

GatorMUN XVI

Background Guide



Press Corps

Distinguished/Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to GatorMUN XVI! I am excited to serve as your director for the Press Corps committee, and by extension, your Editor-In-Chief of the Gator Tribune. My name is Grace King and I am a telecommunication news senior at the University of Florida. This is my third year as a part of UF Model United Nations, but I fell in love with Model UN six years ago in high school here in Florida. This will be my 22nd conference as either a delegate or staffer. I'm currently a senior reporter, producer and anchor for the National Public Radio and Public Broadcasting Service affiliates (WUFT News) in Gainesville. Additionally, I served as photo editor for three semesters at the Independent Florida Alligator newspaper. During my time with those two publications, I covered the March for Our Lives in D.C., Hurricane Maria's aftermath in Puerto Rico, Richard Spencer's visit to UF, and the Pulse Nightclub Shooting anniversary. I've also spent more than six months at NBC News, working in Washington, D.C. on the historic "Meet the Press," Sunday show, and in New York City on the network's Decision Desk helping put calls in for midterm races across the country. With that said, I hope my experience will contribute to making your Press Corps experience as realistic and educational as possible. Press Corps is an exciting, yet challenging committee that takes a unique role at GatorMUN. While we will convene at the beginning and end of each session, most of your time will be spent in various committee rooms gathering information, interviews, photos and videos to share with the rest of the conference.

There is no position paper required for this committee, but please take the time to familiarize yourself with AP Style, last year's blog (<https://gatormunpress.wixsite.com/2018>), and our Twitter account (@GatorMUN) ahead of committee. You will be producing similar content to give those delegates outside of the room a digital seat at the table.

As far as conference materials go, please bring a laptop computer to write your articles and a pen/paper for reporting outside of the Gator Tribune newsroom. Tablets will not be sufficient for writing your articles. A digital camera is also encouraged, but not mandatory.

I cannot wait to meet you all in January and work with everyone to produce some amazing content! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at info@gatormun.org.

Go Gators,
Grace King
Director, Press Corps

Rules of Procedure

Quorum

A majority of voting members answering to the roll at each session shall constitute a quorum for that session. This means that half plus one of all voting members are physically present. Quorum will be assumed consistent unless questioned through a Point of Order. Delegates may request to be noted as “Present” or “Present and Voting.”

ompany any motion for a Moderated Caucus. In a Motion to Set Speaking Time, a delegate may also specify a number of questions or comments to automatically affix to the Speaking Time. These designated questions or comments may also have Speaking Time or Response Time (in the case of a question) limits, but these are not required. The Director may rule any Motion to Set Speaking Time dilatory. This motion requires a simple majority. Any delegate may make this motion between formal speakers in an effort to change the Speaking Time.

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of a Moderated Caucus

This motion must include three specifications

- a. Length of the Caucus
- b. Speaking Time. and
- c. Reason for the Caucus

During a moderated caucus, delegates will be called on to speak by the Committee Director. Delegates will raise their placards to be recognized. Delegates must maintain the same degree of decorum throughout a Moderated Caucus as in formal debate. This motion requires a simple majority to pass.

Motion to Suspend the Rules for the Purpose of an Unmoderated Caucus

This motion must include the length of the Caucus. During an unmoderated caucus, delegates may get up from their seats and talk amongst themselves. This motion requires a simple majority to pass. The length of an unmoderated caucus in a Crisis committee should not exceed fifteen minutes.

Motion to Suspend the Meeting

This motion is in order if there is a scheduled break in debate to be observed (i.e. Lunch). This motion requires a simple majority vote. The Committee Director may refuse this motion at their discretion.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

This motion is in order at the end of the last committee session. It signifies the closing of the committee until next year’s conference.

Points of Order

Points of Order will only be recognized for the following items:

- a) To recognize errors in voting, tabulation, or procedure,
- b) To question relevance of debate to the current Topic or
- c) To question a quorum.

A Point of Order may interrupt a speaker if necessary and it is to be used sparingly.

