

New Mexico State University Model United Nations Team



National Model United Nations of New Mexico State University

2004-2005 Annual Report

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I. Organization

For students interested in international affairs, the NMSU Model United Nations (MUN) program offers a unique and enriching experience, regardless of their field of study. The Model UN program encourages personal and academic growth and helps students develop skills in public speaking, diplomacy, patience, and perseverance. The MUN experience introduces students to global issues such as peace, conflict, socio-economic development, environmental sustainability, and human rights protection.

Our members are drawn from many fields of study, ranging from government to business administration to foreign languages. With 14 diverse delegates, our team dynamic grew strong throughout participation in preparatory activities and at the National Conference in New York City.

A. Recruitment

Model United Nations members were recruited from the student body at New Mexico State University. The primary methods of recruitment were: posting flyers, running advertisements in the student newspaper, word-of-mouth, and announcements in classes. Students from many different academic backgrounds responded and joined the MUN club. Students were drawn into the organization and were receptive to new methods of admission into MUN. This year, students were required to go through an application process in order to obtain one of the fifteen positions that were available. They submitted applications, personal essays, and were required to undergo an interview conducted by the advisor, the president, and the vice-president.

B. Executive Board

The NMSU Model UN's Executive Board is comprised of a Faculty Advisor, Club President, Club Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. The Executive Board is primarily responsible for ensuring that all members participate equally in preparations for the conference. In addition to this, the Executive Board deals with fundraising efforts, management of club funds in excess of \$12,000 within three accounts, registration for the conference, travel arrangements (including hotel accommodations and airfare for 14 delegates), and the coordination of a meeting with the delegates from the permanent mission to the UN from the Republic of the Philippines. The Executive Board grew considerably in strength this year, partially as a result of membership, and was integral in the success of our team and its participation in the conference.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jason Ackleson. This was Dr. Ackleson's fourth

year as the MUN Faculty Advisor. He teaches International Relations, including courses on borders, national security, and international institutions.

President: Leili Davari. Leili Davari was elected MUN President in May 2004. She was a member of the NMSU-MUN delegation at the 2004 National Conference, when the team represented Paraguay. Leili will graduate in May 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Spanish. She plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern Studies.

Vice-President: Monica Morales. Monica Morales was elected Vice-President in May 2004. She was a member of the NMSU-MUN delegation at the 2004 National Conference, when the team represented Paraguay. Monica will be graduating in May with a B.A. in Psychology, a Bachelor of Criminal Justice, and a minor in Spanish. Upon graduation, she plans to pursue a Doctoral degree in Social Psychology and continue conducting cross-cultural research.

Secretary: Chris Sánchez. Chris Sánchez was elected MUN Secretary in September 2004. This was his first year as a member of the NMSU-MUN Team. Chris is a junior majoring in English, and pursuing minors in History, Religious Studies, and International Relations. Upon graduation in May of 2006, Chris hopes to enroll in the Comparative Ethnic Conflict master's program at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Treasurer: Marcia Mundt. Marcia Mundt was elected MUN Treasurer in September 2004. This was her first year as a member of the NMSU-MUN Team. She is pursuing a double major in Government and Communication Studies, and a minor in Spanish. After achieving her undergraduate degree, she plans to attend graduate school on the east coast and register for the Peace Corps.

Member At Large: Brianne Bigej. Brianne Bigej was elected MUN Member-at Large in November 2004. This was her first year as member of NMSU-MUN team. Brianne is a Junior pursuing a BA in Government, a supplementary major in Law & Society, and minor in Spanish. Upon graduation she plans to attend law school to study public interest.

C. Member Biographical Sketches

Sarah Amador: A first year MUN participant and a senior double majoring in Government and Spanish, with a supplemental major in Law and Society. Sarah plans to attend law school after graduation.

Kyle Galloway: A first year MUN participant, and a freshman majoring in Criminal Justice. He hopes to graduate in three years and work for a government agency.

Matthew Garley: A fourth year MUN participant, who graduated in December 2004 with a B.A. in Government with a minor in Global Political Economy, and a B.A. in German with a supplementary major in Linguistics. He will attend graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the Fall of 2005 to pursue a doctorate in Linguistics.

Emily Maher: A first year MUN participant and a sophomore double majoring in Criminal Justice and Government with a supplementary major in Law and Society and a minor in Philosophy. After receiving her undergraduate degrees she plans to attend law school and eventually become a criminal defense attorney.

Daniel Miera: A third year MUN participant, holds a B.A. in Government with a Supplementary Major in Law & Society and a Minor in Philosophy. He currently is attending NMSU for work on his graduate degree. He plans to attend law school and eventually specialize in Business Law. Daniel served as last year's Head Delegate at the conference, and the 2003-2004 NMSU-MUN President.

Andrea Padilla: A first year MUN participant is a senior majoring in Family and Child Science. Upon graduation in December of 2005, she plans to attend graduate school and study international studies. This summer Andrea and her son will live in Zacatecas, Mexico where she will study Spanish.

