

**Online Conferences VII**



Exam Copy – www.engagingtheun.com

Sample Instructor’s guide with online exercises

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

Today we discussed lessons learned from the October conferences.

**Upcoming Fall Conferences**

Teton County MUN (HS) Nov 16-17

www.tcmun.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

Thinking about Rules changes for an online conference

Discussion Notes

Michael Oleaga – Atlanta Conference – 360 delegates - Just used zoom – Zoom was supposed to update to allow participants to join whatever meeting room you wanted, but students using chrome books were not able to, they still had to be assigned. After the conference, contacted zoom, they don’t know when they will update to use chrome books

At first session, they had to manually assign, there were 70 participants, but later delegates were able to select own committees. Some school attended the conference together at school in computer lab of college – a way to keep community.

Did Survey at the end of conference – will share

Feedback was that 3 hour sessions were OK, some felt too long. Atlanta was 3 days long, some feedback that this was too long.

Did use a hub – <http://www.srmunhub.org> enabled delegates to track speakers list, resolutions, participation by committee – was very well received. Had to buy the URL name $10 – Hub creator willing to talk about it – Geraldine Galue geraldinegalue@srmun.org -

Breakout rooms – worked better than anticipated – might want to set a separate room for signatory drafters, because they were constantly interrupted, maybe

Delegates complained there were too many caucuses, just like a real conference.

Interactions between male and female delegates were worse than in live sessions. Prepare chairs for how to handle unruly or overpowering delegates. Some created group chats on a different platform, which led to rude comments – when chairs became aware of it, they notified advisers

Jack Parson – its so easy to bully online than it is in person because the costs are low. How was it handled in caucus?

Michael – it was taking place in unmoderated caucus. One advantage is you can take screenshots, which enable you to share it with adviser

Jack – Platform for editing?

Michael – used google docs , set up a template for documents for delegates, the chairs could share edits right there

Charity Butcher – the videos shared ahead of time were very helpful – they realized they needed to download the new zoom the day before, which was super helpful. The conference was significantly better than expected. IT was a good idea to meet together on campus to attend – drawback is you have to wear masks.

Michael – The tutorial videos were done because I overthink things, show we made videos for how the conference could run. Looked at other conferences, and they were not doing useful videos for Gatherly., so we decided to do them for ours. [Videos are linked at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SouthernRegionalMUN/videos> ]

Tech hiccups – things went well after GA

Brian – why did you use zoom?

Michael – we tested out several platforms, each had pros and cons. The biggest was the inability to self-select breakout rooms. Gatherly is limited because it only works for Chrome on desktops, unable to use mobile or tablets. The pricing was also too high, and for advisers, staff, and observers. Teams doesn’t have a good breakout room, and have to use Microsoft account. Webex hides hand raises from others. Big plus of zoom was the ability to practice, and the update allows people to jump into breakout rooms. WE did have to notify people to update their apps, had to give 5 minutes in conference to allow delegates to update. Did purchase professional version of zoom, paid for 1 month subscription, $20 for small and medium business plan allows 300 per meeting room. Had multiple accounts for hosts – cost about $1K total.

Charity – institutional account at college allowed for it, wouldn’t cost anything.

Michael – KSU account on secretariat did not have all the functions – polling didn’t work. – Delegates with school accounts didn’t have problems, though remember some functions didn’t work on chrome books, The host settings override the participant settings.

Katie – Univ AK Anchorage got Zoom, the admin decides what restrictions individuals have, so zoom may grant them, but school admin locks them down

UAA attended 2 other conference Florida and College of Canyons, will find out how they did, both reported they were well hosted, time and effort is showing. We run 8 committees per session. Registration is simple, who is the adviser, how many delegates, what countries do you want?

Michael -two weeks prior we asked for actual names and committees so our chairs could know who was who in the committees. We want to know who Zimbabwe is.



**Upcoming Topics**

Dec 1 10 am EST

Commiseration – Last conversation!