

MODEL UNITED NATIONS OF THE FAR WEST, INC. MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES

APRIL 12-13, 2025

Location: Hyatt Regency, SFO - Harbour Room

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Membership Chair Danijela Dudley San Jose State University, at 1:06 pm, Saturday, April 12th, 2025.
2. Roll Call and Quorum: Roll Call of the Member Schools was taken and quorum was established. The Chair, Danijela Dudley, called Roll, with the following in attendance:
American River College, Kathleen Collihan
American River College, Michael Nakada
California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, Noah Zerbe
CSU, Channel Islands, Chris Scholl
CSU, Channel Islands, Andrea Grove
CSU, Fresno, Melanie Ram
CSU, Fresno, Nataliia Kasianenko
CSU, Long Beach, Ezgi Yildiz
CSU, Long Beach, Alex Lohman
Heidelberg University, Marc O'Reilly
Mesa Community College, Brian Dille
Metropolitan State University, Denver, Richard Moeller
Metropolitan State University, Denver, Bora Jeong
San Francisco State University, Martin Morales
San Jose State University, Danijela Dudley
Santa Clara University, Ken Faulve-Montojo
University of Alaska (ANSEP), Ryne O'Reilly
University of Alaska (ANSEP), Meghan Duryea
University of Alaska (ANSEP), Marvin Johnson
University of Alaska (ANSEP), Monica Fast
University of Alaska (ANSEP), Katie Rearden
University of Nevada, Reno, Nicholas Seltzer
Weber State University, Stephanie Wolfe
Weber State University, Nicholas Ferre
Western Oregon University, Mary Pettenger
Whittier College, Mike McBride
Whittier College, Michelle Cervantes

Present: 15 Simple-Majority: 9 $\frac{2}{3}$ Majority: 10

3. Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes of the 73rd Session Membership Meeting were approved as circulated.
4. Adoption of the Agenda: The Agenda was approved as circulated.

5a. Appointment of the General Committee: The appointment of general committee membership is as follows, with Noah Zerbe as the head of the general committee:

- a. CSU, Channel Islands, Andrea Grove
- b. San Jose State University, Prof. Danijela Dudley
- c. California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, Prof. Noah Zerbe

5b. Appointment of the Rules Committee: The appointment of general committee membership is as follows, with Brian Dille as the head of the rules committee:

- d. Mesa Community College, Prof. Brian Dille
- e. California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, Prof. Noah Zerbe
- f. CSU, Channel Islands, Andrea Grove
- g. Whittier College, Mike McBride

6. Report of the Executive Director:

David Perry reported on the status of the 74th Session of the MUNFW.

- a. Piper Lowinger has taken over chair training and it shows in their preparation. Chair training will continue to grow in this direction.
- b. Delegate behavior has been notably good within committees and outside of committee. Concerns can be reported directly to the OED.
- c. Prep documentation for the conference was of a high quality this year. However, there are some concerns with AI use. AI can be hard to follow, however generative AI is clearly present in the Policy Statements. Policy statements are significant to preparation of the conversation at MUNFW, so it is important that they are prepared by using typical Policy Statement research strategies and not by using AI to write the policy statement.
- d. Chat GPT has been used in committees. This is unacceptable per the standards of the OED, and a policy may need to be written by membership to address the use of AI at conference. OED suggests that Membership take on this request either directly or assigning it to the general committee.
- e. The OED has been working on accommodation requests. MUNFW is committed to keeping the conference accessible for all students.
- f. UNITAR went very well. Special thanks to CSU Long Beach,
- g. David requests feedback on the faculty brunch. New idea based on specific feedback.
 - i. Weber preferred it over the reception.
 - ii. Cal Poly Humboldt preferred the brunch as well,
 - iii. Metropolitan State also conquered,
 - iv. San Jose State enjoyed the food and they were happy to help students on Friday,
 - v. Whitter liked the space that was provided,
 - vi. Miriam appreciated the specific conversation,
 - vii. Santa Clara preferred having the Friday free, Fridays are for starting emergencies, preferred the brunch,
 - viii. Western Oregon, liked the brunch, kept it formal and asked if there should be structure, preferred no structure,
 - ix. Liked to do it after the check-in,
 - x. MUNFW is using brunch to meet the food and beverage minimum,
- h. Delegate food pantry is running, for delegates who have clear need:
 - i. Members identify the students who have the need,
 - ii. MUNFW identifies as much as they can to meet dietary restrictions,
 - iii. Please provide feedback,
 - iv. Thanks to Western Oregon University for providing the funds,

