



October 3, 2018

Esteemed Delegates and Moderators:

The Saint John's School Model United Nations Club would like to formally invite you to the **SJSMUN XXI** Conference to be held on **November 9-10, 2018**.

It is with great pleasure that the Saint John's School Model United Nations Club hosts this year's third *Federación de Naciones Unidas de Puerto Rico* conference. SJSMUN XXI seeks to foster an intellectual and dynamic environment where delegates build up on their previous knowledge, engage in thought-provoking debate, and develop creative ideas aimed at problem solving while strengthening their diplomatic talents. By fomenting interest in current events and unfamiliar topics, SJSMUN XXI strives to provide delegates with a greater understanding of global issues past and present.

The Conference will consist of 6 Committees, each with a Dais composed of 2 members, represented by 2 different schools. The corresponding Chairs' Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 4th at 3:15 pm. Committee Briefings will be due on Monday, October 15, and will be released to member schools on or about Thursday, October 18. The final delegate roster will be sent out no later than Monday, October 22.

We sincerely hope SJSMUN XXI will be a productive, enjoyable and memorable experience for all and count on your cooperation to keep the conference running smoothly as we work together to promote the greater world understanding and brighter vision of tomorrow, consistent with the philosophy at the heart of Model United Nations. We wish delegates the best of luck in our competition. Should you have any doubts or concerns, please feel free to contact any of the undersigned. We await your participation eagerly!

Kindest regards,

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## **SJSMUN XXI**

### **Important Dates:**

- Dais Meeting: October 4, 2018, 3:15 pm
- Committee Briefing Distribution: October 18, 2018
- Delegation Assignment: October 22, 2018

### **Awards per committee:**

- Best Delegate - **1**
- Outstanding Delegation - **1**
- Distinguished Delegation - **1**
- Honorable Mention - **3-4** (Depending on committee size)
- Oral Mention - Discretion of the Dias

### **Itinerary:**

#### **Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

- 3:15 PM – 4:00 PM Registration (Gym)
- 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Opening Ceremonies (Gym)
- 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM Committee Session I - Delegates will be dismissed by Committee and led to debate rooms by their corresponding ushers.

#### **Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Complimentary Breakfast (Hurricane Center)
- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Committee Session II
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Lunch\* (Hurricane Center)
- 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM Committee Session III
- 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM Closing Ceremonies (Gym)

\* Lunch times will be staggered and provided during the Conference. Please note: Due to safety reasons, delegates will not be allowed to leave school grounds for lunch.



## **Committees:**

### **Disarmament and International Security Committee: Trump's Space Force**

On June 18, 2018, Donald Trump directed the Department of Defense and Pentagon to “immediately begin the process necessary to establish a ‘Space Force’ as the sixth branch of the Armed Forces.” This decision has been controversial among both Democrats and Republicans as it will require a substantial increase in government spending, which many consider excessive. Vice-President Mike Pence, in a speech at the Pentagon, confirmed that the Space Force would be established by 2020. The Department of Defense then released a fifteen-page document detailing the phases of how this branch would be created.

Delegates will represent different members of the US Government hailing from the three different branches (Executive, Judicial, and Legislative) as well as members of the US Armed Forces and the heads of states from other NATO countries. The main focus of this committee will be to debate over the pros and cons of a sixth branch of the armed forces, as well as the logistics of managing a separate space force when the U.S. currently lacks a domestic orbiter system.

### **Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee: Social Rating Systems**

The year is 2020 and China has completed the implementation of its social rating system, which assigns a point value to each citizen based upon their past social and economic actions. Citizens with low scores may experience restrictions on travel, internet speeds, admittance to prestigious schools, employment opportunities, among many others. Critics have characterized this system as Orwellian and criticized it for representing a gross violation of privacy and a tool for repression. Nevertheless, the Chinese government is pleased with the result, stressing it cultivates sincerity and trust in its citizens. Other countries, seeing possible benefits to be gained, have begun toying with the idea of implementing similar systems. Thus, the committee has convened to discuss the possible *implementation or prohibition* of such systems in the near future.

Delegates will represent many of the world's nations and corporations as they discuss the ethics and logistics of the matter at hand. The goal of the committee will be to establish the United Nations' unified view on social rating systems, a view that will no doubt impact the development of the world's socioeconomic landscape for all future generations.

### **Historical Crisis Committee: First Indochina War**

The First Indochina War began in French Indochina (present-day Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos) on 19 December 1946, and lasted until 20 July 1954. Fighting between French forces and their Viet Minh opponents in the south started as soon as Japan was defeated in World War II. The conflict pitted a range of forces, including the French Union's French Far East Expeditionary Corps, led by France and supported by the Vietnamese National Army, against the Viet Minh, led by Ho Chi Minh and the People's Army of Vietnam led by Vo Nguyen Giap. Most of the fighting took place in northern Vietnam, although the conflict engulfed the entire country and also extended into the neighboring French Indochina protectorates of Laos and Cambodia.



