

**Online Conferences IV**



Exam Copy – www.engagingtheun.com

Sample Instructor’s guide with online exercises

email [engagementlearning@gmail.com](mailto:engagementlearning@gmail.com)

Today we will share experiences and discuss running a plenary, committees, and caucus.

**Upcoming Fall Conferences**

Florida MUN Oct 17

Contact Doug Ryan FMUN.org

SRMUN Atlanta Oct. 23-Oct 25.

Visit srmun.org/atlanta for info.

COCMUN October 24th and 25th

www.canyons.edu/cocmun

Contact Phil Gussin phil.gussin@canyons.edu

NMUN-DC Nov 6-8

Info at NMUN.ORG

MCCMUN Sonoran Desert Conference Nov 20 and 21

https://www.mesacc.edu/departments/social-science/model-un/sonoran-desert-conference

Contact Brian Dille bdille@mesacc.edu

**Plenary Sessions**

**Platform**

**Concerns**

**Opportunities**

Mesa Conference in April, plans for upcoming November

Used Webex. Big advantage was to host an out of state plenary speaker. Online expands the range of speakers available.

MUNFW.org

The conference will take advantage of the greater ease for speakers by inviting multiple, younger, career experts in the topics being discussed to speak in the plenary sessions. Better than the retirees typical of MUN plenary sessions.

**Committee/Caucus Session**

**Platform**

**Concerns**

**Opportunities**

CSU Long Beach, Security Council sims in class – Larry Martinez

Class of 30 students, putting delegate training in class, scaffolding using the *Engaging the United Nations* book. Students were assigned countries in an SC sim. Used Zoom breakout rooms. You can rename the rooms, assign students to them, and can visit each room as the instructor. They used breakout rooms to discuss core national interests.

Zoom breakout groups worked really well! After they had prepared their presentation, they came back to the main room for plenary, it worked.

College of Canyons experience in April, plans for upcoming October - Phil Gussin

They did not have a plenary, sent delegates straight to committees. They had a host, someone to handle tech questions. Most of those questions were at the beginning. Others might want an information booth button with a separate URL and have it staffed with tech savvy delegates.

Used Zoom for committee and Discord for caucus. Delegates muted their zoom, and opened their discord to chat in discussion rooms.

The conference secretariat made appointments with attending schools to answer Qs before the conference began. Talking with advisors and students enabled the conference to run more smoothly, they felt more comfortable.

We have been doing simulations with breakout rooms as well. It was hard to figure out at first, but it now works really well. They displayed an internet timer so speakers knew how much time they had. The key is to get them to understand the process.

Chair and co-chair – chair is presiding officer, co-chair displayed a google doc on half the screen so delegates could see what the motions were and speakers list. The other half of the screen was the internet timer.

Rapporteur - responded to delegate Qs – like going to the bathroom or logging out. Kept a communications line between delegates and staff. This provided a way to complain about not being called on, for example. Kept notes of speakers list and participation tally.

For October, they will create a server for each committee on discord, so they don’t have to move everybody around

MUNFW.org

They are going to likely go with an interval approach, where chairs will separate delegates into breakout groups (initially by regional group) for caucusing after every five or so speakers, depending on the size of the committee

Mesa Conference

In April, we used Google chat for breakouts. This was a bad idea, since participants had to be allowed into each room. This confusion was resolved, but half of the caucus time had expired before a conversation had begun.

We tried to use Yo Tribe for a faculty meeting to test the system. The waiting list was over 100 people long, so they never got back to us before the meeting occurred. It looks like you get what you pay for with this tool.

This led to a conversation where Tim Ruback and Jack Parson shared their experience with Gatherly, the other spatial-based conferencing tool. They charge $12 per delegate, it has to be arranged ahead of time, but they do all the work of setting up the virtual meeting space. Worth the charge, but this would increase the per-delegate cost. One negative is that their groups are limited to 15 people, probably enough for caucus, but problematic if there is a large bloc trying to negotiate.

Another helpful note from Tim:

One other thing that looks useful for Gatherly. We will be working with minors, which means we're navigating data privacy issues. We're still looking at how Gatherly collects & keeps data, but right now it appears that they are within the legal constraints we'll be facing in Maine.



**Upcoming Topics**

Sept 29 11 am EDT

Rule changes to facilitate the online experience

Oct 13 11 am EDT

Chair training and conference management

Nov 10 11 am EDT

Commiseration

Dec 1 11 am EDT

Commiseration