

# Background Guide



WAMUNC XXVI

WAMUNC EMERGENCY  
SECRETARIAT



## Letter from The Chair

Delegates,

Hey everyone! My name is Matt Hartman, and I'm going to be acting as your Chair for this committee. I'm a Junior at GW majoring in International Economics with a minor in Marketing, and I've been involved in WAMUNC since my Freshman year here, where I worked as the CD for our JCC. This will be my first time chairing a committee in any capacity, so please go easy on me! I've previously worked as the USG for Historical and Specialized Committees at last year's WAMUNC, so I understand the inner workings of the conference, and I'm thrilled to see how you all choose to approach the situation that's been given to you.

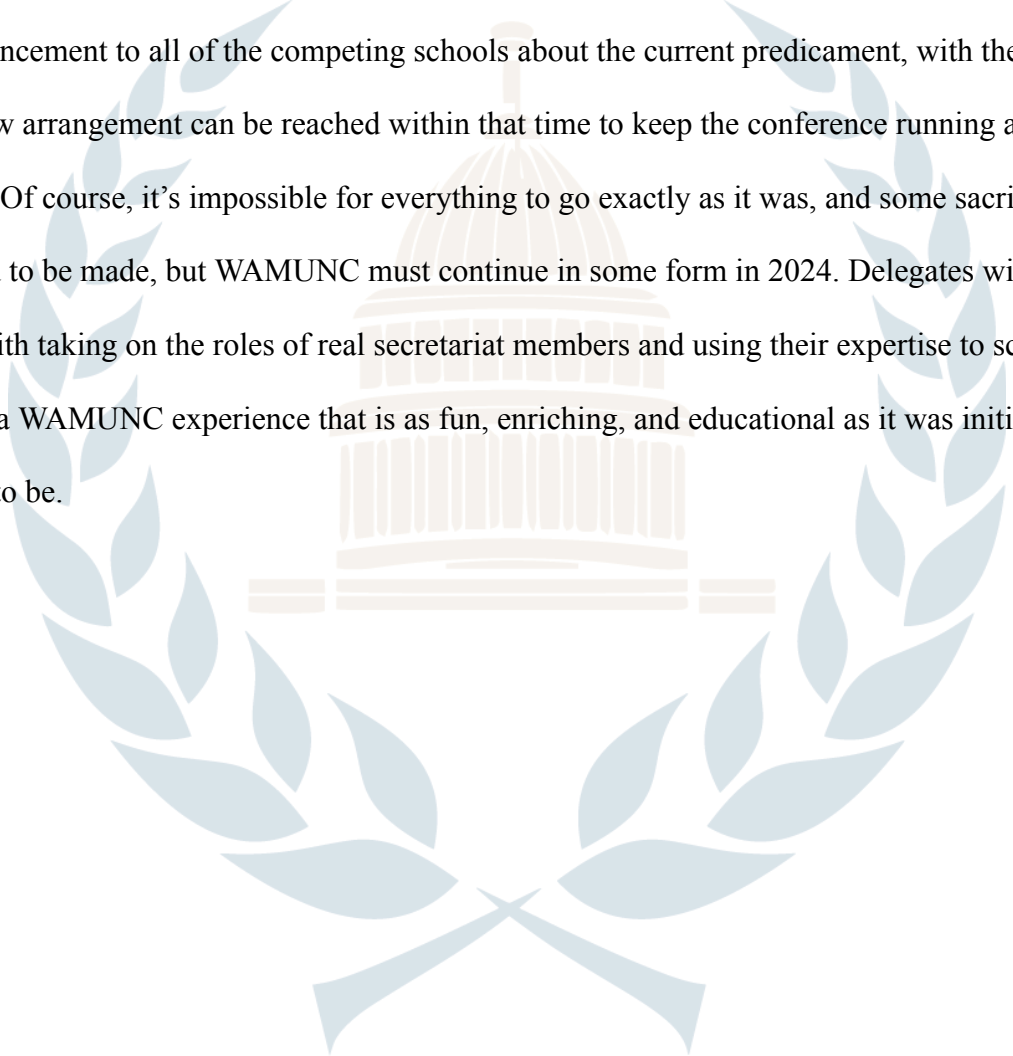
Outside of WAMUNC, I serve as the Vice Head Delegate for GW's Model UN Travel Team, so let's just say there's a lot (maybe too much) of Model UN in my life. I'm the biggest baseball fan in history, and I still won't stop talking about the Phillies' run to the World Series. Outside of that, I'm big into biking and discovering new music, mostly stuff from the 60s and 70s. Traveling with the MUN team has become a hobby of mine as well, and getting to see the country while competing is one of my favorite parts of the activity. Have fun this weekend! Remember, the fate of the conference is in your hands.

