



INSTITUTE FOR DOMESTIC
AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, INC.

INFORMATION
& REGISTRATION

14-17 APRIL 2011



Welcome!

Dear Students, Faculty, and Guests,

On behalf of the Institute for Domestic and International Affairs Inc., I would like to invite you to attend Rutgers Model Congress at the Hyatt Regency in downtown New Brunswick, New Jersey from April 14th through April 17th, 2011. *Registration for this conference opens December 1, 2010.*

Rutgers Model Congress (RMC) is a four-day debate conference that simulates the workings of Congress, providing students with the opportunity to engage in domestic policy issues that affect the population at large. While participating in different Congressional committees that highlight various aspects of the U.S. government, students assume the roles of legislators and other elected officials. Delegates will be presented with domestic issues that they will have to research and debate in order to realistically represent their constituents, as well as cooperate with others to draft and vote on legislation. Through its emphasis on student cooperation and engaged learning, RMC provides a dynamic experience for its delegates that helps build public speaking and critical thinking skills.

By the end of the weekend, RMC delegates will have a better understanding of the complexities that legislators face when considering solutions and more importantly, how different policies affect each and every one of us as U.S. residents. These skills and knowledge that result from direct participation and organic discussion will serve them in the future both as students, and as civic participants. RMC encourages delegates to become their own social agents by helping to provide the framework to independently and pragmatically analyze political issues. RMC 2011 will help students understand how their participation and position in the U.S. government can have an impact on the future of the United States and on the rest of the world.

The educational focus of RMC 2011 will consider the United States as an international actor. While most students recognize that in recent history the U.S. has played a large role in global affairs, this conference will help them understand how foreign policy originates, how the United States is often seen as a standard, and how what may appear to be solely domestic issues can have latent effects on our trading partners, neighbors, and the entire international community.

If you have any questions or concerns about the conference or registration process, or would like more information about RMC 2011, please do not hesitate to contact us. We greatly welcome your input and would love to hear from you. Thank you for your interest, and I warmly look forward to your presence at Rutgers Model Congress 2011!

Natasha Bennett
Executive Director
Rutgers Model Congress 2011

WHAT IS RUTGERS MODEL CONGRESS?

Rutgers Model Congress (RMC) offers a realistic educational simulation of the workings of the United States Congress and other government organizations from the past and present. Students from across the country convene at this four-day conference to discuss pressing domestic issues, and to develop critical solutions. Students have the opportunity to participate in one of twenty different committees, ranging from the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

In each committee, students debate issues on a prepared agenda and represent the interests of their selected state and party. Through the art of negotiation and compromise, they formulate bills, just as real members of Congress would. Specialized committees, like the Historic National Security Council or the United States Supreme Court, allow students to follow modified parliamentary procedure to discuss relevant legal issues or questions of national security, and then announce their results to each house of Congress. The Departments of State and Treasury will offer students the chance to assume the role of policymaker within the Executive Branch, considering both the short and long-term implications of their decisions, while recognizing the role of checks and balances in the U.S. government.

At RMC, preparation is the key to a valuable learning experience. Participants should come equipped with the ability to learn about the numerous domestic issues currently faced by our nation and an understanding of the dynamics of American history that have shaped our country. It is essential, therefore, that participants be sufficiently knowledgeable beforehand, so that they may formulate opinions and legislation that will truly serve the best interests of their constituents. Students will also be taught the rules of procedure that facilitate smooth debate and allow them to employ the tactics of negotiation and compromise used by members of Congress.

The Model Congress program provides students with the opportunity to confront firsthand the many issues facing the United States and the world today, and to propose realistic solutions while helping to affect the course of representative democracy in an educational setting. Our conferences have consistently proven to be both memorable and rewarding for all those involved.

OUR CONFERENCE

LOCATION

The location of the Hyatt hotel is one of RMC's most attractive features. It is within walking distance of an Amtrak Northeast Corridor train stop, and is only half an hour from Newark International Airport, making for convenient transportation to and from New Brunswick. The conference is located just an hour from New York City and Philadelphia - RMC can easily be integrated into a school field trip to one of these exciting and important historic cities.

In addition to geographic location, New Brunswick is diverse, safe, and thriving college town. The small city is full of dining opportunities, ranging from fast food to gourmet cuisine, offering participants selections in virtually all price ranges. The conference hotel is located just five minutes from the campus of historic Rutgers University, offering students to not only experience RMC, but also to explore the nation's eighth oldest institution of higher learning. Rutgers University consistently ranks at the top of department surveys for Political Science, Philosophy, and countless science-based programs.