Points of Inquiry

When there is no discussion on the floor, a delegate may direct a question to the Committee Director. Any question directed to another delegate may only be asked immediately after the delegate has finished speaking on a substantive matter. A delegate that declines to respond to a question after a formal speech forfeits any further questioning time. The question must conform to the following format:

Delegate from Country A raises placard to be recognized by the Committee Director.

Committee Director: "To what point do you rise?"

Country A: "Point of Inquiry."

Committee Director: "State your Point."

Country A: "Will the delegate from Country B (who must have just concluded a substantive speech) yield to a question?"

Committee Director: "Will the Delegate Yield?"

Country B: "I will" or "I will not" (if not, return to the next business item)

Country A asks their question (it must not be a rhetorical question.)

Country B may choose to respond or to decline.

If the Delegate from Country B does not yield to or chooses not to answer a question from Country A, then he/she yields all remaining questioning time to the Committee Director.

Points of Personal Privilege

Points of personal privilege are used to request information or clarification and conduct all other business of the body except Motions or Points specifically mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.

Please note: The Director may refuse to recognize Points of Order, Points of Inquiry or Points of Personal Privilege if the Committee Director believes the decorum and restraint inherent in the exercise has been violated, or if the point is deemed dilatory in nature.

Rights of Reply

At the Committee Director's discretion, any member nation or observer may be granted a Right of Reply to answer serious insults directed at the dignity of the delegate present. The Director has the ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY to accept or reject Rights of Reply, and the decision IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL.

Delegates who feel they are being treated unfairly may take their complaint to any member of the Secretariat.

Directives

Directives act as a replacement for Draft Resolutions when in Crisis committees, and are the actions that the body decides to take as a whole. Directives are not required to contain operative or preambulatory clauses. A directive should contain:

- a. The name(s) of the author(s),
- b. A title, and

- c. A number of signatories/sponsors signatures' necessary to introduce, determined by the Director

A simple majority vote is required to introduce a directive, and multiple directives may be introduced at once. Press releases produced on behalf of the body must also be voted on as Directives.

Friendly Amendments

Friendly Amendments are any changes to a formally introduced Directive that *all* Sponsors agree to in writing. The Committee Director must approve the Friendly Amendment and confirm each Sponsor's agreement both verbally and in writing.

Unfriendly Amendments

Unfriendly Amendments are any substantive changes to a formally introduced Directive that are not agreed to by all of the Sponsors of the Directive. In order to introduce an Unfriendly Amendment, the Unfriendly Amendment must be the number equivalent to 1/3 of Quorum confirmed signatories. The Committee Director has the authority to discern between substantive and nonsubstantive Unfriendly amendment proposals.

Plagiarism

GatorMUN maintains a zero-tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism. Delegates found to have used the ideas of others without properly citing those individuals, organizations, or documents will have their credentials revoked for the duration of the GatorMUN conference. This is a very serious offense.

Crisis Notes

A crisis note is an action taken by an individual in a Crisis committee. Crisis notes do not need to be introduced or voted on, and should be given to the Crisis Staff by sending the notes to a designated pickup point in each room. A crisis note should both be addressed to crisis and have the delegate's position on both the inside and outside of the note.

Motion to Enter Voting Procedure

Once this motion passes, and the committee enters Voting Procedure, no occupants of the committee room may exit the Committee Room, and no individual may enter the Committee Room from the outside. A member of the Dias will secure all doors.

- No talking, passing notes, or communicating of any kind will be tolerated during voting procedures.
- Each Directive will be read to the body and voted upon in the order which they were introduced. Any Proposed Unfriendly Amendments to each Directive will be read to the body and voted upon before the main body of the Directive as a whole is put to a vote.
- Delegates who requested to be noted as "Present and Voting" are unable to abstain during voting procedure. Abstentions will not be counted in the tallying of a majority. For example, 5 yes votes, 4 no votes, and 7 abstentions means that the Directive passes.
- The Committee will adopt Directives and Unfriendly Amendments to Directives if these documents pass with a simple majority. Specialized committees should refer to their background guides or Committee Directors for information concerning specific voting procedures.

