Dais got pressured by the executive board to get the UNFPA Committee to produce finished draft resolutions. The committee was told that the draft would be accepted if we made a couple more changes and resubmitted the working paper to the Dais. We then quickly debated the second topic and hurried to write our ideas down as working papers. Unfortunately, because we had to rush on the final day to finish the first and second topics, the quality of work was not very high in regards to the second topic.

I noticed that during the writing process I am the person who dictates my ideas while someone else writes them in our working paper. I feel like I am not proficient in the specific writing style used, so I let that insecurity hold me back. I could have physically written more of the working papers during the conference. But I am the person who did most of the proofreading and revising of the working papers.

I also should have prepared more for my speeches by prepping more compelling and statistical points the night before each day of the conference. I found myself listening to other speeches and thinking "wow, that was a compelling piece of evidence for the argument they are making". After that, I took time during unmoderated caucus to conduct more research, looking for compelling facts and statistics to appeal to my audience.

4. What did these experiences teach you about yourself?

This experience taught me that I am very extroverted and a little bit impatient. I drew those conclusions because as I mentioned previously, I dictated during the writing process and I was a little bit frustrated during the Portland Conference, whereas in Seattle I was very involved each day. I call myself “very extroverted” because thinking out loud and discussing various ideas with others helps me in various ways, both at the conference and outside of that environment. Talking through my thoughts helps when I proofread resolutions.

The closing speaker was a retired diplomat who conducted work in Africa and Asia, which I found to be very interesting. Especially, listening to her stories about helping various groups of people and during high stress conditions. It was very empowering to hear that during while she was in Africa, there was an attack and the President of the United States of America called to get a status report and her opinion on the situation.

I also received a distinguished delegate award. Getting recognized by the Dais, especially after being frustrated with them, really validated and reassured me that I was embodying all of the qualities that a delegate should possess. It also confirmed that I did a good job representing my school and state.

Overall, the conference helped refine my compromising skills and allowed me to practice good diplomacy. This conference helped me realize that I enjoy this type of work and could envision myself pursuing a career in a similar field.

Dr. Andrea Grove & Dr. Chris Scholl

Pols 427

04 May 2020

Model UN Spring 2020

Reflection

Thankfully, participating in the Model UN class was a learning experience in many aspects. As a freshman, I was honored to have been given the opportunity to be introduced to what I hope to dedicate myself to after college. From the start, I felt honored to have been deemed as capable as my very intellectual peers to represent our university, especially since many interested applicants could not join this semester. Through this class and the conference, we were able to attend, I utilized and strengthened my communication skills, my public speaking skills, and my time management skills. In February of this year, I was able to represent the Dominican Republic at the Northwest Model United Nations Conference. Since I was a part of the General Assembly, which was the largest committee, I had to work with many individuals who at times, were representing countries with interests that varied from mine. However, this challenge showed me how diplomacy oftentimes works, and it allowed me to better my negotiation skills, too. I have been able to utilize these skills in many of my other classes that are in different areas of study, as well. At the conference, I also had to adapt to the behavior of other strong-willed and less flexible people and work with them as a team to obtain a shared goal. Through this class I also developed better writing skills thanks to the feedback I received from my professors, which helped me feel more confident. Thanks to this conference, I also learned about many things I

would have never imagined about International Relations. I discovered some unfathomable occurrences that are impacting people in other countries which I felt was the biggest takeaway from this opportunity because it only ignited my motivation to pursue this field of study.

Despite many things having been done well at the Portland conference, considering the team and certain individuals earned awards too, I am most proud of my team. Since dedicated students and caring instructors comprised the team, it was inevitable for me to feel immense pride. My peers were extremely dedicated to the issues we were addressing, and my instructors were passionate about the subject and genuinely cared about their students. I was extremely happy to be surrounded by individuals who wanted to be at the conference just as much as I did, which instilled even more motivation to do my best. At the hotel we were staying at, my peers and I met people who admitted that they were also delegates representing countries at the conference, but they were not showing up to the committee sessions. They told us that they had only joined their university's team to take advantage of the trip, which was quite disheartening because it was unfair to their fellow team members who were completing their tasks. It is also unfair to other deserving students from their university who would have taken the role more seriously. It was easy for anyone to feel stressed with the number of tasks some had and because of the long hours we all had to get through; however, devotion to the conference was essential because of the amount of hard work that was put into the conference leading up to the date and while we were there; and so, I am super proud of my team for not lacking it whatsoever.

Although I am very satisfied with my performance at the Portland conference, I do believe I should have participated in discussions earlier than I did. I chose to hold off and listen to others share their country's issues and solutions to see whose ideas coincided with mine. I

would then seek those delegates out to collaborate with them and although fear held me back initially, I am still happy with the decisions that I made. Even though I chose to observe and see how the process worked, I learned quickly and then I became the one who would initiate conversations which proved to be great because I teamed up with driven people who also wanted to develop beneficial resolutions. Besides that, I think I should have taken better care of myself while in Portland. My safety was never at risk nor was I doing bad things, but I am referring to the amount of sleep I had while we were there. The people directing the conference did give ample time for breaks; however, I chose to indulge in what the city had to offer and explore with my peers whenever we had the chance, given our limited time there. I definitely should have slept more in Portland since sleeping so little did correlate with the energy I had. Although the minimal sleep I had while I was there did not affect me for the majority of the conference, I was struggling to stay engaged on the last day which should not have occurred since I was there to give it my all the entire time. Sleeping so little is the only regret I have because I had never relied on coffee as much as I did then, but luckily that is the only thing I feel I could have done better.

