

GatorMUNIX

COUNCIL OF THE ACHEAEAN FORCES



Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Claudia Da Silva and I will be your director for GatorMUN IX: Lycomedes, King of Skyros. I am a fourth year undergraduate student at the University of Florida, pursuing a degree in Political Science, with a minor in Business Administration, and a certificate in International Relations, as well as the President of the University of Florida's Model United Nations team. While my degree may be in Political Science, I would like to pursue a field in International Public Relations after I graduate in May of 2012.

I have been involved in Model United Nations since the second semester of my freshman year, when three weeks after joining MUN, I was unceremoniously thrown into my first conference ever, representing the Gambia in the Islamic Development Bank in a crisis committee. While assembly committees are amazing chances to get to know and learn MUN procedure, I am absolutely obsessed with crisis committees. Two years ago, I finally got the chance to participate in a crisis committee from the other side. I was privileged enough to be Assistant Director for the Roman Senate Crisis Committee at GatorMUN VII. It was an amazing opportunity to see the effort and skill that goes into effectively running a crisis committee. Last year, I was lucky enough to be able to direct a crisis of my own creation, The Special Wartime Committee for the Ministry of Magic –yes, it was a committee based on the world of Harry Potter.; an opportunity which I thoroughly relished! I believe that my experience on the delegate's side, in conjunction with my experience on the director's side of a crisis committee have given me the knowledge and ability to make this committee run smoothly and successfully.

As a senior this will be the last GatorMUN committee that I will chair, and the opportunity to turn such an interesting topic into a committee that means the world to me. Ever since I read the *Iliad* in high school, the warriors of Ancient Greece and Troy held me captive under their collective spell. Their dramatized tales of war, gold, glory, and strength enthralled me, and called to mind a time when a man's honor was the most valuable thing he possessed. Together, I hope that we can travel back to this legendary time in Ancient Achaea when the country we know today as Greece had not even been formed yet, and when all that these warriors had left was their honor, and were willing to do anything to preserve it.

Your Assistant Director will be Laurel Marzek, and she will be representing King Lycomedes' Chief Political Adviser. Laurel is in her fourth year at the University of Florida, and

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is double majoring in History and Political Science, with a certificate in International Relations. She became involved in Model UN through the UF Model UN club and this will be her third year on staff for GatorMUN. She is a member of the Gator Marching Band, Sigma Kappa Sorority, and the Women's Leadership Council. She is very excited for this crisis committee and is highly looking forward to seeing you all at the conference!

Due to the fact that this committee is a crisis, the committee will run in a manner that is less formal than traditional General Assembly committees. However, do not take this to mean that the committee is not as serious. While the topic of our committee may be somewhat out of the norm, I expect as much respect and diligence as a traditional committee would garner. At the beginning of the first committee session, a one-page, size 10 font, *printed* position paper will be required of each delegate, detailing their character's motivations, their strategies regarding the retrieval of Helen, as well as their opinion on possible war with Troy, and any other ideas that will help the committee meet its goals. A sample position paper is available for your perusal at the GatorMUN website; a position paper is a great way to organize not only your thoughts on the committee, but your research as well.

If anyone has any questions, concerns, or comments regarding any aspect of this committee (including the background guide), please do not hesitate to contact me at gatormun@gmail.com, and specify that you have a question regarding The Council of the Achaean Forces committee.

Claudia Da Silva, Director
8th Century BCE The Council of the Achaean Forces



Committee History

When the line of Perseus, son of Zeus, slayer of the Gorgon Medusa, and founder of Mycenae came to an end, a new king had to be found to rule Mycenae. The Oracle at Delphi proposed two possibilities: Thyestes or his brother Atreus, both from the line of Pelops. The Oracle explained that whichever brother could make the sun rise in the west and set in the east would be king. Atreus, with some help from the deities Hermes and Zeus, completed the challenge and became King of Mycenae. However, Atreus found out that his brother Thyestes tried to cheat during the challenge and, in order to get revenge, Atreus murdered Thyestes's children. In his anger, Thyestes cursed Atreus and all of his descendants. Atreus later had two sons, Agamemnon and Menelaus, both of whom also bore the curse that Thyestes had placed upon his brother. Eventually, Thyestes overthrew Atreus and named himself King of Mycenae, at which point Agamemnon and Menelaus fled to the island of Sparta and settled there under the protection of King Tyndarius of Sparta.