Roll Call Voting

A counted placard vote will be considered sufficient unless any delegate to the committee motions for a Roll Call Vote. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the committee must comply. All delegates must vote: "For," "Against," "Abstain," or "Pass." During a Roll Call vote, any delegate who answers, "Pass," reserves his/her vote until the Committee Director has exhausted the Roll. However, once the Committee Director returns to "Passing" Delegates, they must vote: "For" or "Against."

Accepting by Acclamation

This motion may be stated when the Committee Director asks for points or motions. If a Roll Call Vote is requested, the motion to Accept by Acclamation is voided. If a delegate believes a Directive will pass without opposition, he or she may move to accept the Directive by acclamation. The motion passes unless a single delegate shows opposition. An abstention is not considered opposition. Should the motion fail, the committee will move directly into a Roll Call Vote.

Background

Any journalist has the basic responsibility of telling a story. As a member of an international press corps, you will take that responsibility further and translate national stories for an international audience. Before you receive your first assignment, we will discuss ethics, translation methods between audiences, and how to get a story across in a multitude of platforms. These platforms will include social media posts, blogging, creating videos, and writing articles to provide transparency into what the United Nations is doing globally. Grammar is crucial to let stories flow between audiences of different cultures, ethnicities, languages and politicians.

Greece's financial crisis may not matter to the African Union. Therefore, the question to focus on is how do we make them care and where is the story? Has Greece provided funding to counter-terrorism efforts in Africa before? How could this impact other parts of the world? As a member of the Gator Tribune, you will take seemingly ordinary news and make it appeal to a variety of international audiences. People like to digest news that has a point of view and voice reflecting their own perception of the world. Hence, the job of a press corps isn't only to tell a good news story; one must be able to tell those stories in different ways. Writing in multiple styles to fit various audiences will stretch your writing ability.

The international press corps plays a vital role in the United Nations by allowing people to observe the process and get involved. Without media coverage of the United Nations sessions, many would not have access to the information debated. The press helps break down the big picture of each topic discussed.

Thus, the international press is fundamental for democracy around the globe. An international press allows citizens to be informed, and, by extension, have the ability to make their own decisions and judgments. This sentiment is echoed in 'The Committee to Protect Journalists' Mission: "A strong press freedom environment encourages the growth of a robust civil society, which leads to stable, sustainable democracies and healthy social, political, and economic development." (Our Mission, 2017). By breaking news, we keep the public up to date all over the world. Politicians see what others are doing and how their constituents are reacting to it, and they are pushed to react as well. It is a balance of holding politicians accountable.

This international press corps holds the basic responsibility of a journalist to the highest regard - especially in an era where fake news has become a prominent player in political fields. This press corps is unique in that we will have reporters in multiple time periods covering various United Nations bodies. We will fuse your articles together to create one large, collaborative publication - The Gator Tribune. You have some story-chasing to do!

Mission Statement

The Gator Tribune is a news source that reporters from a variety of international publications will put together. The publications chosen to make up The Gator Tribune were picked carefully, to ensure that multiple audiences affected by the conference committees would be informed and represented. As a whole, The Gator Tribune will be without bias, as will the reporters who represent the Tribune. Reporters for the Tribune should remain diligent when observing committee sessions, as interfering is not the goal of any reporter.

The main goal, the communal goal, of everyone working on staff at The Gator Tribune, is to report accurately, clearly, precisely for your audience, and honestly on the workings of The United Nations. Sometimes sacrifices will be necessary to produce a higher quality newspaper. It is important that all reporters remember to work together professionally for the pursuit and accomplishment of this communal goal.

Works Cited

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- “World-Newspapers.com.” *World Newspapers and Magazines on Your Finger Tip*. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 July 2015. <<http://www.world-newspapers.com/>>.
- “Our Mission.” *Committee on the Protection of Journalists*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Jun. 2017. <<https://www.cpj.org/about/>>.