Undoubtedly, I consider this one of the best trips I have ever taken. This experience was fantastic despite it being a trip filled with many firsts for me. It was my first domestic flight and my first trip without family. It made me feel independent and very capable of traveling alone again. I learned I have developed the ability to behave properly in situations where other people were trying to instigate conflict during this conference. I learned that I am capable of taking care of myself, such as simply eating well and practicing good habits, without needing to be told to do so, since that is what I am used to. For example, when I did leave the hotel to wander throughout the city, it was always with people that I felt comfortable with. This was a great decision since there were a few situations that we encountered where I could have felt very unsafe in, had I

been alone. Regardless of that, this trip was amazing and the opportunity to represent a country so that I could express its issues and its desires, alongside individuals who were nothing but encouraging and supportive, made this trip and class immensely enjoyable. I acknowledge that I have constantly mentioned how grateful I am to have had the privilege of being a part of this team but because that sentiment best describes how highly I think of this class because of the ambitious and hardworking people who made it such an incredible experience. Despite the San Francisco conference being canceled, I am more than content to have been able to at least have gone to Portland because of how well spent it was. I look forward to being a part of it again if given the opportunity. Ultimately, I am only filled with gratitude and great memories that I hope to not forget anytime soon, as a result of having taken this class. encouraging and supportive, made this trip and class immensely enjoyable. I acknowledge that I have constantly mentioned how grateful I am to have had the privilege of being a part of this team but because that sentiment best describes how highly I think of this class because of the ambitious and hardworking people who made it such an incredible experience.

Reflection Paper

There are many lessons that I learned throughout the course of Model United Nations, the biggest one being that International Relations is very hard to do. There are a lot of moving parts and a lot of different opinions on how to do certain things. We often like to criticize our world leaders for not always having the best negotiations or taking longer than promised to get things done, it is not until you are on the other side that you really understand that it is more than having a meeting and deciding how things are going to be done. Everyone you are working with has to be on board with what you are going to do or at least the majority due to the fact that they will not work with you until you all or at least some of their demands. You really have to focus on issues such as countries economies, culture, abilities to get things, the list goes on. This course taught me from doing the research paper and from the conference you see that in order to get things done in this world you need multilateralism. Working with other countries is essential because you soon realize that every country needs help from another or at least needs to work with another country to insure its safety. It does not always need to be money but resources such as food or medical assistance.

I also came to learn how patient you have to be when you are doing negotiations. This I have found to be a very handy craft one should learn. It requires skills and patients and a lot of it. If one negotiation does not work you alter it, you make it sound appealing, you make sure that the other party will really buy into. It most often does not happen in the first round of making negotiations, I've come to learn from the conference that the first time you make a negotiation it is just a base in which you are measuring the other party. You are trying to figure out how far they are willing to go and how far you are willing to go, sometimes it's the same but sometimes it's not. The demands that they make are not always possible or even reasonable so you go back to

the drawing board and you try to come up with an offer that is a bit unreasonable, this is what I like to call the low-ball offer. You make a bad offer so when you come to them with the real offer you had in mind it sounds a lot more reasonable and it shows that you are trying to work with them.

Diplomacy is another thing that I came to understand was very difficult, as stated before we like to criticize world leaders for not getting things but this also has a lot of moving parts to it. What negotiations you do with country might affect your ability to work with another country or much worse, they cut off relations with you for even talking to the other country. You have to be very selective in what you do and what deals you make with which countries. You be making a lot of progress but as soon as you sign onto a resolution or some country signs your resolution, there is a potential problem looming. One country may not like your decision of you signing onto a certain resolution or one country may not like the fact that a certain country signed onto your resolution. There is where you make these very big decisions on who you would rather work with. Who you are willing to cut the deal with and who are you willing to work with, you have to look at what is best for your country but as well as how it will it affect your alliance. Sometimes a county has very tempting offer that will help your county in a lot of ways but you have to take into consideration if the other countries you are working with will be okay with it. There were times that great offer was made but I had to turn it down due to the fact that the other countries were not going to be okay with it.

What I'm most proud of from the conference in Portland was the fact that I didn't know if I was going to have that courage to go up and speak in front of all those people. The night before the first day I could not sleep due to the fact that I was very nervous about going up there and speaking. Therefore, I did some studying on public speaking, I searched famous speeches and of

course all of the world's greatest speeches popped up. I looked at the people and saw how they spoke with confidence, they looked as though nothing bothered them, they were very composed, but I knew one thing is that deep down I'm sure that they were very nervous. When the conference came around I decided that I was going to speak and sure enough I was the first one to go. In that moment I realized that sometimes things may seem intimidating but you have to own the moment and take advantage of it, right then and there I knew I was capable of doing a lot more than I gave myself credit for. Another thing that I'm proud of from both conferences was the ability to write these position papers. They took a lot of time and dedication, from opening up a million tabs to reading many articles and trying to figure out if the information you were reading was worth putting into your paper. When they tell you to write a 2-page position paper single spaced with 10pt font the task sounds daunting but as I wrote I soon realized that I was going to need a lot more pages than those two.

