

# WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

**Article 1:** The Washington University International Relations Council (IRC) exists to promote the development of interpersonal skills and knowledge of global affairs, primarily by operating Model United Nations (MUN) conferences and fielding a team to win MUN conferences hosted by other universities. The team will travel to a minimum of one conference per semester and the financing of these competitions will be structured to avoid payment by individual members.

**Article 2:** IRC will hold a Model United Nations conference for high school students in the fall of every year. The name of the conference is Washington University Model United Nations Symposium (WUMUNS), which will always be entirely administered by club members.

**Subclause 1:** The leadership of WUMUNS will consist of a separate executive body than that of the club. The Secretary-General of WUMUNS is the principal executive of the conference, charged with administering and overseeing its affairs. The outgoing Secretary-General will conduct a rigorous application and interview process to determine whether to endorse one or more candidates for this position. The interviews may take place in public or in private. The Secretary-General will then be elected by the general body.

**Subclause 2:** Secretariat positions of WUMUNS will be selected by the Secretary-General and other potentially requested additional senior advisors including, but not limited to, the previous Secretary-General, the Club President, and/or the rest of the Executive Board. No candidates for any Secretariat positions should be consulted, even for positions for which they are not candidates. Club members must apply for Secretariat positions in the year preceding the conference. Secretariat members are charged with a full-year commitment to ensure the success of WUMUNS.

**Subclause 3:** In addition to the principal purpose of WUMUNS, which is to provide an excellent model United Nations conference to high school students, the conference serves as a financial mechanism to fund the traveling aspirations of the club. Both the success of WUMUNS and the traveling team are interlinked, thus while organizationally disparate, their ultimate goal of club success and University acclaim are intertwined.

**Subclause 4:** WUMUNS meetings will be held a minimum of one day a week in the fall semester leading up to WUMUNS.

**Subclause 5:** The President and Vice President will not be able to serve simultaneously on WUMUNS Secretariat.

**Article 3:** IRC will be administered by an executive board consisting of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and three Representatives.

**Subclause 1:** From Spring 2014 onwards, elections for President and Vice President will be held every year in the spring semester to elect an executive board for the following academic year and will be open to all members. Candidates will be required to submit written questionnaires explaining their positions and engage in a question and answer session with the general body. The President and Vice President will be elected by instant run-off voting. Representatives will be elected on a semesterly basis. The Treasurer will be selected for a one-year term by an application and interview process conducted each spring by the incoming executive board.

**Subclause 2:** The responsibilities of the President are as follows:

- Oversee any and all activities of the club to ensure success in both internal and external events, which include but are not limited to:
- Promote participation and attendance at all club activities
- Assist in the training and preparation of all club members for model United Nations competitions.
- Attend Head-Delegate meetings in order to facilitate feedback among team members and conference staff to help obtain recognition as stipulated by Article 1
- Achieve a culture of winning in order to bolster the acclaim of the club and the University
- Assist in the financial and logistical preparation of competitions
- Organize and coordinate the traveling team's conferences.
- To co-ordinate with the Secretary-General to provide assistance in preparation for WUMUNS

**Subclause 3:** The responsibilities of the Vice President are as follows:

- Assist in the planning and administration of traveling conferences.
- Prepare and train club members for model United Nations competitions including but not limited to:
  - Weekly training sessions in parliamentary procedure, rhetoric, resolution writing, debate skill, networking and general knowledge of international affairs
  - Special Crisis-style committee preparation
- Oversee all new member recruitment.

**Subclause 4:** The responsibilities of the Treasurer are as follows:

- Participate and administer club finances through Student Union.
- Assist in the financial preparation of traveling conferences.
- Help organize and notify all club members of meetings.
- Has the liberty to monitor club meeting attendance in addition to recording the minutes of each meeting.
- Ensure appropriate financial co-ordination and cooperation between the executive board and Secretariat

**Subclause 5:** Three Representatives will be elected to the executive board each semester.

**Subclause 6:** Representatives will be full members of the executive board and provide input into all aspects of IRC operations, including but not limited to conference selection, training, meetings, and social events.

**Subclause 7:** The Secretary- General of WUMUNS may serve as a non-voting member of the executive board at the discretion of the President. If the executive board so chooses, they may include the Secretary-General in discussions and votes, however, should this lead to a tie-vote, the vote of the Secretary-General will be disregarded to break the tie. The Secretary-General retains the right to request consultation on any discussion or vote that will affect the functioning of WUMUNS in any way, and as such, any relevant votes held before such consultation has taken place will be disregarded.

**Subclause 8:** The members of the executive board may add, remove, or alter the duties and titles of the positions as they feel necessary for the next electoral cycle prior to the next election. The board will inform the club of any changes or additions before the next election.

**Subclause 9:** Should any member of the team, including a member of Secretariat or the executive board, fail to execute their assigned duties and/or act in a manner that reflects negatively on the club or its members, Exec may determine appropriate disciplinary action which including, but not limited to, loss of travelling privileges, removal from participation in club activities, removal from office or removal from the club entirely.

a. No member of either the executive board nor Secretariat will be removed from their position with less than a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the executive board and no member of secretariat will be removed without an additional  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of Secretariat.

b. If the executive board votes to remove a member from office, that member is entitled to appeal for a vote of the club as a whole, in such case the member will not be removed without a majority vote of club members present at the next meeting. This vote will be conducted by secret ballot or whatever method the exec determines to be most effective, but maintains the anonymous nature of the vote.

c. No member will be removed from the club without a unanimous vote of the executive board.

**Article 4:** IRC members must sign a contract to ensure attendance to traveling model United Nations conferences. The contract must stipulate financial penalty for renegeing on traveling commitments in addition to waiving liabilities for the club by any unbecoming action of club members while attending the conference.

**Article 5:** Selection of the club members to attend conferences will be based on merit and club participation. However there will always be a minimum requirement of freshmen attending each conference in order to promote club growth. Try-outs will be judged and administered by the Executive Board and any senior members they wish to consult with or be included in the decision making process.

**Subclause 1:** Try-outs for the traveling team will be held at the beginning of the fall semester and only for the first fall traveling conference. However try-outs by no means preclude the selection of club members from attending other subsequent model United Nations competitions.

**Article 6:** IRC meetings will be held a minimum of once a week. Meetings will be held each Sunday unless a majority of Executive Committee members decide otherwise.

**Article 7:** This constitution must be agreed upon by all Executive Committee members and submitted to discussion and ratification by a majority of club members. Amendments may be submitted during any club meeting and must be agreed upon by all Executive Committee members and submitted to ratification by a majority of club members.

Signed: By the Members of Washington University in St. Louis  
International Relations Council