HOTEL FACILITIES

The Hyatt Regency New Brunswick hotel has undergone a \$20 million renovation that offers significant improvements to the inner workings of the conference. The hotel has new conference facilities, enhanced access to committee rooms, and more comfortable work and relaxation areas.

STAFF AND FACULTY

Unlike many similar programs, IDIA is an independent not-for-profit organization overseen by professional staff and a Board of Directors. These individuals see to it that the issues under discussion at the conference are timely and that the conference itself is well organized, and professionally managed. Coupled with IDIA's twenty years of experience in hosting experiential education programs is a highly trained and well-prepared conference staff of Rutgers University students. These students represent one of the most prepared and knowledgeable facilitator staffs to be found at any conference. Additionally, the conference is regularly visited by University officials and faculty. Professors often speak on relevant topics in committee sessions on relevant topics and share their expertise with students. In addition, RMC 2011 will also host various elected officials, lobbyists, and community and business leaders, who will appear in committees to shed light on issues from their first-hand experiences and unique perspectives.

RMC has developed several methods to ensure that debate does not stagnate and that students get the most out of their time in committee. Our crisis simulations are always memorable as conference staff members prepare realistic scenarios that challenge students to respond quickly to changing circumstances. Additionally, our Press Corps offers a small group of students the opportunity to assume the role of journalists, thus combining their interests in domestic affairs and journalism. These students sit in on and report on the activities of committee sessions in a daily newsletter entitled the RMC Review.

THE RMC ADVANTAGE

At Rutgers Model Congress, we strive to provide the greatest amount of personal attention for each conference participant. House and Senate committees are limited to approximately 50 students, while advanced committees are significantly smaller and offer even more individualized and informal experiences. The Conference Staff will be readily accessible throughout the weekend to address the concerns of any conference participant. Additionally, RMC maximizes the potential of each student's talent for teamwork. We do not permit our students to arrive with any pre-written legislation. Unlike other conferences that incorporate individually written bills into debate, RMC focuses on the importance of cooperation and compromise in the legislative process.

Our committee directors enroll in a 400-level Political Science class at Rutgers University in order to write the thoroughly researched topic briefs that are distributed to schools in preparation for the conference. These briefs provide students with the fundamental policy dilemmas of the topics to be debated, including background information and current status, and are intended to provide a starting point from which students should base their own research. Instead of brief topic summaries, these committee briefs are comprehensively researched and meticulously written. Participating students are expected to conduct this research prior to the conference so as to obtain a more detailed understanding of their topics as they relate to their respective state and party interests.

SPECIAL SERVICES

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

IDIA's personal development workshops will allow students the chance to assess their personal strengths and weaknesses midway through the conference. On Friday morning, students will choose from a variety of workshops that range from skill development to theoretical exploration. These sessions will offer valuable resources and strategies that will prove useful during the remainder of the conference, and in their future academic and professional lives. For teachers, IDIA's Professional Development Program offers teachers innovative tools for their classrooms that take advantage of IDIA's expertise in civic engagement and simulation education. IDIA is a registered provider of continuing education in the State of New Jersey.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

If you are unfamiliar with the workings of a Model Congress or with RMC, our staff is eager to visit your school through our Conference Outreach Program. This program sends RMC staff to your high school to teach about Congress and to help your students prepare for the conference. This is a good opportunity for both novice and experienced delegates as well as advisors to learn about our conference. We will provide explanations of RMC Rules of Procedure, techniques of debate, and research methods. We are very eager to come to your high school and speak about the Model Congress experience! For more information or to schedule an outreach, please call the RMC hotline at (732) 249-4227 or email rmcinfo@idia.net

TRAINING SESSIONS

The opening day of RMC will include training sessions for both novice and advanced delegates. Chaired by seasoned committee directors, two separate sessions will acquaint novices with the rules of procedure which govern debate, and assist experienced delegates with diplomatic tactics and strategy.

IDIA PORTAL SYSTEM

At RMC, we believe that the educational experience of the Model Congress program is critical. To better provide for this educational process, students are encouraged to make full use of the IDIA portal system at www.idia.net. Registered students are each assigned their own username and password to our website, and are granted access to a wealth of online content, including research anthologies from a variety of publications, including *Foreign Affairs*. In addition to the substantive resources students find in their online portal, they will also have access to a variety of discussion boards and scheduled chat sessions designed to better facilitate conference preparation.