One thing that I wish I could have done better was the fact that I started off strong with negotiating with other countries but as the conference went on there were certain people who started to take lead on the resolution papers. I found myself being intimidated by them because I thought that they knew what they were doing so I kind of put myself on the backburner. I should've stuck through and not let by self be intimidated by certain people just because I felt as though I was not capable of doing so. I know I poses certain leadership skills therefore I must use them in order for them to get stronger.

These experiences taught me to never set limitations on the things that I think I'm capable of doing. They also tight me how the real world works not everyone is going to get along with you, and you are not going to get along with everyone and that is okay. It is how you conduct yourself and how you proceed with this that will make you a better person. Just because

someone did not want to work with me at the conference does not mean I was going to be rude or give up. I found myself brushing it off and figuring out other ways to work with people. I also learned to be a lot more patient as they say “Rome was not built in a day,” resolution papers aren’t either. It is a document you must craft, chip at over and over until you find what you are looking for in your paper. Throughout this course I learned a lot about myself and about the real world and it is an experience I will always have with me as well as learn from it.

POLS 427

Spring 2020

Reflection Paper

The Model United Nations class taught me more about the United Nations, specifically about the General Assembly, polices, and diplomacy. It was a great learning experience getting to network, practice my public speaking, and work on professional development. Prior to the conference, I did not know how to write a resolution so it was very nice to see the whole process from start to finish. Those who had done MUN before took the lead in explaining the resolution layout, the clause, and propositions. Speaking at the conference was different from what I am used to, from the vocabulary to how fast the topic at the podium changed based on where each country stood and based on their goal for their working paper. When it came to team building and working on resolutions it was much easier to talk to other delegates. At first, I felt a bit intimidated, I guess I was letting the imposter syndrome get the best of me, and I was comparing how I was doing to others and then I realized I shouldn't especially to delegates who had been to 5 or 7 conferences. I appreciated the delegates that played their role as their country because it made the experience more realistic, and I was glad that several students from CI were in the general assembly committee because I could clarify questions during the suspension of the meeting. I was inspired by a few students who did extended research to come well prepared and their passion for politics encouraged me to want to learn more about international relations. I was also really moved by the topic 'trafficking of persons' I was shocked when hearing the numbers, especially to hear that only 1-2% of 48 million people trafficked are ever rescued. I learned that there is so much to do every day to make this world a better place and that for each country it

may look different because while we have the same goal the culture in each county needs to be taken into consideration when forming the resolutions.

I was most proud of my interaction with other delegates during the suspension of the meeting, I was not shy to ask other delegates their thoughts on the topics presented before the general assembly. Once we started working on the resolutions I would go to the groups and ask them to be a signatory, and it was great to learn UN terms as the conferences progressed. I am also very proud of my willingness to learn as much as I could, I would ask questions when I didn't know what the next step was and I would improve each day at the conference. I was also really proud of how united the CI Team was throughout the conference, every delay made me feel welcomed and excited to be apart of MUN. I am happy that I learned more about diplomacy, and how to write a good working paper/resolution.

The preparation prior to the conference was challenging because I did not know what to expect however, I appreciated the mock session we did in class the week before the conference and the advice that the students who had gone to a conference before gave us. I admit that I could have put more time into researching the country I was representing and that is one thing I would have done differently for the MUNFW. I could have also gone to office hours with further questions. When talking to students I found out that there were many delegates like myself experiencing their first Model UN conference at Portland which gave us the opportunity to learn together. I also realize there would be more growth if we would have gone to MUNFW but I am grateful we were able to go to the Portland Conference. It was very beneficial to have written the resolution for the MUNFW conference before because it gave me a better understanding of what my country would have liked to happen. I also think it would have led to better discussions with other delegates. At the MUNFW conference, I was looking forward to speaking more and having

more of an input in the resolution process. The PowerPoint we did as a country allowed me to do more research on Kuwait and learn not only about the GA topics but about their culture, military, government, and role in the UN. I know that we are a team and that my best effort needs to be placed to represent CI well and qualify for awards.

These experiences taught me that you can never stop learning, personally I have been working on my academic vocabulary and reading more articles. It can be so easy to get caught up in our own little bubble that we forget or ignore the issues that are happening around us. Often times these issues feel so big that we feel like we can't do anything to change them, however, I was reminded that if we think globally and act locally we can make an impact and help important issues. These experiences reminded me of the big heart I have for the world, that with higher education I will have the platform to do more for others. I took a moment to appreciate the knowledge this experience has given me, I thought of how excited and supportive my parents were when I told them about getting to be a part of this class and of how wonderful it was to share with them what I had learned. There was a point at the conference where I looked around the room and saw that the majority of people were white. When I texted my dad an update on how the conference was going I mentioned that to him and we talked about how that was a reflection of the reality when it comes to politics, but I am glad that there is a movement in which more Hispanic women are joining the political field. I was then really happy to be representing and this led to having a great conversation with Jenny about how our culture sees women in politics and the changes that are happening. I was also very glad that Tommy gave me great advice both before and after the conference. They both filled me with encouragement and I realized that this class is also an opportunity to learn from my peers and build connections. It was a pleasure to

represent CSUCI and be part of the MUN team. Thank you Dr. Grove and professor Scholl for the passion you have for teaching, it truly makes a difference.