Best,

Matt Hartman

## Introduction to Committee

WAMUNC is canceled. After a sudden change of heart by the University, all bookings, registrations, and preparations for WAMUNC have been revoked and the conference has been put on ice. With only 2 weeks remaining until the scheduled time, the Secretariat has yet to make an announcement to all of the competing schools about the current predicament, with the hope that a new arrangement can be reached within that time to keep the conference running as planned. Of course, it's impossible for everything to go exactly as it was, and some sacrifices will need to be made, but WAMUNC must continue in some form in 2024. Delegates will be tasked with taking on the roles of real secretariat members and using their expertise to scratch together a WAMUNC experience that is as fun, enriching, and educational as it was initially planned to be.



## Committee Background

Without much warning, and lacking a suitable explanation, the school suddenly canceled WAMUNC XXVI only 3 weeks before the conference was scheduled to occur. In the week since, the news has spread to numerous staffers and members of leadership, who have taken the opportunity to drop out of their commitments and fill the initially scheduled slot with other activities. After a week of what can only be described as complete chaos, an Emergency Secretariat has been formed to solve the problem, featuring the original 12 members along with auxiliary members of the George Washington International Affairs Society, WAMUNC's parent organization. With 2 weeks remaining until the scheduled date of the conference, school newspapers and media outlets have gotten ahold of the story regarding the cancellation, and the Emergency Secretariat must work against the clock to ensure that a backup plan is developed and implemented before the information is released to the public. WAMUNC's long and prestigious history is one of perseverance, through pandemics and financial hardships, and the Secretariat is committed to making sure that this most recent setback won't be the blow that ends up scarring the conference forever. Your move, delegates.

The most concerning aspect of the cancellation is how suddenly it occurred. GW has given no official explanation, and previous attempts to receive comment from them have netted vague, political responses that don't answer the question. While members of the Emergency Secretariat would no doubt feel more confident and comfortable knowing the true cause and reason for the cancellation of the conference that they've worked so hard on, it seems unlikely that this reason will be given up so easily. Cancellations such as this are unprecedented in the history of the conference, and there is much speculation as to why this specific instance of WAMUNC was targeted as opposed to the other 25 iterations that have come before, but some

are speculating that the reason could go much deeper than a simple scheduling conflict. Finding out the true motive will be the prerogative of delegates, whether or not they choose to is up to them, but there may be a deeper story to uncover.

Since its inception at the turn of the century, WAMUNC has always strived to provide a fun, engaging, and educational experience to students all over the United States and even the world. Combined with a trip to Washington DC, our nation's capital, WAMUNC has always been a conference enjoyed by students and teachers alike for a variety of reasons. The conference has survived through economic recessions and pandemics, always finding a way to pick itself back up and ensure an experience that delegates would be excited to have. The biggest threat to WAMUNC, ironically, came only four years ago, with the outset of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the shutdown of in-person activities on GW's campus. Being forced to go online for two iterations was something that neither party, the organizers or the delegates, would have found preferable, but in the long term, the virtual conferences were smash successes that allowed for future expansion and the continuation of WAMUNC as an event. One of the main differences between the COVID-19 Pandemic and now, however, is that options for the conference were extremely limited. With every conceivable corner of daily life being forced online, WAMUNC wasn't looked at as an outlier or a failure, simply as an event doing what so many others were doing to adapt to the situation and survive. This is no longer the case, and WAMUNC's most recent cancellation can't be extended to society as a whole, forcing those on both the administrative and competitive ends of the equation to consider other alternatives and competitors could potentially arise in its place.