Jessica Rainey: A first year MUN participant and a freshman from Belen, NM. She is studying secondary education and hopes to teach American History and Government to high school students after her graduation. Along with Model United Nations, Jessica is also involved in the Delta Gamma sorority community at NMSU where she is the vice president for programming.

Nathan Ortiz: A first year MUN participant is a senior at NMSU graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Government, Spanish, and Law and Society. Nathan is from Pojoaque, New Mexico. In his tenure at NMSU,

Nathan has been a participant in Gamma Beta Phi, Pi Sigma Alpha and Delta Epsilon Chi. Upon graduation, Nathan will continue to work at Bates Law Firm while he applies to law school.

Esteban Torres: A first year MUN participant, currently working on his Master's degree in Government. As well as being a participant, he served as Dr. Ackleson's Graduate Assistant. Upon graduation, he would like to run for political office.

D. Meetings

During the fall semester, the Model United Nations Student Organization met solely as a chartered student group. Weekly meetings were held that mainly focused on recruitment, community service, and fundraising. We received our country/committee assignments in early November, which provided us with an opportunity to begin preliminary research on our country and committee topics.

Beginning in the spring semester, students enrolled in one of two Model United Nations courses (GOVT 413 and GOVT 414). Students enrolled in the Advanced Model United Nations (GOVT 414), were those that had participated in at least one prior Model United Nations conference. First year participants of the Model United Nations were enrolled in the GOVT 413 class. Each course provided the students with an opportunity to continue research on their committee topics, write their position papers, learn the rules of procedure and resolution writing, engage in simulations, and learn about the United Nations as an institutional body.

E. Fundraising

The team organized and hosted our Second Annual New Mexico State University Model United Nations Fundraiser Dinner, which accounted for a large portion of the team's fundraising efforts. The 2004-2005 Model UN Organization raised \$2,876 through our fundraising dinner. The team's monetary needs were also alleviated by the acquisition of various donations.

Total donations were as follows:

NMSU

Dean - College of Arts and Sciences	\$ 2,500.00
Government Department	\$ 500.00
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences	\$ 100.00
Honors College	\$ 500.00
Center for International Programs	\$
500.00	
Language and Linguistics Department	\$ 100.00
College of Agricultural and Home Economics	\$ 100.00
English Department	\$ 100.00
Office of the Provost	\$ 1,000.00
History Department	\$ 100.00
<u>Associated Students of NMSU (matching funds)</u>	<u>\$ 5995.64</u>

Total (NMSU): \$10,796.00

OTHER DONATIONS

Len Sugerman and many attendees
of the Model UN dinner made contributions
to our organization. \$ 268.34

TOTAL DONATIONS:	\$ 11,064.34
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EXPENDITURES:

Conference Registration	\$ 150.00
Delegate Registration	\$ 1,050.00
Hotel (2 Triple rooms @ \$194/night x 6 nights)	\$ 2,328.00
Hotel (2 Quads rooms @ \$204/night x 6 nights)	\$ 2,448.00
Airfare (14 tickets)	\$ 5,600.00
Taxi (La Guardia to hotel roundtrip)	\$ 200.00
<u>Shuttle (Round trip Las Cruces to El Paso)</u>	<u>\$ 460.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$ 12,236.00
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* Money raised at the dinner is not included in the above financial summary. Those proceeds have been placed aside in an account for next year's team. Those funds will assist the team during their startup process by minimizing their out of pocket expenses.

F. Community Service

As per our charter as a University Student Organization, the Model UN participated in both, on and off-campus community service projects during the fall semester. We helped set up the UPC Halloween Howl in October, where we hosted a story-telling booth, and we also participated in “Keep Las Cruces Beautiful” in which we volunteered to pick up trash around our community.

II. Preparation and Government 413 and 414

During the fall semester, the students focused on researching the historical background and structure of the United Nations. The primary activity during this semester was to apply for preferred country assignments. Until receiving our final assignment in November, preparation continued to concentrate on general United Nations topics.

During the spring semester, the group extensively researched issues pertinent to Philippines (our assigned country) including, but not limited to, social, political and economic dynamics. Work was divided among the group members who individually researched assigned topics in the country profile and then presented the information orally to the rest of the class. The group kept up to date on current events involving Philippines and the UN by accessing newspapers and websites daily.

In addition to our collective efforts to learn more about Philippines, each member was assigned to represent Philippines on a UN committee. The National Model United Nations organization supplied background guides for each committee. These guides proved to be useful leads for more in-depth research.

This was the fourth time that Government 413 “Model United Nations” was offered at the University, and the second time Government 414 “Advanced Model United Nations” was offered. Through the academic setting of these courses, students worked together researching Philippines, relevant domestic and international issues, and learned about one of the most important international organizations in the world - the UN. Unlike most lecture courses, Government 413 and 414 required students to be actively involved in team-directed preparation, some of which took place outside the classroom. Dr. Ackleson’s three goals for the course are: 1) Developing an understanding of the UN, international politics, and diplomacy; 2) fostering student research, speaking and diplomacy skills; 3) achieving literacy with current global issues, and the politics and culture of the country being represented at the time (in our case: Philippines). A corollary goal of Dr. Ackleson’s is to foster a global understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, difference, and inequality through critical thinking and a hands-on international activity.