May 4th, 2020

POLS-427

Dr. Andrea Grove and Dr. Christopher Scholl

Reflecting on the Model UN

It is bittersweet to say that the Model UN is going to be my most memorable experience at CSU Channel Islands. The cancelling of the San Francisco conference due to COVID-19 was deeply saddening. Furthermore, the research that we had done along with our team's performance in Portland further raised our excitement and quality of work as we prepared for San Francisco. The chemistry of the team that went to Portland was exceptional and resulted in us winning the distinguished delegation award. The UN provided an important learning environment for international relations and diplomacy, as well as giving us a chance to practice what we learned and learn about ourselves.

The Model UN provides a unique opportunity to research and understand the depth of international relations. The state of Tunisia is normally not the subject of a class outside of learning about Carthage. However, I represented Tunisia in Portland and learned about the importance of international relations to a state that is often overlooked in the United States. For Tunisia, the United Nations is the only platform it can use to influence international politics and get help from the international community. As an emerging Democracy, the State of Tunisia depends on the United Nations for assistance in developing its local police and judicial systems. For Tunisia, international relations are the best way for that state to prove the legitimacy and effectiveness of its government. Issue that affect Tunisia can be relieved within the United Nations. In the general assembly, the first topic we covered was human trafficking.

A major issue for Tunisia is human trafficking which compromises the legitimacy of its government. A core goal of Tunisia's international relations is to use diplomacy within the United Nations to receive aid. One of the most important lessons I learned in the Model UN is the importance of diplomacy and international relations to the survival of small states. The Arab Spring left Tunisia vulnerable to human traffickers. This vulnerability made Tunisia focus much of its diplomatic goals on getting international support to enforce laws that targeted criminals and promoted rehabilitation for victims. This type of research is unique to the Model UN as we need to learn the motivations and goals of our states. However, the goals of states throughout the world are different and the necessity of negotiation to get the assistance was an uphill battle for many states. Although every state is against human trafficking, many states are concerned about protecting its own sovereignty. To overcome these concerns, I had to use the tools we learned in the classroom in committee.

In one of the areas I'm most proud of in my time of the Model UN is how our team in the general assembly performed in negotiating. Although we had very little time to prepare for the conference due to it being shortly after the semester started. The students who represented CSU Channel Islands were active in negotiating with other delegates. This activity resulted in us being able to create several different proposals that would emerge into a consensus proposal that was heavily influenced by students at Channel Islands. Albania and I led the opposition that shifted the discussion of human trafficking to where we wanted it to be. Although we were smaller states, we showed the effectiveness of using diplomacy from the podium and once formal session had ended. For me, I'm proud that I won the distinguished delegate award in the General Assembly, however, I do believe that several of my teammates in the General Assembly could have won that award as well.

Although I had the honor of winning the distinguished delegate award in the general assembly there were several aspects I could have improved upon. I made several mistakes in my first speeches that initially weakened my negotiating position. Initially I gave speeches that did not work towards my strengths. I learned that as a speaker I am much better at using notecards to guide me rather than a fully written speech. Furthermore, as it was my first conference, I do believe I was initially hesitant in being direct to other delegates who had more experience. Once I became comfortable, I was able to negotiate with other delegates to get them to where I wanted them to be within the committee even though I was a leader of the opposition proposal. Individually I am incredibly proud of how much I enjoyed using what we learned about diplomacy to effectively get other delegates to push for my proposals. This success came from me being able to improve upon my mistakes and working to use those mistakes to my advantage during negotiations. Recognizing what I could have done better and the process of improving upon those mistakes has helped me learn about myself.

On a personal level I gained a large amount of confidence in myself by being in the Model UN. Being able to successfully practice the diplomacy we learned in committee has inspired me to further pursue a career in either international relations or politics. Although it has been a goal of mine to become active in politics, the Model UN showed that I can succeed in that environment outside of the classroom. I've had a passion for politics my entire life and the Model UN has given me the confidence I need to pursue that passion. Most importantly, the Model UN showed me that I value team success more than my own personal success. Although I did win an Individual award, I am most proud of us winning the distinguished delegation award, and that feeling taught me a lot about myself.

The Model UN is unique in how it does teach us to learn about a culture in a manner that is unique to that class. As a history major, the opportunity to represent the states of Tunisia and Kuwait allowed me to gain insight into countries I had never deeply explored. Although my historical specialty is in the Middle East, representing these states brought a whole new perspective about their cultures and religions. It taught me that international relations and diplomacy are incredibly important to every state across the world. That a state the size of Tunisia or Kuwait can have a large amount of influence on international politics. Furthermore, the Model UN truly embodies CSU Channel Islands goal of graduating students with a multicultural and international perspective. Personally, the Model UN is the best experience I've had in my college career.