The wife of King Tyndarius was named Leda. Zeus took an interest in Leda and she ended up having four children: two mortals, Castor and Clytemnestra, whose father was Tyndarius; and two demigods, Polydeuces and Helen, whose father was Zeus. When

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Agamemnon and Menelaus fled to Sparta under the protection of King Tyndarius, Agamemnon married the king's daughter Clytemnestra. However, Helen was the most beautiful woman in the world and had many suitors including Ajax, Odysseus, Patroclus, Philoctetes, and Menelaus. Due to the excessive attention towards Helen, King Tyndarius was worried that the suitors would fight over her and commence a war. It was then that the quick-witted Odysseus came up with a solution: all of the suitors would draw lots for Helen, and whoever won would marry her. Additionally, all of the suitors made a pact that if anyone tried to take Helen from the winner, all of the suitors would unite to pursue the offender and return Helen to her husband. Menelaus won, married King Tyndarius's daughter Helen, and Menelaus became the next King of Sparta.

Previously, Peleus, son of Aeacus, king of the island of Aegina, had married Thetis, a sea-nymph, with whom he would have a son, Achilles. The wedding was a grand affair and all of the deities were invited to attend, with the exception of Eris, patroness of strife and discord, for fear that she would end the marriage before it would even occur. Eris showed up at the wedding anyway, and into the middle of the room, she threw a golden apple taken from the Garden of the Hesperides inscribed with the words "for the fairest one." Immediately, Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite all fought over the apple, each claiming to be the most beautiful deity. To solve the dispute, the three deities asked a shepherd boy on Mount Ida to choose the fairest one of the three. The shepherd boy was in actuality Paris, a son of the Trojan king, Priam. King Priam was married to Hecabe, and when she was pregnant with Paris, she had a dream that her next child would become the destroyer of Troy. Due to this prophetic dream, once Paris was born, King Priam abandoned the baby on Mount Ida leaving it for dead, so that Hecabe's dream would never eventuate. However, a shepherd found baby Paris and raised him as a peasant. When the deities came to Paris, he did not know that he was a prince of Troy. Each deity offered Paris a bribe to say that she was the most beautiful: Hera offered power over the entire world; Athena offered a victorious military career; and Aphrodite offered him the love of the most beautiful woman in the world. Entranced by her, Paris named Aphrodite the fairest one, and in return she gave him Helen of Sparta, the most beautiful woman in the world. There was only one problem: Helen was already married to Menelaus, King of Sparta. Shortly after the 'Judgment of Paris' his true identity as a Prince of Troy was discovered, and he traveled to Sparta in a Trojan ship. When Menelaus was away at a funeral, Paris took Helen, and Menelaus' gold, to Troy. This misfortune befell Menelaus due to the curse of Thyestes which Menelaus, as a descendent of Atreus, bore.

Menelaus then called upon his brother, Agamemnon, and the other suitors who had sworn to protect Helen, and their various armies gathered at the port of Aulis on the coast of Boeotia. The prophet Calchas foresaw that the Greeks would never be able to take Troy without the help of Achilles, son of Peleus and Thetis. Thetis had tried to hide Achilles on the island of Skyros and disguised him as a girl to keep him from fighting in the war. The Greeks eventually saw through the disguise, when he stopped to peruse weapons rather than jewelry at the marketplace, and discovered Achilles, who gladly agreed to fight in the war.

We are in the 8th century BCE and Helen, Queen of Sparta has just jeopardized Greek-Trojan relations by fleeing Sparta with Paris of Troy. After the recruitment of Achilles to their

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cause, the independent Greek city-states have come together on the island of Skyros, under the leadership of the most powerful leader, Agamemnon of Mycenae, to decide upon retribution for this offense to the Achaeans. As of now, the Pantheon of Deities has chosen not to intervene in these affairs of mere mortals; but contingent upon the actions of their favored warriors, the deities may yet decide to interfere. The Aegean is on the cusp of war, and it will be up to our Council to determine the fate of our people, and whether Helen of Sparta is worth launching a thousand ships for, or if her abduction can be resolved diplomatically, and if not, it will be upon us to decide the fate of the Aegean, and launch the campaign that will surely come to be known as the Trojan War.