## Committee Topics

### *Finding Staffers*

Unsurprisingly, college kids are a busy bunch of people. As much as we'd love to assume that every single staffer has their job locked in on their calendar, scheduling their life around it and freeing up ample time, we also need to acknowledge that this can't always be the case. GW is a place with lots to do, and given the opportunity, you can't put it past many of the staffers who believed that the conference was canceled to find something else to take up their time. Staffers have filled their now-vacant timeslot with classwork, other clubs or organizations, internships, jobs, sports games, and just about anything else you can think of. WAMUNC can't be run without an ample number of well-trained staff, so the Emergency Secretariat will need to put in a large amount of effort to make sure that you can find enough people in time. Whether it be bringing back old staffers, finding new ones, or maybe even coming up with a way to make a third, less typical option work, this should be one of the first actions taken to make sure that the groundwork for a successful conference can even be laid in the first place.

### *Finding a Host Location*

Not only has the school canceled WAMUNC's room reservations on campus, but they've already allowed other student organizations to eat up the space that was once reserved to put on the conference. From an existential standpoint, this is probably the biggest threat that WAMUNC and its Emergency Secretariat are facing. The conference is expecting hundreds of delegates to participate, and if they can't find anywhere to put them, how is everything going to operate? Other options, ones that aren't dependent on the school's whim, are available, such as hotel contracts and other public spaces, but the Emergency Secretariat would need to find the



resources to pull them through. Desperate times call for desperate measures, and there is some talk of even forcing the conference online, similar to how it was done during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a last resort, however, and the Emergency Secretariat should examine every possible location to host the conference, no matter how infeasible or absurd it may seem.

Washington, DC has a lot of public spaces, and they may soon have eyes turned to them by a creative, yet desperate, secretariat.

### ***Public Relations and Outreach***

While no official statements have been made to participating schools or delegates yet, there are sure to be some questions asked when the date of the conference comes around and major parts of the initial organization of the conference are drastically different. Keeping confidence in the conference is imperative to ensure that not only do schools decide to compete at this iteration of WAMUNC, but they continue to do so in the future. This secretariat must come up with an official reason for the forthcoming changes, one that's satisfactory on both the organizational side and the delegate experience side. Without the school, WAMUNC would not be possible, so care is needed not to shift too much blame or make them upset, for fear of future retaliation and the inability to host successful WAMUNC conferences in the coming years. The messaging must toe a fine line that doesn't place blame on one group more than the others, as well as appease the curiosity of those participating in the conference who might ask questions.

### ***Expansion***

Although the immediate issue that needs to be addressed by this Secretariat is ensuring that the conference can occur at all this year, the prospect of additional growth and expansion for the future must always be considered. After all, if WAMUNC is held, yet its growth is stunted and

reputation ruined, only to contract and fizzle out in the future, were the efforts of this committee really a success? You will have to answer many other questions during the course of this committee, such as the ones outlined above, and they give you plenty of options for expansion if executed well. If you decide to find a new host location for the conference, for instance, and it allows you to expand WAMUNC beyond simply Model UN, that can be taken advantage of to facilitate future expansion. As large as it may seem, Model UN is a relatively niche topic, and the conference could be taken to another level at both a regional and national level if expansion is considered through unique, out of the box ideas that could even potentially leave behind the limitations that WAMUNC currently has set for itself.

### ***Future Safeguards and Backup Plans***

Think about it, do you delegates really want to be sitting here next year dealing with the exact same situation as you have now? To secure WAMUNC for the future, there needs to be more robust backup plans and safeguards to ensure that the same drama that's currently occurring won't happen in the future. While we don't know the true reason for WAMUNC's cancellation of GW property, we know that it could be absolutely devastating should it happen again. While this Emergency Secretariat is hoping to pull out a miracle and have WAMUNC run smoothly in some form, lightning doesn't strike twice. If this same situation happens later down the line, there's no guarantee that an Emergency Secretariat would even be able to be formed, let alone take appropriate action to solve the issue. We don't need a twenty-layer deep failsafe, but what we do need is some form of insurance for the conference so that these same circumstances don't repeat themselves for future iterations of the conference.