III. National Conference in New York City

The 2005 National Model United Nations Conference was held at the Hilton Hotel in New York City, NY from March 22-26. The conference was comprised of 3,500 students from over 200 colleges and universities, from 23 different countries around the world, who all represented the UN Member States, NGOs and IGOs. This was NMSU's seventh year at the conference, having previously represented Israel, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ghana, the Republic of Haiti, Ecuador, Paraguay and this year - the Republic of the Philippines. We aim to make attendance at this conference an NMSU tradition, and look forward to next year.

A. **Committees:** As delegates from the Republic of the Philippines, we sat on 10 committees. The committees and the delegates who sat on them are as follows:

➤ **Head Delegate:** Leili Davari

- 1) **General Assembly Plenary:** Emily Maher and Jessica Rainey
- 2) **General Assembly Sixth:** Kyle Galloway and Chris Sánchez
- 3) **Security Council:** Matthew Garley
- 4) **Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:** Daniel Miera
- 5) **United Nations Commission on Trade and Development:** Sarah Amador and Andrea Padilla
- 6) **World Summit on Information Society:** Nathan Ortiz
- 7) **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women:** Brianne Bigej
- 8) **Inter-Parliamentary Union:** Marcia Mundt
- 9) **World Health Organization:** Esteban Torres
- 10) **Counter-Terrorism Committee:** Monica Morales

The delegation arrived in New York City three days prior to the beginning of the conference to allow for sightseeing. This year's delegation was a mix of

first time participants and returning delegates. Those who had not been previously involved in a similar simulation learned quickly how the system worked. The committees in general ranged from seven to over 200 delegations (including NGOs).

Committee work was a combination of speaking openly and publicly and working in informal sessions known as caucuses. Delegates were required to abide by the rules of parliamentary procedure and maintain decorum at all times. Persuasion, mediation and arbitration were used during four days of intense negotiations. Caucusing time was used to meet with regional and other voting blocs for the purpose of writing resolutions, reports or judicial opinions on topics or cases before the committees. This process illustrated how resolutions and written reports are created within the United Nations and other inter-governmental bodies.

Voting on resolutions was the final activity tackled by each committee. This process was extremely educational, in that it illustrated how resolutions and reports are amended and passed. *See an example of one of our resolutions in the Appendix .*

The culminating experience of the conference took place when delegates from each country present, were invited to vote in the Great Hall of the United Nations building. Each delegation was invited to sit in the actual seats of their assigned country. This experience was particularly meaningful, in that it represented the overall accomplishment of each delegation and provided a more direct and realistic contact with the United Nations.

Outside of the committees, the most educational experience was meeting the staff and representatives at the Permanent Mission of Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations. The Honorable Lauro Baja, the Ambassador to the United Nations from the Republic of the Philippines, spoke with the team about his country and the UN, and answered the students' questions about the Republic of the Philippines's position on pertinent global issues.

Undeniably, this conference was a highly educational and enriching experience that increased every student's understanding of the global political situation and the constraints of diplomatic interactions.

IV. Successes

Awards at the National Model United Nations Conference are given for two aspects of participation: position paper preparation and authentic conference participation. For the first time in NMSU history, our Model UN team was awarded Honorable Mention at the 2005 NMUN Conference.

During preparation and participation, the delegation faced their challenges with the object of recognition in mind. The entire team worked extremely hard and was recognized for their efforts at the National Conference by receiving an award for Honorable Mention.

As well as receiving Honorable Mention, we have been awarded with unparalleled, simulation-based educational experiences that will aid us in our academic and professional lives. With our current level of experience, we feel confident in our ability to continue achieving recognition in years to come.

In terms of other recognition for the NMSU team, Matthew Garley, our fourth year veteran, represented our delegation as a member of the Security Council Committee.

V. Next Year's Plan

Upon returning from New York and holding a debriefing session, our team developed progressive ideas for next year. Obtaining the necessary funds to attend the conference proved to be a challenge, but with increased funding from the University, area businesses and other feasible sources, we will establish the necessary competitive edge for next year's conference. With increased and/or more reliable funds, we can concentrate more fully on our preparatory effort. We are optimistic about the prospects for further success in this important activity, and hope to incorporate the community further.

We were able to successfully take 14 delegates this year, and it is our hope that the team and the elected officers for next year will continue to work together and support one another in all aspects of preparation. Elections were held on April 12th; candidates were compiled into a slate based on club needs and positions desired by interested candidates. The votes were taken and counted in accordance with the club's bylaws and the results are as follows:

2005-2006 NMSU Model United Nations Officers:

President: Chris Sanchez

Vice-President: Sarah Amador

Secretary: Open until the Fall Semester of 2005

Treasurer: Open until the Fall Semester of 2005

Member-at-Large: Open until the Fall Semester of 2005

The 2004-2005 Executive Board thanks the 2005 MUN team for their efforts, wishes the new officers well, and hopes that NMSU students will continue to reap the many benefits of participation in the Model United Nations.
