

## **Charter of the Macalester College Model United Nations Organization**

### **Preamble**

Deeply convinced of the fundamental beliefs that sustain the mission of Macalester College to promote an internationalist education that fosters “an environment that values diverse cultures of the world,”

Firmly believing in the necessity of civic engagement, which “entails a commitment to enriching public discourse on significant questions, responding to the social needs of the local and global communities in which we live, cultivating effective and ethical public leaders, encouraging civic imagination and creativity, and otherwise promoting a democratic way of life in a multicultural and increasingly globalized world,”

Fully believing that the United Nations and its proceedings deserve to be studied, explored, and critiqued in order for individuals to acquire the necessary skills that will enable them to solve problems of global significance in an effective manner,

Further believing in the capacity of individuals to act as transformative agents and address the critical issues of our time,

The Macalester College Model United Nations Organization (MacMUN) is to operate according with this present Charter as follows:

### **Article I – Purpose**

Model United Nations (MacMUN) is a simulation program for college and university students in which they participate in model sessions of the United Nations in an effort to advance their understanding of the principles and methods by which international relations can be maintained. The program enhances the students’ knowledge of the world’s nations, the relations between them, their policies, and the nature of their work in the United Nations.

In this regard, MacMUN develops programs that prepare members for researching, writing, presenting, and debating issues from the stance of a specific country. It is the duty of the Members to represent their country effectively and formulate alliances accordingly. Hence, Members also learn about historical facts and current affairs, and become experienced in identifying developments that influence their countries’ policies. In addition, participants are also trained in negotiation, conflict mediation, and resolution drafting. Moreover, Members attend national conferences where United Nations proceedings are simulated.

MacMUN strives to create and maintain on- and off-campus relationships that will foster opportunities to participate in community service for the betterment of its Members as well as members of the community. Community service is intended engage the greater Macalester and Twin Cities communities in a dialogue concerning global issues.

### **Article II – Membership**

- a. Article I is non-discriminatory and thus guarantees equal opportunity and access to membership, programming, facilities, and benefits for all persons. In no aspect of MacMUN programs shall there be any difference in the treatment of persons because of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, gender, or any consideration based on sexual orientation or associational preference or any other classification that would deprive the person of consideration as an individual.
- b. There shall be no limitations to membership, except in regards to the number of participants in conferences.
- c. Delegates shall be defined as Members who are chosen to attend regularly scheduled conferences during the spring semester. They will abide by a binding contract (Delegate Contract) that details the monetary and participation expectations to be followed as Delegates selected by the Board and financed by the Travel Fund to attend conferences.
- d. The organization shall admit Members by voluntary subscription to the mailing list, which also serves as a source of information about the meetings and proceedings of MacMUN. Information shall also be available by way of tabling at Student Involvement Fairs, advertising in the *Macalester Today*, *The Mac Weekly*, the MacMUN website, and general word of mouth. Shall persons be disruptive and/or discriminatory towards other Members their membership will be subject to immediate revocation.
- e. As part of the Delegate Contract, Delegates are required to volunteer at least once during the academic year at a MacMUN sponsored event. Further commitments will be determined at the Board's discretion. Such volunteer opportunities will be provided through community organizations that may include, but are not limited to: Global Classrooms, World Savvy, MacMUN sponsored campus events, or any other organization pre-approved by the current Board.
- f. Any Delegate choosing to complete the required volunteering at an organization not pre-approved by the Board shall be required to present documentation of hours volunteered on a form provided by the Board.
- g. Volunteering is required of members of the Board; it will in most cases take the form of organizing, facilitating, and attending campus events. Board members are encouraged to participate in additional community service.
- h. The Board must approve a Delegate's absence at required activities—meetings, volunteering, conference proceedings, et cetera. The Board has the right to determine the probation of Delegates on the basis of non-compliance with the terms of the Delegate Contract. The terms of probation will be determined by the Board based on the breach of the contract that is made:
  - i. Board members will monitor delegates who are not demonstrating adequate performance of assigned tasks until a satisfactory level of productivity has been reached.
  - ii. Delegates who do not complete the required volunteering will be charged a fee up to, but not exceeding, the cost of individual airfare to the National Model United Nations Conference (NMUN).
- i. Delegates who fail to improve or rectify their status while on probation will have their membership revoked, as per the terms of the Delegate Contract.