## CHARACTER LIST

### 1. Isabella Griffin - WAMUNC Secretary General

Being the Secretary General of WAMUNC, Isabella has the most important role in ensuring the conference's future, both internally and externally. She works as the boss of the rest of the Secretariat, ensuring that their jobs are being fulfilled in a timely and appropriate manner while also communicating with GW and attending delegations. Given her position, Isabella has numerous connections with the GW faculty and administration, allowing her access to information from the school before everyone else. Outside of WAMUNC, Isabella manages an international NGO focused on education equality, making her well-versed in this sector. She also has connections through professional experiences at the United States Department of State, the U.S. Senate, and the White House. Her specialties include sports diplomacy and space policy, so she holds very important connections in both of these areas at the international level.

### 2. Jillian Richter - WAMUNC Executive Director

Serving as the Executive Director of WAMUNC, Jillian holds one of the top positions in the organization. With responsibilities ranging from crisis management to delegating roles for the directorate, she is busy making sure the logistics of WAMUNC are perfect. During the conference, you will find her running around making sure advisors and delegations are getting all the help they need. When she is not busy with WAMUNC Jillian helps out at other organizations that center around law and research. Her main interests are data security and privacy law. Her experience in these organizations in leadership positions makes her well-equipped to handle any type of problem and think of creative solutions.

### 3. Anna Charleston - WAMUNC Chief of Staff

As WAMUNC's Chief of Staff, Anna has the ability to oversee all the staff of WAMUNC. Particularly, she manages the Under Secretary Generals of the Conference, Chairs, Vice Chairs, and General Staffers. With this responsibility, Anna is in the know about all things WAMUNC (everywhere from pre-conference staff selection, background guide writing, and during the conference ensuring all staff are carrying out their responsibilities). Anna has the contact information and oversight of everyone involved in WAMUNC. Anna also has extensive legal knowledge, as she is the President of the Pre-Law Student Association and an Editor in Chief of the Undergraduate Law Review. With her prior work in the Senate, Department of State, a security think tank, and a political communications firm. These experiences have provided Anna with connections beyond GW's student body, as well as made her knowledgeable about developing policy, and more importantly communicating it to the public. In her free time, Anna enjoys golfing with friends.

#### **4. David Porter - WAMUNC Director of Finance**

David's position as the Director of Finance for WAMUNC gives him access to resources that are nearly unparalleled in scope to the rest of the committee. Acting as the Finance Director for both WAMUNC as well as GWCIA, his extensive knowledge of the financial system allows funding for any projects or ambitions that he may have. Additionally, David works as an EMT for GW's emergency services program, making him knowledgeable on the layout of the city as well as survival techniques.

#### **5. Ella Melchior - WAMUNC Director of Public Relations**

Originally from Boston, Ella sits as the most important person in deciding what information gets released to the public, and what information stays internal. Ella is responsible for keeping the image of the conference high and dealing with whatever concerns advisors or students may have. Her large social media platform gives her an outreach to many people, and she has a large following of devoted fans on the WAMUNC and IAS social media accounts.

#### **6. Lily Fischer - WAMUNC Director of Programming**

As the Director of Programming, Lily organizes and runs the events that are being hosted by WAMUNC directly, such as the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the speaker events. Given this, she has connections to those organizations running the events, such as restaurants and small businesses in the DC area. Alongside this, she has access to previous speakers and public figures who have spoken at WAMUNC, including numerous politicians and public figures.

#### **7. Natalie Taylor - WAMUNC Director of Conference Relations**

The Director of Conference Relations works mostly with the schools attending WAMUNC, being the first line of communication with advisors who are hoping to attend the conference. Her direct lines of communication with attending schools allow her access to information on that front before anyone else, and she's built up trust with advisors and students attending the conference, potentially giving her an outlet through them.