The committee's main focus will be on the conflict itself, with a secondary focus on the causes of the conflict, solutions to the conflict and different ways of governing the Indochina region – such as a continuation of the colonial system, a kingdom under Bao Dai, a socialist republic under Ho Chi Minh or a more federal system like that of the US.

### **Historical Committee: Congress of Vienna (1814)**

The Congress of Vienna, a meeting held in its namesake city from November 1814 to June 1815, provided the platform for ambassadors of European states chaired by Austrian statesman Klemens von Metternich, the preacher of conservatism during the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, to effectively reorganize Europe by concerting the most exhaustive treaty the continent had ever seen. The objective of the Congress was to provide a long-term peace plan for Europe by settling critical issues arising from the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.

This committee, beginning on November 1814, presents delegates with the opportunity to redraw the borders of Europe according to their vision with the goal of establishing lasting peace and stability through the balance of power, as well as ensuring prosperity for their individual states. Delegates can also explore the possibility of establishing a body by which issues of international relations could continue to be adapted after the conclusion of the Congress.

### **Puerto Rico Committee: Privatization of PREPA**

The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) has been a significant part of the economic bedrock of Puerto Rico's public sector since its inception in 1941. It is the sole provider of electricity to consumers in Puerto Rico. As a public corporation, the Puerto Rico government empowered PREPA to enter into contracts, acquire property and to issue municipal debt (i.e. bonds), among others. In recent years, PREPA has been widely criticized for corruption, bureaucracy, political patronage and inefficient administration.

Most recently, PREPA has come under scrutiny because it is estimated that \$9 billion of the approximate \$73 billion debt held by the government of Puerto Rico was generated by PREPA. All in all, PREPA owes more money than it is worth, and in July 2017, it filed a petition in the Puerto Rico federal court seeking under PROMESA.

According to its critics, PREPA operated for decades with virtually no regulations or oversight and its imprudent spending and maintenance failures have resulted in electricity in Puerto Rico costing over 50% more than in the rest of the US – a factor that can greatly inhibit economic growth of the island. To make matters worse, Hurricanes Irma and María crippled the already weak electric grid. The category 4-5 winds ripped and tore down cables, towers and other essential components of Puerto Rico's electrical infrastructure.

In an effort to reduce the crushing debt of the central government, governor Ricardo Roselló reportedly plans to initiate the process of selling off PREPA. This assembly, composed of notable players in both the public and private sectors of the Island, will task delegates with providing arguments either in favor or against the privatization of this major public company, as well as proposing plans on how to proceed with PREPA in the future. (For example: Should PREPA be sold off in pieces to the highest bidders? To whom should it be sold? Is PREPA worth saving? Can PREPA pay its bondholders? How should PREPA be structured if it were to remain a public corporation?)



### **World Health Organization: Need for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse**

Globally, an estimated 28 million years of “healthy” life were lost in 2015 due to premature deaths and disabilities caused by drug use, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In an age in which globalization and instant gratification abound, it is no surprise that substance abuse—the use of illicit drugs, alcohol, or other psychoactive substances in a harmful way, oftentimes creating a dangerous physical dependence—has risen to pose a critical world problem that affects nations on all ends of the spectrum of size and development. Around 3.3 million deaths worldwide are attributed to alcohol abuse and 15.3 million individuals suffer drug abuse disorders. If the rising death toll of the current opioid epidemic is any indication (approximately 72,000 people died from drug overdoses in the US in 2017), adjustments to public policies and healthcare systems must be effected in order to mitigate or solve this major health issue.

Thus, the committee will focus itself on approaches to alleviate the substance abuse crisis, such as furthering research on effective treatment of abuse, developing better regulations on the distribution of prescription drugs, designing better evaluations of the observable health impacts, revisiting the criminalization of drug abuse, and much more.



### **Delegation Fee**

- ❑ The cost for each delegation will be **\$10 per delegate** upon Registration. In order to receive its placard, the Delegation must pay this fee. Any misplaced or lost placard will be replaced at an additional cost.

### **Delegate Code of Conduct**

- ❑ Appropriate and professional behavior must be exhibited by everybody, at all times, during the Saint John's Model United Nations Conference. If any disciplinary infraction arises, the Secretary-General and the Moderators have the right to disqualify a delegate. Any act of dishonesty by any member of the Conference will also be addressed by said officials. In addition, Saint John's School strictly prohibits the consumption and presence of illicit substances on school campus, e.g. smoking of any kind is strictly prohibited.

### **Dress Code**

- ❑ All delegates must adhere to western business attire for the entirety of the competition. Delegates are expected to look clean and respectable.
  - ❑ Gentlemen are required to wear a business suit or jacket/slacks, with tie; dress shoes and dress socks must be worn.
  - ❑ Ladies may wear slacks or knee-length skirts or dresses. Strapless, overly revealing, or spaghetti-strapped tops are not permitted. A jacket or cardigan is highly recommended.
  - ❑ Tennis shoes, flip-flops, inappropriate or offensive graphic tees and/or accessories, shorts and denim are strictly prohibited.
- ❑ Adherence to the dress code will be checked on both days of the competition by the Secretary-General and the Under Secretary-General, as well as *Federación* Moderators.
- ❑ In the event a delegate that does not comply with the dress code, his/her Moderator will be notified and diplomacy-points will be deducted.

