

LETTER FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

It is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the 30th annual Mississippi Model Security Council. My name is Tonya Neaves, and it is my honor to be serving you as Co-Director along with Dr. Jeff Cavanaugh.

I currently attend Mississippi State University (MSU) where I am earning a Doctorate in Public Policy and Administration, where I also earned a Master's in Public Policy and Administration as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with a minor in Geosciences. I also work as a Project Coordinator at the University's Social Science Research Center, where I work closely with the Director of the Center on various health and security-related research projects. And, for the past several years, I have also coordinated a foreign exchange program with the University of Catania in Italy, and, more recently, with the University of Zagreb in Croatia. I am also a member of the Phi Alpha Alpha Public Affairs and Administration and Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Societies and a member of the Academy of Political Science and American Society for Public Administration.

Some of my past Model United Nations experience includes serving as Secretary General for Mississippi Model Security Council, Director and Assistant Director for the Security Council for the Southern Regional Model United Nations, and in years previous to that, I was Rapporteur for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and Rapporteur of the African Union. I have also attended National model United Nations and have participated in Seton Hall University's United Nations Summer Intensive Study Program.

Dr. Cavanaugh serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at MSU. He received both his Doctorate and Masters in Political Science specializing in International Relations from the University of Illinois (UI). Other research interests of his include international peace and security, comparative foreign policy, empires and imperialism, political extremism, and globalization. He is a member of the American Political Science Association, American Economic Association, International Studies Association, and Peace Science Society.

Some of Dr. Cavanaugh's experience with international affairs and the United Nations includes instructing on such courses as 'Introduction to International Relations,' 'Theory of International Relations,' 'International Conflict,' 'Globalization and the Global Context,' and 'International Cooperation.' He has also worked as a graduate assistant for the European Union Center while at UI.

Serving on the Security Council is quite different from other committee. Many delegates find that while the Security Council is very exciting, it is also very challenging and demanding. Please familiarize yourselves with the unique characteristics of the Security Council. First of all, you must be prepared for a variety of topics that may be placed on the agenda. The Security Council has an open agenda, whereby delegates are allowed to discuss any topic that is relevant to the Security Council's mandate. As a delegate, you will be able to choose whether or not to discuss the topics provided by conference services or instead discuss other topics pertinent to the maintenance of international peace and security. Secondly, you must be familiar with other member states' foreign policies. The Security Council is limited to fifteen seats, five permanent

and ten elected. The relationship dynamics that occur between one member state and another can greatly change the following year depending on the topic. As a delegate, situational awareness of these indicators is important for diplomatic discussions to continue amongst yourselves. And finally, another unique aspect about the Security Council is that it may be faced with a crisis situation during one of the sessions.

Communication is a key instrument when working together. Most delegations find that failure to communicate often hinders many efforts made. To promote this process, please do not forget to familiarize yourself with the rules of procedure before the conference begins. I emphasize learning these rules because you will find them most helpful when trying to communicate to both the council dais and among other delegates

If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either Dr. Cavanaugh or myself. We will be more than willing to help you in your endeavors preparing for the conference. You may also refer to the program's website at www.msstate.edu/org/mmssc.

Though at times it can be a lot of hard work, those who do participate in Mississippi Model Security Council, find it to be one of the most rewarding experiences. With that, we wish you the best of luck and look forward to seeing you in February.

Sincerely,

Tonya Neaves, MPPA

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