Reflection Paper

I first heard about Model UN in my International Politics by Dr. Scholl, and felt excited to join this team on campus when I was accepted the following year. I was part of my mock trial team in high school and thoroughly enjoyed the team effort of reaching this goal we worked so hard to get to along with digging deeper into the field of study I would later pursue. As a Political Science and Chicano/as Studies major and coming to the end of my second year at Channel Islands, I can say the opportunities I had with Model UN this past semester was rewarding in so many ways.

Our first conference of the semester we were set to head north to Portland, Oregon. I had never been to the state before so was excited to discover a new place as well as learn from others at the conference and my team members. We had only a few weeks to prepare in class for the Portland conference but within those weeks I felt a lot of support. I was extremely nervous and anxious to go on a trip and compete with people I barely knew and in a program I just joined but was reassured by my professors and classmates through it all. I was assigned to represent Albania in the General Assembly at this conference. The General Assembly had the assigned topics of combating human trafficking and the implementation of the programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing states. Honestly not knowing a grand amount of information on the state, a favorable outcome came out of it. I was able to learn about not only a foreign state, but of others as well through my team members. As well as learning the functions of the United Nation. The class was assigned to write their position papers over the winter break for us to come together when the semester started to work on them a bit before submitting them to the conference. We had done a mock up of how the conference would go with

our states and topics, helping tremendously on getting an idea of how all of this was to work. Our professors had provided us with many examples and resources that would help us first-timers write the paper, as well as have veterans of the class be open to assist as well.

The trip over to Portland proved to be an amazing experience and opportunity. We had explored the city the first night, and even with many of us not knowing one another we grouped closely together and included everyone in activities we chose to do. Before the opening ceremony the conference provided step by step examples of the procedures that would be taking place in our committee rooms. I was in the General Assembly along with five of my classmates, all of us new to the team this semester. We sat along with the forty plus people in the room awaiting our director and assistant director to give us instructions. Both were eager to watch us show our knowledge and patient with the first-timers of the group. The experience ranged in the room but we worked together gracefully developing a working paper to present to our director. My classmates and I would encourage each other to speak when one made a good point when in break out groups and all of us spoke multiple times throughout the conference, often also being one of the lead developers of the working papers on the floor.

I was delightfully surprised by myself when it came to contributing on the topics at hand. I would offer what information I knew of Albania, listing statistics, formed programs and partnerships. I would listen carefully to other states as they stepped up one by one to offer more information, so that when it came to a suspension of the meeting I would approach them to form a partnership or hear more from them. Coming from a background in mock trial I felt comfortable in public speaking and debating with others. I often would be the one to approach other working paper groups and individual states, convincing them to join our paper or merge working papers to create a stronger union and proposition.

With my mock trial background I was expecting more of a debate environment between states, especially those who were not fond of one another in the real UN. Though with many of us being first-timers, formation with individuals found having a friendly personality and the partnerships of those from the same school occurred more often than not.

Many people from the team were awarded for their performance at the conference. Even with all of us exhausted as we made our way to the airport, we all agreed on how we would miss the trip and experiences proposed for us. Excited for the next conference we were set to travel to San Francisco April this year, unfortunately that trip was cancelled due to concerns brought forth by COVID-19. I am still grateful for the experience I was able to have in Portland with my team and look forward to the possibility of more conferences with the school.

Professors Grove & Scholl
POLS 427
02 May 2020

Model UN Reflection Paper

Model United Nations has, once again, provided me with the opportunity to grow and sharpen my skills as a student, as an aspiring global citizen, and as someone seeking to work in policy and international affairs. Though I do still find conferences to be nerve-racking and am deeply saddened by the fact that we were only able to attend one conference, I still feel like I am walking away from this semester and my undergraduate career more empowered and knowledgeable because of Model UN. Participating in Model UN has given me a space to learn many new things about policy, the world, and myself. Beyond this, it has also given me something to look back on with pride, and something to reflect upon as a student looking to continually skill-build – especially as I work toward graduate school.

As I have stated in past semesters, the primary reason I am always able to learn so much from Model UN is because the professors really emphasize that the purpose of the class and the conference is learning; knowing that this is the environment I am in has always been incredibly conducive to my learning. Model UN has consistently been the class I find myself learning the most in – whether it is about different countries, the international system, policy, diplomacy, or research. In the context of international relations, this time around, I was able to learn a lot about Tunisia, Mexico, the situation in Mali, the UN’s agenda “Women, Peace and Security,” maternal healthcare, food security, as well as access and equity. Having the opportunity to sit the Security Council, I was able to gain a better understanding of how the Security Council works, as well as what their mandate and function in the UN and in the world are. This has already proven useful when things come up in the news and other classes where the Security Council is referenced. I think understanding the Security Council as a whole is important to understanding the

international system, especially when it comes to regional and bilateral relations, so this was an incredibly valuable experience.