### **Parliamentary procedure:**

#### Motion to Open Committee:

- ❑ Opens the committee session at the beginning of the Conference and each subsequent session. It requires an immediate vote and passes with a simple majority.

#### Motion to Recess Committee:

- ❑ Ends the committee session until the next session. The motion is most commonly made to end a committee session for the purpose of lunch. It requires an immediate vote and passes with a simple majority.

#### Motion to Close Committee:

- ❑ Ends the committee session at the end of the Conference. Usually occurs after a resolution has passed and amendments have been made. It requires an immediate vote and passes with a simple majority.

#### Point of Order/ Point of Parliamentary Procedure:



- ❑ Used when delegates believe the chair has made an error in the running of the committee. They should only specify the errors they believe were made in the formal committee procedure.

#### Point of Information:

- ❑ Used to ask the chairperson regarding the rules of procedure or the flow of the debate. They should phrase this in the form of a question. Most often used to clarify an item that a previous speaker mentioned.

#### Point of Personal Privilege:

- ❑ Used to inform the chairperson of a physical discomfort a delegate is experiencing, such as the inability to hear another delegate's speech.

#### Right of Reply:

- ❑ A right to speak in reply to a previous speaker's comment, invoked when a delegate feels personally insulted by another's speech. Requires a written note to the Chair to be invoked.

#### Moderated Caucus:

- ❑ A type of caucus in which delegates remain seated and the Chair calls on them one at a time to speak for a short period of time, enabling a freer exchange of opinions than would be possible in formal debate.

#### Unmoderated Caucus:

- ❑ A type of caucus in which delegates leave their seats to mingle and speak freely. Enables the free sharing of ideas to an extent not possible in formal debate or even a moderated caucus. Frequently used to sort countries into blocs and to write working papers and draft resolutions.

#### Formal Debate (Speaker's List):

- ❑ Revolves around a speakers list. The Chair begins by asking all delegates interested in addressing the other members to raise their placards. The Chair then chooses delegates to be placed on the speakers list. A country may only be on the speakers list once, but delegates may add their country to the end of the list after their speech.

#### Voting Procedure

- ❑ After the Chair has announced the start of voting procedures, no interruptions are allowed except for points of order connected with the actual conduct of the voting.
- ❑ Procedural voting such as for opening of committee session, motions, or closing of committee require every member to vote either in favor or against, with no abstentions. Passes with a simple majority. Once resolution voting begins, no one is allowed to enter or leave the committee room. Delegates may vote in favor, in favor with rights, against, against with rights, or abstain. Those who voted with rights must explain their reasoning in a brief speech addressing the committee.

#### Abstentions (which are allowed on both the resolution as a whole and amendments)

- ❑ do not count either for or against the adoption of a motion, i.e. a resolution passes if the number in favor exceeds the number against regardless of the number of abstentions.

#### Resolutions

- ❑ Sponsors:



- the principal authors of the document and agree with its substance. They are the ones that represent the resolution when it is up for debate. The number of sponsors is determined by the chairs.
- Signatories:
  - countries that may or may not agree with the substance of the draft resolution but still wish to see it debated so that they can propose amendments.
- Friendly amendment:
  - a change to the draft resolution that all sponsors agree with. After the amendment is signed by all of the draft resolution sponsors and approved by the committee director or president, it will be automatically incorporated into the resolution.
- Unfriendly amendment:
  - a change that some or all of the draft resolution sponsors do not support and must be voted upon by the committee.



Sample Preambulatory Clauses:

Affirming	Expecting	Desiring
Alarmed by	Expressing its appreciation	Emphasizing
Approving	Having examined	Fulfilling
Bearing in mind	Having received	Fully aware
Believing	Keeping in mind	Further deploring
Confident	Noting with deep concern	Further recalling
Contemplating	Noting with satisfaction	Guided by
Convinced	Noting further	Having adopted
Declaring	Observing	Having considered
Expecting	Reaffirming	Recalling
Emphasizing	Realizing	Recognizing
Expecting	Deeply concerned	Referring
Expressing its appreciation	Deeply conscious	Seeking
Fulfilling	Deeply convinced	Taking into consideration
Fully aware	Deeply Disturbed	Taking note
Emphasizing	Deeply Regretting	Viewing with appreciation

Sample Operative Clauses:

Accepts	Endorses	Further requests
Affirms	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Approves	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Authorizes	Further invites	Notes
Calls	Deplores	Proclaims
Calls upon	Designates	Reaffirms
Condemns	Draws the attention	Recommends
Confirms	Emphasizes	Regrets
Congratulates	Encourages	Reminds
Considers	Endorses	Requests
Declares accordingly	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Deplores	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Designates	Further invites	Supports
Draws the attention	Further proclaims	Takes note of
Emphasizes	Further reminds	Transmits
Encourages	Further recommends	