### **Article III – Officers and Duties**

- a. An Executive Board consisting of five persons shall lead the organization. They are to be responsible for conducting meetings, facilitating and arranging programming, acting as a liaison with outside organizations and offices, and performing other duties as necessary. Specifically, the Executive Board (Board) will consist of a Secretary General, a Director General, a Director of Finances, a Director of Outreach, and a Director of Correspondence.
- b. Qualification for holding office shall be based on prior experience with MacMUN, compliance with Article I of this present Charter, and demonstrated leadership skills. A person elected to office must perform the aforementioned duties faithfully with honesty, rigor, and integrity. Noting that according to Article I, MacMUN is a democratic organization, the persons elected to office shall fulfill their duties in an altruistic manner as representatives of the entire group.
- c. All Members designated in Article I shall select officers via an approval process. All Members shall be notified prior to elections. Applicants for office shall present their case to the Board and should be prepared to respond to the Board's questions and concerns regarding candidacy. The Board shall decide which candidates will appear on the ballot based on the aforementioned criteria of Article III, clause b. The ballot is to be secret, and the Officers shall be decided on 2/3 vote. Each Member is to be granted one opportunity to approve or deny the candidate for each Board position. A vacant spot may be filled through re-elections, with candidates chosen by the discretion of the Board.
- d. The Board shall leave a record of all relevant financial and operational forms and procedures for the next year's Board.

### **Article IV – Faculty Advisor**

- a. The MacMUN Advisor (Advisor) shall be a faculty or staff member.
- b. The Advisor is to be responsible for guiding the Board and aiding its members in any manner he/she is able to. Should a conflict arise between the members of the Board, the Advisor may serve as a mediator.
- c. The Advisor is to be selected based on his/her expressed interest in being a part of MacMUN, or by accepting a request from the Board. It is expected that the Advisor possess a general knowledge of the Organization and its proceedings, as well as the functioning of the United Nations. Advisors are to be replaced in the same manner through which they are selected.
- d. The Advisor will be encouraged, within financial constraints, to lead the MacMUN Delegation to any conferences that the Delegates attend.

### **Article V – Senior Advisors**

- a. Board members from the previous year automatically assume the position of Senior Advisors; they commit to remaining Members of MacMUN.
- b. Senior Advisors have the right to attend Board meetings without direct voting rights.
- c. Senior Advisors have the same status as Members with regard to qualification for Conference attendance.

- d. Senior Advisors are obligated to see that the goals and ideals of MacMUN are followed, and to ensure that the Charter of MacMUN is upheld.
- e. Senior Advisors must be available to the current Board to answer questions on the operational procedures of MacMUN, as well as to assist the newly elected Board during the transition process.
- f. Senior Advisors can enact Article IX (No-Confidence Clause) by unanimous vote, and call for a common vote amongst all Members to relieve a Board member.

#### **Article VI – Meetings**

- a. Meetings are to be held once per week at a place and time established in accordance with all Members. Postponement or rescheduling of a meeting is to be announced via email and is acceptable only during school vacations, in emergencies, or for exceptional situations.
- b. Members are to be notified at least one day in advance of each meeting.
- c. A second weekly meeting shall be arranged during spring semester for the benefit of Delegates with the purpose of research and preparation for upcoming conferences and campus events.
- d. The decision on a second meeting is subject to a unanimous agreement among the five Board members.
- e. A minimum of five Members of the Board shall constitute of a quorum.
- f. Any member of the Board may call a meeting.

#### **Article VII – Elections**

- a. Elections for members of the Board shall be held conducted during a designated time towards the end of the spring semester of the year before the mandate of the Board shall enter into effect.
- b. Once an election period has been established in accordance with all Members, they are to be notified of the upcoming election two weeks in advance.
- c. Members have ten days from the time that the election period is announced to submit their candidacy.

#### **Article VIII – Finances**

- a. While no membership dues shall be collected, Delegates are expected to contribute financially to the cost of attendance at scheduled Conferences and MacMUN sanctioned trips.
- b. The Director of Finance shall be responsible for creating the budgets for fall and spring of the current academic year. The Director of Finance shall also create a draft budget for the fall semester of the next academic year, to be submitted to Macalester College Student Government (MCSG) according to the established deadlines. The Board shall accept the budgets by simple vote. The Director of Finance shall not be held legally responsible for the content or truthfulness of the budget or related matter.

- c. The Director of Finance shall also be responsible for the collection of all relevant receipts, communication with the Financial Affairs Committee Chair, and disbursement of refunds made to Members or Delegates.

#### **Article IX – No-Confidence Clause**

- a. A Board member will be subject to a no-confidence vote and may be relieved from his/her responsibilities before the termination of his/her mandate.
- b. A no-confidence vote could be initiated by a unanimous agreement of the Senior Advisors, or by the proposal of any Board member.
- c. The removal of a Board member through a no-confidence vote will be subject to a  $\frac{3}{4}$  approval by Members, and/or a unanimous approval by the remaining Board members.

#### **Article X – Amendments**

- a. The Board is responsible for drafting amendments to this present Charter.
- b. A unanimous vote from the Board is required to ratify an amendment.
- c. Amendments are to be submitted to MCSG for approval.
- d. All amendments or changes to the Charter shall be submitted to MCSG.
- e. The Members of MacMUN can be informed of the changes once they have been adopted.

#### **Article XI – Ratification**

- a. A unanimous vote by the Board shall ratify this Charter.

#### **Article XII – Sunset Clause**

- a. This Charter will expire on March 1, 2013. Before this date, the Charter may be renewed by a vote of the Legislative Body of MCSG.