In committee, I quickly learned that a smaller room does not automatically yield an easier negotiation, especially in the Security Council where the veto powers of the five permanent members exist. I also learned – and it might sound obvious, but I feel like this was especially apparent in Portland – that coming up with cohesive strategies that will actually do something impactful and that are within the mandate of the committee is really difficult. I found myself thinking significantly harder about potential solutions at this conference than any other. Perhaps the coolest thing I learned this semester though was about the hierarchy of the UN, both in the broader sense of the structure of the UN, but even more specifically on the level of operating bodies within specific regions and countries. This came about while trying to propose solutions under the topic Women, Peace, and Security, in which a few of my peers and I were trying to propose change internally and on the operating level of local UN offices and entities; this ended up yielding really interesting research and discussion in the group. Beyond all that I learned about, I was also able to continue to refine my speaking skills, my ability to negotiate, ask succinct questions, and maintain diplomacy.

Though I feel that I may have started out somewhat shakily at the Portland conference, I still left feeling proud of how it went – and how the rest of the course went over the duration of the semester as well. First and foremost, I am proud of the research I did, and the position papers and resolutions I wrote; awards aside, I was satisfied with how they all turned out. I am also proud of the fact that I was able to help out my classmates, be it with research, paper-writing, or general conference things. This time around, I feel like I was able to get to know my classmates a lot better, and we really felt like a team; this made class and the Portland conference particularly

fun, but also made not being able to go to San Francisco that much more disappointing. Apart from this, I am content with the fact that I portrayed what I feel was an accurate Tunisia, and am proud of the fact that every time I spoke or posed a question in committee, I think I contributed something useful and was never talking for the sake of talking. I am perhaps most proud, however, of the idea my peers and I were able to come up with in the Security Council related to Women, Peace, and Security, even if we did not get to finish drafting a resolution for it. The guest speaker, who actually works on this topic in real life, even complimented our proposed solution; this was probably the best thing that happened the entire conference. Apart from this, I am also proud of the fact that I still maintained my composure and that I put my foot down on a resolution that I thought was being terribly rushed.

Though I feel Portland went well, I do still know there are things that could be improved. Once again, I definitely could have spoken more. Though I have been increasing how much I speak each conference, I am still not quite at the point where I feel comfortable getting up at any time and making something up on the fly. I also feel like I could have come out swinging harder earlier on in the conference. In my head, I really wanted to ease in, and also incorrectly thought that I had another conference to attend where I could continue to improve. I feel like if I had known this was the only conference, things may have gone differently. Beyond this, I – as exposed by photos taken during the conference – know that I could have been better about controlling my facial expressions; I think that I spend so much time policing my tone that I forget that my face is also incredibly revealing. I definitely need to be more mindful of that. Lastly, I think I could have been more assertive. I find that the line between assertive and diplomatic is a bit difficult to navigate at times, and I think that for once, I should have maybe leaned more onto the assertive side.

As per usual, these experiences have taught me a lot about myself. In general, my time in Model UN has taught me the importance of research, being diplomatic, as well as communicating and collaborating well with others especially for the sake of problem solving and global cooperation. Because of my experiences in Model UN – and the fact that they have ultimately reinforced that I have a lot of patience – I think I have the capacity to do this. Beyond that though, I have – once again – come to learn, or maybe affirm, that I am not as bad a speaker as I make myself out to be. Perhaps the biggest takeaway I have had since participating in Model UN though is that I really need to stop doubting myself, and that I should always fall back on and feel secure in the research and preparation I have put into my work. Apart from that, my experiences in Model UN have also taught me that policy, international affairs, and the process behind both are of great interest to me; I can say with ease that this entire experience has helped steer my career path and future plans.

Overall, my time in Model UN has been invaluable. It is definitely one of the things I will miss most when I graduate. Because of Model UN, I was able to learn so much about both the world and myself – and beyond that, I was able to find a home on campus. Three semesters ago, I came into Model UN with the expectation that I would improve my ability to speak, negotiate, and collaborate. While I am confident I achieved that, I know I am also walking away with a deeper understanding of the United Nations (and its many bodies) than I had ever expected to gain, sharper research skills that I know will serve me well in the future, and positive memories of my final year of undergraduate studies. I honestly could not be more grateful for my time in Model UN.

POLS 427

Professor Grove/Scholl

April 20 2020

Reflection Paper

1)

First of all this I would like to say how surprised I was that I would have enjoyed this class as much as I did. By participating in this Model UN class I learned the real importance of words and how you have to be very particular in what you say and don't say. In the papers, resolutions and in the conference itself, talking to people.

As far as in the class itself it is very interesting, learning and trying to "be" that country. With the class having a lot of returners it was fun having to almost catch up to their level. Also in class with everyone being very smart you had to definitely make sure you had your facts right or else you could be checked out for it by everyone. Also by learning about my own country I learned who the country has good relations with and vice versa. However because our school was more serious and knowledgeable it made the conference sadly underwhelming at times. Unfortunately many of the schools didn't take the conference as serious for example not acting like their country etc.

Within the conference by far the most important thing I learned was how important words are. Not only writing but speaking as well was very imperative to how the conference was run. Even the smallest thing such as suspending the meeting had to be said in a certain way or you

would be corrected. Another example is when “calling out” a country you would never directly name them in your speeches, to do that you might express an example that an unnamed country has done “blank” in the past you may not agree with. Also in drafts you wouldn't have your country or other countries explicitly named in the paper. Lastly I was very surprised how much caucussing played a role. I knew that this would be the main way to talk to other countries and exchange ideas, however I didn't realize how often there was one. Once in the caucus I definitely expected to be much more debate or disagreement against countries however because $\frac{2}{3}$ topics every country is in agreement with like human trafficking. When it came to the other topics I had to make a bunch of general guidelines that many countries could approve of to help pass my bills. Also being part of the EU it made it easier for me to get a collective group of people that would agree with me.