CONFERENCE RESOURCES

RMC 2011 will provide computers available to all delegates throughout the conference so that they may continue their research even after the conference begins. In addition, the Directors' Briefs, the research used to construct the briefs, position papers, and general information regarding Congress and related federal agencies will also be made available.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

House Committees generally range in size from 40-50 students. Debate in these committees tends to be more structured, and successful Representatives will leave the conference with a comprehensive understanding of parliamentary procedure as well as their topics.

Senate Committees generally range in size between 30-35 students. This more intimate setting allows for somewhat more informal debate, but successful Senators must master the arts of negotiation and compromise.

Advanced Committees are considerably smaller and involve participants in every aspect of debate. These committees address both current and historic issues, and positions are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

House Committee/Topics

Directors

Agriculture

Tobacco Production and its Role in the Global Environment and Economy
Fish Farming

Joe Tamimi

Armed Services

Treatment of Enemy Combatants
US Africa Command (AFRICOM)

Alex Lewis

Budget

Foreign Aid: Humanitarian and Economic
Foreign Aid: Military

Bilal Ahmed

Education and Labor

Sexual Health and Education
Labor and Immigration

Aisha Van Pratt

Energy & Commerce

Role of Financial Institutions
Offshore Drilling

Paul Shi

Oversight and Government Reform

Government Contracts in Iraq
Corporate Accountability

Kristen Clarke

Science and Technology

U.S. Space Policy
Personal Genomics

Lenny Haas

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Senate Committee/Topics

Directors

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Role of the Federal Reserve
Urban Transportation

Chaz Wang

Energy and Natural Resources
Hydropower
Protection of Biodiversity

Kine Martinussen

Environment and Public Works
Deforestation and Mountaintop Mining
Development of Infrastructure

Nicola Mammes

Foreign Relations
U.S.-Nigeria Relations
Political Stability in Afghanistan

Trish Jhunjhnuwala

Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Bilingual Education
Addressing Obesity

Jen Arantes

Intelligence
Coordinating Intelligence Organizations
Growth of Domestic Terrorism

Allie Bittner

Judiciary
Immigration Reform
Prison Reform

Stacey Milliman

ADVANCED COMMITTEES

National Security Council: 2001

Directors
Gwen Prowse

The National Security Council is composed of senior cabinet officials and the president to decide and act on matters of national security and foreign policy. The President chairs the committee and it serves as the President's body to coordinate various security government agencies. This historic committee will simulate the National Security Council, as it existed in 2001 to deal with the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center and decide on policy and action towards Afghanistan as a result of the attack. Students will be able to recreate history and make decisions that could alter the United States' involvement in the world for generations to come.

Historic Senate Foreign Relations Committee: 1919

Stuart Carroll

The Senate Foreign Relations committee handles all legislation that is associated with international affairs, and examining U.S. foreign policy. This committee will simulate the Senate Foreign Relations committee in 1919. Shortly after the end of World War I, President Wilson hand delivered the Treaty of Versailles to the Senate requesting that the Senate ratify it. It was then referred the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Students in this committee will have to adopt the position of particular senators in order to review the Treaty of Versailles, hold hearings, and ultimately come to the conclusion of whether or not the United States will ratify the treaty and join the League of Nations.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, and Global Narcotics

Jess Falk

This Foreign Relations Senate Subcommittee is specifically designed to work on legislation pertaining specifically the Western Hemisphere, global narcotics and the Peace Corps. Students in this subcommittee will have the opportunity to deeply deal with the issue of the War on Drugs, which is a United States initiative that affects citizens in the United States as well as people across the hemisphere.

International Press Corps

Dan Rofsky

The international press corps represents a wide variety of international news and media outlets across the world that will be reporting on how the United States is legislating domestic issues that have an international impact. Students in this committee will be responsible for representing the perspective and foreign interests of their international media outlet as they report on the workings of the United States congress in relation to issues somehow affect their country and region. In this committee that overtly blends the domestic and the international, students will attempt to highlight international perspectives on domestic policy in order to understand how these perceptions affect international relations, social, political and economic issues across the globe.