Positions

Achilles: Leader of the Myrmidons

Considered the greatest warrior of the Achaeans, Achilles led the elite fighting troop of the Myrmidons. While he may excel in battle, he feels no loyalty to the battle or Agamemnon, and he is initially motivated solely by his quest for glory. He is also quick to anger, and can hold a grudge as long as it takes until he is appeased.

Agamemnon: King of Mycenaea

A boastful and prideful individual, Agamemnon became the commander-in-chief of the Achaeans before their departure for Troy. As brother to Menelaus, he seeks to visit revenge upon the Trojans by dishonoring and making a mockery of his brother, although he is very much motivated by greed. Due to his haughtiness, Agamemnon and Achilles are usually at odds with one another.

Antilochus: Commander of the Pyliaus

A Prince of Pylos and would-be-suitor of Helen's, he is known for being quick and for being an excellent charioteer. He is also a close friend of Achilles' and one of the few people whose council he will listen to. He is one of the youngest princes engaged in this conflict, but he is also a very courageous warrior.

Calchas: Chief Augur and Prophet of the Greeks

An Argive seer, Calchas' skill in prophesy is unrivaled. However, he is not only present at The Council for his skills as a seer, but also because of his wisdom. As a respected seer, his counsel is held in high esteem by the Kings of Achaea, as well as warriors.

Diomedes of the Argives: Skilled Greek Fighter

Alongside Telemonian Ajax, and after Achilles, Diomedes is considered the best of all Achaean fighters. Not only is he cunning, but he is also patient, courageous, and intelligent, much like his friend Odysseus. He is also very mature, and considered the greatest Achaean leader.

Idomeneus: King of Crete

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Idomeneus is one of Helen's would-be-suitors, as well as one of Agamemnon's most trusted advisers. As a general he ranks as one of the best, preferring to meet the enemy head-on in lieu of engaging in much subterfuge.

Locrian Ajax (Ajax the Lesser): Leader of the Locrians

One of the greatest heroes of the Achaeans, Locrian Ajax is skilled with a spear, and second only to Achilles, as the swiftest Achaean. As a prince of Locris, he will have command of forty Locrian ships in action against the Trojans. Although a skilled warrior, he is also brash and impetuous.

Machaon: Healer

Along with his brother Podalirius, he commands an army from Thessaly. He is also a very skilled medic and surgeon, and because of these skills he is highly respected within The Council and by all the warriors.

Menelaus: King of Sparta

As the husband of Helen, Menelaus was wronged by Paris and both his honor and pride were bruised when Helen fled Sparta. Due to the promise made by the would-be-suitors of Helen to rescue her should any man try to steal her from her husband, Menelaus is at the forefront of this conflict with the Trojans.

Menestheus: King of Athens

Another would-be-suitor of Helen's; Menestheus has fifty black ships ready to sail from Scyros in event of war against the Trojans. He is not a valiant individual, but is very wily and able in figuring out how to make things go his way.

Nestor: King of Pylos

One of the oldest involved in the conflict against Troy, King Nestor is 110 years old, and known for his bravery as a past Argonaut. He is also known for his speaking abilities, evidenced by the fact that he often gives advice to younger warriors, and is usually called to be an intermediary between Achilles and Agamemnon.

Odysseus: King of Ithaca

He is also known as Odysseus the Cunning for his intelligence and resourcefulness. He is one of the greatest champions of the Achaean cause, as well as one of the most trusted and listened to advisers. He is also a cunning warrior in battle.

Polypoetes: Leader of the Lapithae

Another one of Helen's would-be-suitors; Polypoetes is a native of Gyrtone and a leader of the Lapithaeon forces. Alongside Leonteus, he holds command of forty ships under his father, Pirithous. He is known as a brave and mighty warrior.

Telemonian Ajax (Ajax the Greater)



Along with Diomedes, Telemonian Ajax is known as the best Achaean fighter, after Achilles. He is also known as the strongest of the Achaeans, and a vicious, strong and powerful warrior with a large amount of intelligence in combat.