2)

During the conference I was most proud of a couple things. One being how much I went up to the podium to talk about my bills and instructing people to focus on the prompt because I felt a lot of groups got off track especially with SIDS. The other being how easy I was about to talk to everyone, I consider myself a people person and I enjoyed talking to all the countries and embodying Italy's ideas etc. Having studied abroad last year in Italy and interacted with many Italians also taking Italian society/government classes I feel like I took their personality into account. Compared to other countries which many of the students did not represent their country the best. Definitely my favorite part was my passed resolution, I still have the print from the conference. Lastly was making better connections with my class and meeting new people from other schools. I now consider all the MUN people in my class friends and i'm going to be much more comfortable for next year's class.

3)

During the Portland conference that first major thing I could've done better was started before everyone else. Meaning that before the start of the first conference I would be smart to start talking to other people from the other schools and introducing yourself as an approachable country. Also in the case of SIDS I could have asked the SID countries what they would like to see on resolutions. For example I was in a group with no island states creating a resolution for SIDS. Therefore when going around I made my policy based on what I asked the SIDS and what they wanted from me as well in the policy.

Another was partially also the fault of other countries but not making an EU block. Many of the countries there only hung out with their own schools. I definitely felt our school was the most out going when talking to other schools. Finally having more knowledge on how to actually write a paper. This was by far my weakest part was formatting and writing language into the paper. Therefore I let my other more experienced members of the group take leads on the resolution. Then I would bounce ideas to the whole group and they would add it. Later in the conference I do write more on the other topics

4)

The experience changed quite a lot actually. For my future endeavors I am planning on going in the Air Force hoping to get stationed abroad back to Italy if possible. However after MUN ive looked father in the diplomatic role. It would be a goal of mine to work in an embassy or at the least forgein security. I also learned about how smart I actually was, I'm definitely not a person that blows his own trumpet but during the first conferenced I definitely felt more prepared and knowledgeable on some topics compared to other people. Also my social skills I take for

granted because I use them everyday nonshalontly. I was able to talk to most people in a fun engaging way that made it easy to make policies with other countries there. I noticed many people not talking to people they didn't know and a lot of countries asked me questions about them because by the end of the conference I talked to just about everyone.

Reflection Paper

The brief time I got to spend in Model UN was one I will not forget. Before Model UN I was interested in international relations and international news. Model UN allowed me to have a deeper understanding on the stances that countries have on various topics, and why some countries have a deep feud with other ones. In short, Model UN allowed me to have a deeper understanding of the international world. Model UN also taught me how important and how hard it is to come up with solutions to different world problems since everyone views the problems in a different way. When it comes to diplomacy and negotiations Model UN showed me a whole different side of getting things done that I have not experienced before, and the Portland conference really opened my eyes to that. It was interesting and very fun to be at the conference discussing one's stance and eventually negotiating the various resolutions to different member states and it felt very authentic. Model UN taught me a lot about world politics and it is definitely an experience I will not forget.

At the Portland conference, I am very proud of how I was able to find other member states that shared similar values to my own and how fast we got to work on our papers. Discussing different solutions as well as pointing out potential problems to proposed solutions felt like the area I was most comfortable and productive in. I am also proud of the quick research I was able to do for our proposed solutions as well as the quality of research done.

At the Portland conference, there were definitely a few key areas where I could have done better. First, I could have acted more as a delegate from India. What I mean by this is that instead of agreeing with the best solutions to the problems we are facing even if they were not in

the interest of India, I could have been more opposed to solutions because India would not want that to happen, or would want it but to a lesser degree. Secondly, I could have spoken in front of the conference more. I believe I only spoke once or twice in front of anyone and that was just opening statements. Looking back at the Portland conference I wish I was on the speakers list more and acted more like a delegate from India.

Overall Model UN taught me a few things about myself. First, it taught me how to be a fast critical thinker. During the conference, there was so much going on between everyone talking about different solutions, that you really had to think fast and have something good to say. Secondly, Model UN taught me how to do more in-depth research at a faster pace. If your research was not bulletproof, there will be someone who calls you out, this taught me how to do much better research. Lastly, Model UN taught me how much I enjoy learning about world news and everything going on in the world. While my time with Model UN was very brief, it taught me some very valuable skills as well as deepened my interest in the world which I believe will benefit me in the future.