#### **8. Aidan Murphy - WAMUNC Director of Safety and Security and IAS Vice Chair**

As Director of Safety and Security, Aidan has supreme authority over all security-related matters related to WAMUNC and as such has connections with the George Washington University and its police department. As Vice Chair, Aidan hears all rumblings throughout the International Affairs Society and all of its sub-organizations such as the Model United Nation team, GWIAA, and everything in between. This is beneficial for him as he can utilize his deep connections with

the U.S. Department of Justice and Attorney General Merrick Garland to investigate and issue subpoenas regarding matters.

### **9. Gary Neal - Undersecretary General of Regional Bodies**

Gary is from New Jersey, and he oversees and organizes the running of Regional Bodies at WAMUNC, being the smallest of the General Assemblies run at WAMUNC. He is influential in deciding which committees are chosen for the conference, and given the hectic nature of the canceled conference, could be incredibly important in ensuring new and engaging committees are made for the conference. Gary is an enthusiastic cook and baker as well, often acting as the team chef, bringing cookies and other sweets to events that revolve around WAMUNC and the IAS. His extensive baking and cooking knowledge allows him to get creative with his work in many different ways.

### **10. Mia Harrington - Undersecretary General of International Bodies**

As the USG of International Bodies, Mia Harrington oversees the most delegates during WAMUNC. Mia is critical in ensuring that the largest WAMUNC committees are operating successfully. This job is a challenge, as she must ensure staff are efficiently managing debate and unmoderated caucus with so many delegates. However, Mia has former experience with running conferences. Mia was involved with GW's middle school conference, GWCIA. Outside of WAMUNC, Mia is a member of GW's Model UN team, giving her strong public speaking skills and connections all over the country. Speaking of connections, Mia is also the Vice President of her sorority. With this role, Mia knows how to organize large-scale professional and social events, but she also has access to a strong alumni network. She also has experience interning on Capitol Hill, which has grown her knowledge of politics and engaging with constituents.

### **11. Ryan Harvey - Undersecretary General of Crisis Committees and Assistant Head Delegate**

Overseeing the running of Crisis Committees at WAMUNC, Ryan is influential in making sure that the fastest-moving, most intuitive committees at the conference run smoothly without a hitch. This job is made easier due to his other job as an Assistant Head Delegate for the Model UN Team, building up connections and loyalty among the team and giving him influence among the hundreds of staffers that he is in charge of. Outside of the IAS, Ryan is a massive fan of backpacking and hiking, giving him incredible stamina and knowledge of survivalism and nature. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of the wilderness and many connections within that scene. Finally, Ryan's home in North Carolina frequently comes up in conversation, and he will always talk about Bojangles and the Durham Bulls no matter the topic of discussion.

## **12. Ritam Chatterjee - Undersecretary General of Historical and Specialized Committees**

Ritam Chatterjee is THE USG of Historical and Specialized for this year's WAMUNC, but outside of that he's on the Exec Board of GW's Indian Student Association and loves expressing his cultural background to everyone! His dorm kitchen features access to various spices like Kashmiri Chili Powder and Poppy seeds and cooks dishes that at times are way too spicy for his friends to handle! Before moving to NJ when he was one, he was born in Kolkata, a place of rich and deep history and it shows in his interest in visiting museums and deep connections with museum/artifact historians and officials. weekly and learning about what they have to offer!

## **13. Russell Sloan - Chair of the George Washington University International Affairs Society**

As chair of the IAS, Russell acts as the ultimate authority for everything IAS-related, sitting above even the Secretary-General when it comes to authorizing the organization to take action with the school. As the chair, Russell has arms in every branch of the organization, from the Model UN Travel Team to GWCIA and everything in between. He has widespread connections to faculty within the school, as well as the unbridled loyalty of every member of the IAS, one of the largest student organizations on campus. He is also a massive college football fan, rooting for Michigan.