Teucer, son of Telamon: Great Archer

Half-brother and battle companion of Telemonian Ajax. Although he is the nephew of King Priam of Troy, and cousin Hector and Paris, he fights for the Achaeans. He is known as the greatest archer among the Achaeans.

Committee Description

Since this is a crisis committee, the rules of procedure will be somewhat different than those of the standard Model United Nations General Assembly committees that you are probably familiar with. This committee will be operated as a joint crisis committee, in that the actions undertaken by this committee will have an impact on the actions and decision making of our sister committee. It is important for you as delegates to understand that all of your notes and communications to the other committee will be read by myself, the crisis coordinator and staff, and the Director of The Council of Trojan Forces. Therefore, while we encourage and appreciate creativity on your part, we will decide whether your communiqués are in line with the direction of the committee.

During this committee, whatever actions, communiqués, or directives the delegates set into motion, will lead to a timely response or negation from the party in question in the form of either a personal message or an announcement to the whole committee. In order to accommodate for this, the rules of debate shall be less strict than those of a General Assembly.

There will be no speaker's list in this committee; instead the majority of debate will be carried out through moderated caucuses with speaking time decided at the opening of each committee session. Each speaker will be chosen in turn by either myself or the assistant director, and that speaker will have a limited time to make whatever point or argument they wish. For the purpose of updating The Council on developments in the Ancient Greek world, several guest speakers will periodically appear to speak in front of the committee; however, guest speakers can be requested by sending a note up to the dais. Delegates may also move to enter, and vote on entering, an un-moderated caucus, during which time delegates may caucus, and form plans of actions, as well as act upon any relevant updates introduced to The Council.

An additional difference from the standard MUN format you are most likely accustomed to is that resolutions are not the instruments of policy creation. Instead, decisions will be carried out by way of directives: short messages that will explain a course of action, such as legislation, or battle plans. Directives must be signed by three members of The Council to be put to a vote, and then must receive approval of 50% +1 of The Council to be put into action. When a directive is completed and turned in, there will be a pause in debate (at my or the Assistant Director's discretion) for the reading of, discussion of, making amendments to (if necessary,) and

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voting on said directive. Any directives that are passed will immediately take action, and our crisis staff shall decide the logical and realistic results of the action, which will soon be announced to the committee. Bear in mind that as acting host to this council, I have the final say if a directive is passed or not; however, I will respect you all as members of The Council and not veto a directive unless it lacks any historical plausibility. I shall review all committee rules and procedures with the delegates at the beginning of the conference, so if there is some aspect of the committee you don't understand now, you will have a chance to ask for clarification before debate starts.

Also, delegates will have portfolio powers: the ability to act unilaterally (without the approval or cognizance of The Council), pending the approval of our crisis staff. This can be done by sending a note up to the dais stating your plans. Portfolio powers generally encompass the powers that your character would have in ancient Achaea. Upon arrival in committee, all delegates will receive dossiers that will further enlighten them on the motives of their characters within the Council. However, these dossiers are not to be used as a substitution to research, but rather as compliments to research, as they will be brief. Also, keep in mind that due to the nature of our committee, time will move at the chair's discretion.

I must also add that because our committee is in fact a joint crisis committee alongside The Council of Trojan Forces, it is imperative that anything discussed within our committee sessions is kept quite. It would indubitably spoil the nature of the joint crisis if our plans leaked to the Trojan Forces, for it would give them insight into our strategies, as well as a leg up in negotiations and dealings with our committee. Please, do not reveal any information about our committee to any friends, classmates, acquaintances, etc that you may have whom are participating in The Council of Trojan Forces.

Topics

Due to the fact that this is a crisis committee, The Council of Achaean Forces shall have only one formal topic set before it. However, subtopics, repercussions, and new developments will arise throughout the committee in response to the actions set forth by The Council, as well as by crises that will take place within the world of the Achaeans. All of these are to be addressed by The Council, and it shall then take measures to resolve them as well. The missions of The Council are as follows: to retrieve Helen of Sparta diplomatically, failing that, the Council is to retrieve her at any cost to avenge Menelaus, and restore honor to the Achaeans. It is not a simple goal, by any means, but you will have the resources to achieve it. In order to accomplish this objective, The Council must outwit, outfight, and outperform the Trojans. The manner of strategy and counter-strategy that The Council will be waging against the Trojans will be decided in committee by the delegates themselves.