5/4/2020

POLS 427

M.U.N. Reflection paper

Despite having been in MUN for about semesters, I am still learning something new at every conference. The most important thing I learned this semester is how important talking to other delegates throughout the entire conference is. From the beginning until the end, and no matter how tired you are, there is a need to be present and ready to think of solutions to different problems in countries around the world. MUN has helped me grow to be a better negotiator especially in international relations. I always learn so much about one topic affecting the world, many times deeply enough to make jokes with friends about the stances the different countries have. I learn in depth about countries I had no idea existed a few years ago, and learn why they have certain policies and the histories surrounding different topics. Learning the reasoning behind policies makes it easier to understand other countries and their policies as well, whether they are small island nations or large contributing members of the EU. Being able to agree on documents is very valuable, creating documents that everyone can agree to is tricky and takes so many tries and edits. I liked being able to talk to the different delegates and understand what they want and need for their country. I finally had to learn how to format a resolution in the HRC-UPR, or course by practicing, making mistakes, and working with the dais. In the HRC UPR, it is obvious the different standards for Human Rights different countries have. Finding countries with similar ideals is essential and finding useful programs working in different regions is important to create new and effective programs in the country under review. Doing research

for this committee, I got to read documents emphasizing human rights and basically read report cards of different countries and their treatment of their inhabitants.

The most I learned from the Portland conference is how much hard work and negotiating it takes to be a part of all the working groups. Being a contributing member of all the papers at the committee is really difficult and takes so much multitasking. It paid off at the end, the dais recognized the work I was doing around the room. During the conference, though I was working hard, and I knew I was doing the best I could, I did not think I would get an award. In my mind, I was just doing the best I could and working at the conference I was there for. That really taught me that I need to be more confident and surer of myself and my capabilities as a delegate. I now know how to truly set myself apart from the other delegates and how to be as cooperative as possible while staying true to the country I am representing.

The second conference also taught me something even though we did not get to attend it. I was prepared and excited to represent Mexico at the San Francisco conference. I was heartbroken to not be able to attend it but what this experience really taught me was the importance of being able to adapt to new situations even if they are very disappointing. You may be as ready as possible for something, but you never truly know what will happen. This includes a pandemic which affects every aspect of our everyday lives. Even the UN can't function as normal during these times, much less Model UN.

In the Portland conference I could have worked on having better speeches prepared and having more nonprofits ready to go instead of having to research on the spot and plugging them into my resolutions. I want to be more comfortable talking in front of the committee and though I'm not as bad as it was before, working on being able to speak in front of the other delegates and have speeches often that have meaning and more of a call to action is

something I wish I had been able to master at the Portland conference. I want to work on being able to create speeches on the spot that make the other delegates want to work with me and help me become a leader in the group.

As I mentioned before, this conference and this semester has really taught me to be more sure of the work I put in and how I carry myself in a professional setting better. It has taught me to research and has set me up to be better in my professional life as well as academically. Though I would have really looked forward to a conference in San Francisco with the group, I was able to learn a lot from the conference in Portland. Every time I step into one of those conference rooms I know that the UN is out making real change in similar manners and I think that is amazing.

POLS 427

Spring 2020

Model UN Reflection

This was my second semester participating in Model UN. I have learned a lot more about diplomacy and international relations this time around, because I needed to prepare two position papers. Preparing for Portland was different from MUNFW. For the Portland conference, I was not writing about what India wants to do about a situation, but rather what India believes would be best for another country. During the conference, the setting and atmosphere was completely different from the Seattle conference. For the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review, each country needed to come up with suggestions for the three countries that were under review. For this, I learned more about the three countries than I did about India. However, with that being said, I learned about how different the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review is compared to the rest of the committees. This committee is more about how countries come together to better another one, but this comes with different countries taking jabs at the ones under review. This committee showed me how sometimes diplomacy can be thrown out the window just to try and better a country. An example of this was when Italy and Libya were going back and forth on who was the one who is treating people the worst. It escalated when Libya called Italy a monster for the way Italy treats Libya's immigrants. Although I had some things to say to Libya as well, I did not take it to those extremes.

The thing that I am most proud of was my position paper. Last semester was the first time I had to write a position paper, so I was not as confident as I was this time around. I was also

more prepared to write my paper this time around. The position paper for the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review is completely different from the previous paper I wrote for the Seattle conference. I think because I knew that the paper was going to be different from the previous paper, so I needed to work harder on it. I was proud of myself for starting the paper sooner than later. I wanted to be more prepared and I knew that I needed to understand the topics and find the correct documents to support my claims. I was most confident with my position paper for Kuwait in the World Health Organization. The WHO is my favorite United Nations organization, so I wanted to work harder on this position paper. I had a shorter amount of time to do the research for Kuwait, but I still managed to produce a paper for a conference that I was not familiar with. I am proud of all of the hard work that I put into my papers for the conferences.

For the Portland conference, the one thing I could have done better was to speak up more. I think because I knew more about the countries under review more than my own, I did not know what to say to the other delegates about how to create recommendations for the countries. I wish that I had done more research on India to better my position for those three days. I also wish that I had more confidence in my speeches. I wish that if we had went to the MUNFW conference that maybe I would have nailed the speeches. I need to work on my public speaking skills more. I wish that I had prepared more on the speeches and confidence.

The one thing that I learned about myself this time around is that I am more capable than I think. I second guess myself often and do not feel as confident as I should. With all of the hard work that I had put into the position papers and the country profile, I need to give myself more credit. I am proud of the work that I put out for the two conferences. I also learned that I try and put in more effort when I am passionate about a topic. I think because I admire the WHO, I put in the most effort as I possibly could. I wish that we were able to attend MUNFW, but I am still

thankful and grateful of the opportunity that Dr. Grove and Dr. Scholl had provided me this past year.