

## Model UN Program Proposal

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Introduction: There are a variety of pathways Model UN programs can be developed within a school setting. The benefits of these programs are numerous; student development of skills such as research, advanced content reading, public speaking, professional writing, negotiation, collaboration, and conflict resolution. All of these skills are a necessity in our modern, fast paced, technology driven, and rapidly changing world. It also fosters the development of positive self-confidence and assertiveness. All of this is achieved in an enjoyable, interactive environment. Allow me to explain the basics necessary for a Model UN program to develop within a school and some of the opportunities available to groups once they have been created.

Development: One of the best aspects of getting a Model UN program started in any school is the fact that it can be done at no cost. Basically the following are needed:

1. A faculty member who will act as the advisor for the group.
2. Students interested in participating in the group.
3. Basic printed materials which are available for free on the website of the UNAGB (United Nation Association of Greater Boston)

The UNAGB is the organization that operates and hosts many of the larger Model UN Conferences in Massachusetts and has developed an extensive library of material and resources available to all Model UN groups. There are no membership fees or costs involved in organizing and preparing a group to engage in Model UN activities.

Many faculty members who are new to Model UN would benefit from some formal PD on how to proceed with utilizing the materials and becoming familiar with all of the aspects of preparing students to engage in the work necessary to attend Model UN Conferences. There are two possible pathways to achieve this:

1. The UNAGB offers periodic PD on the basics of Model UN instruction. There is a cost involved at this point, typically \$150 per person per day. Even the newest of faculty, rarely need more than one or two days of PD to be able to proceed. These costs are quoted by the Educational Director of the UNAGB, however, I have, in writing, that some negotiation of price for new programs is possible.
2. If cost is truly an issue, I would be perfectly willing to conduct the PD myself, given the fact that I have attended several past PD sessions hosted by the UNAGB and have maintained all of the materials and information presented at these offerings. This would provide a no cost option for the district.

Opportunities for engagement: At this point in the process, groups, based on their level of preparedness, will have to opportunity to register for and participate in Model UN Conferences. There are several conferences offered each year at various locations. Unfortunately, at this stage,

cost does become a factor. Currently, the UNAGB hosts three major Conferences per year for middle school level students. They are MSMUN, IMUN, and WMUN. These acronyms are used to identify the Middle School Model UN Conference, Innovation Model UN Conference, and the Worcester Model UN Conference. The cost for these Conferences currently stands at a \$100 registration fee per school and a \$15 per student fee. Additionally, if transportation is necessary, that cost must also be factored in. In the past, the Model UN Group at Goddard Scholars Academy has managed these cost through various student conducted fundraising efforts and out of pocket payments by student families. The WMUN Conference is the lowest cost due to the fact that it is sponsored and conducted by Clark University. Therefore, no transportation costs are necessary. Any new Model UN groups could follow the same model to provide for their needs. There are two other options possible:

1. Develop partnerships with community groups and/or businesses that would be willing to help with financial support.
2. Host and operate our own local conferences within the district.

Hosting conferences within the district has a variety of benefits. It would provide Model UN events locally which would reduce the cost to local schools. It would help to foster and strengthen partnerships with local colleges and universities that would wish to become involved. Registration and fees that would be paid by other schools that attend could be used as a starting point to fund future activities. There are currently several Model UN programs in schools in the Wachusett district, as well as, St. John's High School and Worcester Academy. These events could and would eventually grow over time.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions or concerns, I would be more than happy to address them.