## **14. Pat Bardock - Model United Nations Coordinator and Head Delegate**

Originally from Los Angeles, and never letting you forget it, Pat's position as Head Delegate of the Model UN Team gives him a high position in the organization. He is widely known throughout the organization and the school, as well as using his position to gain friends and connections in nearly every college around the country that you could think of due to his competition with them through Model UN. His networking prowess doesn't stop there, however, and he has connections in the White House that he has built up through a long political career. Finally, his network ends with having connections in the music industry, specifically in the teams and agents of incredibly famous musicians such as The Weeknd and Drake.

## **15. Dante Galvani - CEO of the George Washington International Affairs Association**

Being the CEO of GWIAA, Dante has access to the largest reserve of funds that are found by any individual student organization at GW. As CEO, he has complete control and discretion over

where the funds are spent, and GWIAA is essentially used as a rainy day fund for all IAS-sponsored events, including WAMUNC. Hailing from the borough of Yonkers in New York City, Dante has connections to the airline industry, specifically being close with the owners and operators of LaGuardia airport in New York City, as well as with organized crime.

#### **16. Grace Hartley - Assistant Head Delegate**

Grace Hartley is a sophomore at George Washington University studying International Affairs & Political Science! She's relatively new to Model UN having started during her first year of college but is passionate about it! She's highly involved on campus, being a member and leader of various clubs and student organizations, including Spoon University and the Panhellenic Association, and as such has a lot of connections and a lot of influence within the GW community. Additionally, as an Assistant Head Delegate of GWMUN, she has influence over the Cadets, who are the new members of the team.

#### **17. Max Harper - Vice Head Delegate**

Originally from Philadelphia, Max's job as the Vice Head Delegate of the MUN Travel Team gives him connections around GW, as well as influence over the inner workings of the travel team and all of its members. Additionally, he has previously worked as the USG of Historical and Specialized Committees at WAMUNC, giving him access to insider information and knowledge regarding how the conference has previously been run, and issues that have been dealt with in the past. He has a large network that expands to politicians and local communities in the Southeastern Pennsylvania area, and he's constantly talking about the superiority of Philadelphia sports over everything else. Finally, he is a fan of sports of all kinds and has connections to athletes and sports teams around the country.

#### **18. Ann Drew - IAS Finance Director**

Ann has worked as the IAS Finance Director for years, giving her large amounts of knowledge of the funding side of WAMUNC, GWCIA, and the Model UN Travel Team. She is greatly familiar with the appropriations process, where the school decides how much money to give to certain organizations, and has used this familiarity to score the IAS larger budgets in the past. Additionally, she has been known to keep extensive records of members of the IAS and their budgets, meaning that she has access to a large wealth of knowledge not accessible by anyone else.

#### **19. Mira Thapur - GWIAA Executive Director**



Mira's position as GWIAA Executive Director puts her in a position to be able to tap into the reserve funds of the organization much in the same way that Dante can. Her status as the Executive Director, however, means that she can potentially slip under the radar and make less noise than someone with the title of CEO accessing the same funds, giving her an advantage in that avenue. Her position as an assistant working for GW's finance desk also means she has direct connections to funds within the school and has built up connections within the finance department over her years working there. Finally, her previous prestigious internships with financial organizations and banks have given her connections to some of the wealthiest and most influential people in the country.

#### **20. Jack Chang - Former Vice Head Delegate**

Jack is an international student who is heavily invested in the affairs of the Model UN team and the IAS in general, previously being part of leadership and having a strong following with its members. He is constantly traveling around and has recently spent a semester studying abroad in Geneva, Switzerland, giving him many international connections that he has made during his stay there. Because of his travels, Jack speaks many languages and has friends in just about every country that you can possibly think of, allowing him to reach out to people from all around the world. He is also a huge fan of romantic comedies and binge-watches them often.

#### **21. Lucky Branigan - Director of IAS Programming**

Hailing from Chicago, Lucky helps keep morale up and attracts new IAS members with programming events. He has connections with experts, speakers, and entertainers alike, making him an important asset for ensuring that events being hosted by WAMUNC run smoothly. He also has taken up the job of running social media promotion for these events, giving him a large reach that he can use to speak to people directly.