National Model United Nations Collection SC2010.03

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The National Model United Nations (NMUN) is the oldest and largest collegiate simulation of the UN in the United States, very likely the largest in the world. It convenes each spring in New York City and holds its meetings at the iconic UN building on First Avenue and at a nearby hotel.

Beginning as a simulation of the League of Nations, the NMUN reorganized after World War II and the launching of the United Nations. It is a student-administered annual conference organized and managed in its early years mainly by students from East Coast colleges and universities, with a heavy participation from Ivy League schools. As the 20th century moved on, the conference grew larger and became extremely popular. As of 2009, the NMUN was actually an international as well as national conference, attracting colleges and universities from throughout the United States and from many countries abroad. In 2009 the NMUN, to accommodate its escalating appeal, organized two overlapping simulations, held at two nearby midtown hotels and at the UN building.

The National Collegiate Conference Association (NCCA) is the incorporated body that governs the NMUN’s extensive business and logistical affairs. For many years student Head Delegates (each delegation has a single Head Delegate) elected the student members of the NCCA’s Board of Directors at a plenary session held during the spring conference. Faculty advisers attending the annual conference have always elected the faculty members of the Board. In the last decade, amendments to the by-laws of the NMUN brought more efficient long-term stability to the program, while nonetheless diminishing the influence of annual student delegations on the composition of the Board. Currently, there is a permanent Executive Director who maintains a year-around administrative role. At the annual spring conference, it selects the student Secretary-General who will be the top administrator for the coming year’s conference and helps in bringing together the full student staff (who will assume titles corresponding to the simulated officials of the actual UN and will convene throughout the year to plan and execute the conference). In addition, the Board maintains continual contact with faculty advisers and Head Delegates, and deals with multiple business matters.

The NMUN is formally affiliated with the United Nations as a registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). This official status brings several advantages to the national conference. For example, the opening session each spring occurs in the Great Hall of the General Assembly at the UN building in New York, and the last full day’s sessions take place in meeting rooms at the UN building, with the final plenary session of all delegates returning to the Great Hall (where awards are announced and the senior staff for the next year introduced). Additionally, senior diplomatic staff at the UN conduct briefings for select simulated committees during the week’s conference, and all delegations—representing each member nation of the organization—receive briefings from the Mission (in New York) of the country being represented.

Cal Poly Pomona’s History At The NMUN

Cal Poly first sent a delegation to the national conference in the spring of 1974. Dr. Mohammed Al-Saadi, of the Political Science Department, was faculty adviser for the 1974 team. There was then a three-year hiatus during which Cal Poly did not participate. In the fall of 1976, three members of the university’s ASI (Associated Students—the university’s student government) asked Professor of History Emeritus, John Allphin Moore Jr. to assume the position of faculty adviser. Two of those students—Sean Heger and Peggy Weis—became delegates on our first team in 1977. A set of bylaws was set down by the ASI. With these bylaws the ASI was able to have a system of recruitment and registration, also to send forms to the national organization. This system for the most part, has be followed to the present day. Also, the course SSC 410 (Studies
of Peace) was organized at Cal Poly Pomona and became the NMUN preparatory class. Major funding for the NMUN program has always come from ASI and IRA (Instructionally Related Activities) annual budget allotments. In the early years of the program, the Pomona Valley United Nations Association provided modest but helpful contributions. The retirement community at Mt. San Antonio Gardens in Claremont for many years provided annual Great Decisions pamphlets, published by the Foreign Policy Association, which aided the students’ study of up-to-date current world affairs. (After returning from the spring conference each year, students always met with the Pomona Valley UNA and the retirement community for discussions of their experiences at the conference). Since 1995 (the only year the program received no ASI allotment) the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, under the leadership of Dean Barbara Way, has also provided funding. Finally, in 2004, the Hassen Endowment—initiated by the family of Farrah Hassen, a two-time Head Delegate—began to provide supplemental funding.

Conference officials grant coveted awards each year to a few special delegations. When Cal Poly first attended the NMUN there was one award—“Best Delegation”—granted to a small number of schools for superb participation. As it happens, Cal Poly won “Best Delegation” in 1977, even though the Cal Poly Pomona team contained no experienced delegates. Over time, awards categories have evolved, partly to take into account the increase of participating teams, and also to stimulate a more cohesive conference. As of the first decade of the 20th century, the awards for participation were: “Outstanding Delegation,” “Distinguished Delegation,” and “Honorable Mention.” Only a handful of schools gain such recognition. For about a decade there has also been an “Outstanding Position Paper” award, granted to a select few delegations. Cal Poly has been a frequent award-winner at the NMUN, having received recognition for 19 of the 32 years of participation up to 2009, including 12 straight years from 1998-2009. That is, the university has established a reputation as one of the top participants in this international conference.

Here are the countries Cal Poly Pomona has represented each year and the awards each team earned (to 2012):


**Scope and Content**

The collection includes awards, photographs, notes from the conferences, course materials, memos, and correspondences from the program and John A. Moore.

**Arrangement**

Chronological order.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

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United Nations
Box 1 SC2010.03
Language of Material: Multiple languages
Physical Description: 1.0 Box• Original report for the NMUN Collection by Dr. John A. Moore • NMUN Application Letter for the 2008 - 2009 • Sample application for NMUN 2008 - 2009 team • NCCA board meetings minutes and other documents, 1983 • NCCA Board of Directors: Notes, minutes, and etc. • NMUN Stationery and envelopes • Memos and Letters • SSC 410 class materials • Notes • United Nations Flag with Code and Regulations • Correspondence with diplomatic personnel • Miscellaneous NMUN Materials. • Contact Information/ Name Cards • List of student delegates from the NMUN class list. In chronological order by John A. Moore from 1977-2009. • NMUN News items, 1977 - 2000 • NMUN News items, 2001 - 2009 • Sample position papers • Outstanding Position Papers 2002-2004, 2006, 2008, 2009 (on CD) • Certificates • Non-framed awards from the NMUN • Programs 1977 - 1989 • Programs 1990 - 1999 • Programs 2000 – 2004 • Programs 2005 - 2009

Box 2 SC2010.03
Language of Material: Multiple languages

Box 3 SC2010.03
Language of Material: Multiple languages
Physical Description: 1.0 Box• Photographs of teams and trips. Arranged in reverse chronologically order, Front to Back

Box 4 SC2010.03
Language of Material: Multiple languages
Physical Description: 1.0 Box• Framed photos from the National Model United Nations Conference 2003 -Belize • German Dem. Republic and France name cards from NMUN • Award: California Senate Certificate of Recognition to Farrah Hassen for the 2001 Costa Rica team • Cal Poly Pomona Award presented to Dr. John A. Moore, 2006 • Cal Poly Pomona Award presented to Trevor Rose for the 2001 Costa Rica team