United States Department of State

Janina Pescinski

The United States Department of State serves as the executive branch of the government that engages the international community through diplomatic efforts in order to build and sustain international relations. With its emphasis on securing a more peaceful and well-governed world, the State Department faces daily challenges in responding to international events in ways that ultimately benefit the American people and responsibly try to solve global problems. In committee, students will be faced with responding to Sudan's political environment in light of the referendum for the south's succession. They will be advising and aiding the Secretary of State in her trip to the region designed to represent U.S. interests in Sudan's politics.

Topic: The Sudan

United States Department of the Treasury

Ilke Denizli

The United States Department of the Treasury is responsible for promoting economic prosperity in the United States and ensuring financial security. It is largely involved in governing financial institutions, and cooperating with foreign governments to ensure global economic stability and growth. In addition the Treasury plays a role in national security by implementing economic sanctions against perceived threats, and safeguarding the United State's financial systems.

Topic: Securing the Transatlantic Economy

United States Supreme Court

Ian Liberty

Topic: Martinez v. The State of Arizona

Martinez v. the State of Arizona deals with an undocumented immigrant arrested by police in accordance with the new immigration law passed in Arizona. Martinez was in the United States illegally and failed to produce the proper documentation when approached by the police. The court will be discussing key constitutional issues like what constitutes a reasonable suspicion that someone is not a citizen, burden of proof on suspect, unreasonable search and seizure, warrantless searches, and the exclusionary rule.

Topic: Hamdan v. Rumsfeld

Salim Ahmed Hamdan of Afghan citizenship, the Bin Laden's former chauffeur, was captured by Afghani forces and imprisoned by the U.S. military in Guantanamo Bay. He filed a writ of habeas corpus in federal courts to challenge his detention. A military tribunal designated Hamdan as an enemy combatant. This case questions the legality of the use of military tribunal in this case, and explores the rights protected by the Geneva Convention in federal court through the habeas corpus petition.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, 14 April 2011

3:00pm	Check-in Begins
4:30pm - 5:30pm	Novice & Advanced Training Sessions
6:00pm - 8:00pm	Opening Ceremony & Keynote Address
8:00pm - 11:30pm	Committee Session I
12:00am	Delegate Curfew

Friday, 15 April 2011

7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast
9:00am - 12:00pm	Committee Session II
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 2:30pm	Personal Development Workshops
2:30pm - 6:00pm	Committee Session III
6:00pm - 8:00pm	Dinner
8:00pm - 11:30pm	Committee Session IV
11:45pm	Delegate Curfew

Saturday, 16 April 2011

7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast
9:00am - 12:00pm	Committee Session V
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 5:30pm	Committee Session VI
5:30pm - 8:00pm	Dinner
8:00pm - 12:00am	Delegate Social Events
12:15am	Delegate Curfew

Sunday, 17 April 2011

7:30am - 9:00am	Breakfast
9:00am - 10:30am	Committee Debriefing Sessions
10:30am - 12:30pm	Sunday Activity
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Closing and Awards Ceremony

DATES AND DEADLINES

1 December 2010

Registration for RMC 2011 opens

15 February 2011

Deadline for initial registration

The following materials will be made available online:

Committee Briefs

Payment Forms

Permission Slips

Rooming Lists

15 March 2011

Deadline for Full Payment and submission of:

Committee Assignments

Payment Forms

Rooming Lists

A \$100 LATE FEE WILL BE ASSESSED TO ALL STUDENT AND ADVISOR PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE

7 April 2011

Online Submission of Position Papers

Position papers are short, delegate-written research papers discussing their assigned state and party's view on the topics to be discussed in committee. The purpose of these papers is to familiarize the students not only with their country, but also the topics that will be discussed during committee. These papers are to be submitted by 7 April 2011 so that the RMC directorate may provide constructive feedback and return the papers at the first session of the conference. All directors will be available via e-mail and the web forums to discuss position papers in the weeks preceding the conference. Position papers will also be posted on the IDLA Portal System so that delegates can read each other's papers as well. These arenas are opportunities for students to ask any questions that they may have regarding the conference in general, or that they have developed throughout their research.

NO REFUNDS OF ANY KIND WILL BE ISSUED AFTER 24 MARCH 2011.

14-17 April 2011

RUTGERS MODEL CONGRESS 2011

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

With the addition of several new and exciting committees at Rutgers Model Congress, we expect registration to fill quickly. Therefore, in order to receive your first choices for committee, state, and party assignments, please be sure to submit all registration materials as soon as possible. We have devised the following procedure to ensure fairness to all participants. If at any time you have a question about the process, please do not hesitate to call the RMC Hotline at (732) 249 - 4227 or email us at rmcinfo@idia.net.

1. HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES

In order to simulate realistic congressional conditions as closely as possible, yet allow for students to determine their own roles according to their personal views, we have developed a flexible formula for you to follow when assigning representation.

Guidelines for Senate Committees:

Approximately 30% of each state delegation should be Senators.

From each state, assign 53% of Senators as Democrats and 47% Republicans.

Though the numbers may not be exact, please adhere as closely as possible to the general formula.

No more than one student per delegation may be registered in each Senate Committee.

Guidelines for House Committees:

Approximately 70% of each state delegation should be Representatives.

From each state, again, as closely as possible, assign 55% of all

Representatives as Republicans and 45% as Democrats.

No more than two students per delegation may be registered in each House Committee.

Example:

A school has one state with 10 students assigned. Of those 10 students, 3 would be in the Senate and 7 would be in the House of Representatives. Of the 3 Senators, 2 would be Democrats and 1 would be a Republican. The 7 Representatives would be split 4 Republicans and 3 Democrats (again, as close to the 55%-45% split as possible).

2. Advanced Committees

Department of State

Department of the Treasury

Historic National Security Council: 2001

Historic Senate Committee on Foreign Relations: 1919

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, and Global Narcotics

United States Supreme Court

You may register for as many or as few of these additional committees as you choose, however, each school may register no more than one student in each committee. Registration for Advanced Committees is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

3. Press Corps

Each school may register one student for the Press Corps. Students assigned to the Press Corps will not participate in committee debate. Instead, they will act as journalistic reporters in RMC committees. Prior to the conference, each reporter will be assigned a particular committee, and will research his or her committee's topics so as to be familiar with the issues upon arrival at the conference. After gathering details on their committees' activities during the conference, reporters will write articles that will be published in the daily RMC Review and distributed to all conference participants. When registering for Press Corps, be sure to fill in all committee preferences so that students may cover the committees in which they are most interested.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Pre-Registration

Registration begins on 1 December 2010. Registration will take place exclusively online on the IDIA website at <http://www.idia.net>. Since the conference quickly reaches capacity, we urge you to register your school early. Delegations for House, Senate and Advanced Committees are assigned on a first come, first served basis. The pre-registration fee is non-refundable upon assignment of a delegation. Delegates in House Committees may work alone or in pairs, but Senate Committees are limited to individual students. Therefore, total student representation for each delegation in the House and Senate should be 14-21 students. Schools wishing to bring more than 60 students should contact IDIA before registering.

Schools must register for at least one delegation in the House and Senate before requesting Advanced Committee seats. Schools may register for as many or as few advanced committees as desired, but may register just *one* student per advanced committee. Where applicable, schools may represent the same delegation in advanced committees as they do in the House and Senate. This representation is neither required nor guaranteed.

Final Registration

The deadline for full payment, committee and rooming lists, and permission slips is 15 March 2011. Website forms and paper documents will be available 15 February 2011 to complete the registration process. **Placement in the Hyatt is not guaranteed, and will be based upon receipt of final payment and completed committee and rooming assignments.** Full payments not received by the 15 March 2011 deadline will be assessed a \$100 late fee. No refunds will be given after 24 March 2011.

Registration Information

The preliminary registration fee for RMC 2011 is \$125.00 per delegation. This fee entitles your school to register for one delegation in each of the House and Senate Committees. For no additional fee, schools may register for the Advanced Committees, on a first-come, first-served basis.

The preliminary registration fee is due by 1 February 2011, however, the conference may reach its capacity by this deadline.

The preliminary registration fee is nonrefundable upon assignment of a delegation.

The conference fee for RMC 2011 is \$90.00 per delegate. Students who choose to commute need only remit the \$90.00 conference fee. Accommodations at the conference is an additional \$155.00 per delegate. The total cost per resident delegate for RMC 2011 is \$245.00. There is no fee for faculty advisors, however, the cost for each faculty or chaperone sleeping room is \$450.00. Up to four faculty members may share one sleeping room at no additional cost.

Sleeping accommodations at the Hyatt Regency are on a first come, first served basis. Once the Hyatt has reached capacity, students will be placed at a nearby auxiliary hotel facility. Hotel reservations are only made upon receipt of full payment and completion of full registration.

Full payment is due no later than 15 March 2011.

A Late Fee of \$100.00 will be assessed to all late

Delegate/Advisor full payments.

There will be *no refunds of any kind* after 24 March 2011.