We are in the 8th century BCE, and all of the great kings of the city-states of have come together on the island of Skyros. Agamemnon of Mycenae, brother of Menelaus has become the chief of the Achaean Forces, but the host, Lycomedes, King of Skyros, has taken over as mediator for this Council as it prepares to do whatever it takes to return Helen to her rightful

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husband, and avenge themselves upon the Trojans. This Council is the Achaeans first joint stand against a common enemy, as they prepare for what could possibly become a battle of epic proportions, which may live on in infamy and legend throughout the ages.

In order to ensure the return of Helen, The Council is advised to take many different aspects of diplomacy and war into account. The following issues will most likely come up in committee, so please prepare adequately:

- A. Deciding whether or not to engage in war to retrieve Helen, or attempt to retrieve her through diplomatic means.
- B. The deities have thus far chosen to remain neutral in this endeavor; however, should they choose to take sides in the conflict, The Council must be prepared to take measures to appease them.
- C. In the event that war should eventuate, The Council must be familiar with Achaean battle strategy, troop movement, and weaponry.
- D. The Trojans. It may seem rather obvious, but take care to research the Trojans; their armies, allies, weaponry, etc. Know your enemies better than you know yourselves.

All of these issues may become relevant to the main objective of The Council. They are not listed in any particular order, but rather all fit the goal of The Council. During the first committee session, there will be a brief presentation informing committee members of any changes in the status quo of the Achaean world, as well as any plans currently in motion to retrieve Helen, and any reconnaissance provided by our allies. However, this is not a substitute for doing your own research. Due to the complexity of the Ancient Achaean world, and the subject matter, I cannot stress enough the importance of doing thorough research into the topics of The Council.

Research and Preparation

This Council takes place right after the abduction of Helen, and the enlistment of Achilles into The Council of the Achaean Forces, but before the official commencement of the Trojan War. By starting this committee before the war even begins, it makes it possible for us to change the course of history by eliminating the need for The Trojan War, or by utilizing different battle strategies.

While the *Iliad*, written by Homer, should be your primary source of research and information for this committee, keep in mind that the *Iliad* begins *in media res*, that is to say in the middle of the story and near the end of the war. Therefore, while you may take information about characters, the Aegean world, strategy, weapons, etc we will not be sticking to the timeline of the epic, nor are the events that occur in it guaranteed to happen in our ancient Achaean world.

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This Council of the Achaean Forces is a council that I have made up, and fits into the timeline set forth by the *Iliad*; you will not find mention of it in the epic or any historical texts. While we encourage you to be creative in your solutions and suggestions for this committee and not stick solely to the storyline of the poem, all references and events that will be used will be based on information from the *Iliad*, and other sources from antiquity. While the movie *Troy*, starring Eric Bana and Brad Pitt, may be an epic blockbuster and a very enjoyable film, it is not very historically accurate, and therefore should not be used as a basis for research.

Since you never know what will be thrown at you during a crisis, be sure, when reading your research, that you pay attention to other details besides the possible topics listed. Please consider the following questions while researching:

- What is your character's stance on the abduction of Helen?
- What is your character's stance on the possibility of war against Troy?
- How important does your character believe Helen's recovery is?
- What can your specific character do to help the Achaeans during the conflict?
- How can your character contribute to the rescue/war effort? Number of ships, number of warriors, weapons, etc?
- In case they decide to interfere with the conflict, what are your character's links to certain deities, and what powers do those deities possess?
- What solutions will you propose for the possible topics listed and how can your character's expertise aid this?

Also, because this is a historical committee, historical wear will be allowed, and even encouraged, as long as proper western business attire is worn beneath the historical clothes. However, please keep in mind that warriors preparing for the possibility of war, would most likely *not* dress in togas, but rather their armor. Weapons during The Council will be forbidden, as they would insult other members of The Council, and be viewed as a sign of mistrust (also it is University of Florida policy to not have weapons or anything that resembles a weapon on campus).

Both Laurel and I look forward to seeing you in February, and we hope you are as excited as we are for this committee! When you do show up in committee, I beg you to remember the words of a very wise, albeit Trojan-allied, warrior: "Give our enemy glory or win it for ourselves!"



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