- v. 1 meal and 2 snacks per day per student,
- vi. Please provide any feedback on document with dietary restrictions as well,
- i. Drivers, American River suggested that the conference sets up a list for drivers,
- j. MUNFW has been at the Hyatt for 30 years and had a great relationship with the hotel for most of that time. Hotel policies and negotiations have changed over the last 3 years and MUNFW is moving to the Marriott down the road for the 75th session;
 - i. Contract is signed,
 - ii. It meets the conference's needs and the quality is significantly higher than the Hyatt,
 - iii. The price will be the same for MUNFW.,
 - iv. MUNFW can book 2 years out,
 - v. Hyatt would not allow MUNFW book 2 years out despite the funding availability,
 - vi. Marriott has been extremely accommodating and the relationship seems to be positive and healthy,
 - vii. The Marriott has kept the 2nd floor reserved for MUNFW,
 - viii. Room rate is \$169 per night, will be the same for all rooms,
 - ix. Calendar dates are critical for MUNFW membership, knowing in advance is essential,
- k. MUNFW 75th Session will be hosted on April 17h - 21st, 2025,
- l. Survey will be in the program for merchandise moving forward,

7. Report of the 74th Session Secretariat. Madam Secretary General McKenna Helseth noted that most of the session items are going well. Only an issue with minor dresscode and typical struggles with new delegates. The ICJ committee is going very well thanks to CSU Long Beach.

Whitter noted that the conference has been great and the Secretariat is going well.

8. Report of the 75th Session Committee; Secretary General of the 75th session presented the draft agenda to Membership. The draft theme is *75th Years of Diplomacy, Dialogue and Development: Sustaining the Spirit of the United Nations*. The agenda is built around committees that are also

The Alumni session is a new portion of the conference. The goal is to bring together alumni and MUNFW. The outcome document of the Alumni Session will be used as the prep document for the High Level Event in the General Assembly.

Alumni are encouraged to chair but preference will be given to current students,

Additional items will be added to even such as career exploration,

The opening session will be held at the Herbst Theatre, where the United Nations Charter was created and signed. The Oprah house will cost additional funding. Travel will also need to be provided to students downtown. The conference is requesting additional funding if available. However, they need to

Weber State noted that they can cover fees but not make donations. Mesa noted that optional contributions on registration can be covered. Whittier will work on that process. Whittier committed to cover that cost.

Money brought in with MUNFW has to meet legal requirements on money brought in. MUNFW also encouraged the body to discuss details. \$20,000 would put MUNFW over the current non-profit status but this is something that MUNFW can work through.

Opera house will change the schedule but it wouldn't be significant. Membership raised concern about the schedule changes. MUNFW encouraged Membership that the Opera house is worth the changes and will provide a once and a lifetime opportunity. Membership will consider changes to schedule. Mesa encouraged the bus schedule to include dinner. MUNFW anticipated that committee sessions will not be held on Friday. MUNFW wants to connect to the conference being one of the longest running conferences in the globe. Ralph Bunch and Eleanor Roosevelt were the two first speakers, highlighting the significance of the conference. MUNFW will show pictures to membership and try to get it to delegates as well.

Alumni participation can include:

- a. Chairing, this must include background guides for the committee,
- b. Alumni Session, as listed above, can be 10-100. Should consider staying Friday and Saturday night. Documentation will be available for participants.
- c. Alumni can participate in committees. The OED noted that any Alumni who participate should be able to take advantage of the room rate. MUNFW may need to increase their room block. If alumni are only coming 2 days for the Zero Draft for Sundays HLE. If they do not stay for the banquet then they will not need to pay a full fee. However, the conference could work out full conference participation, but the delegate fee would need to be charged for full participation.

9. Review of the Approved Bid for the 75th Session topics were distributed. CSW is not finalized but will be finalized soon based on CSW work. Weber will work with Whittier to finalize the CSW topics before tomorrow. Membership did not have questions on the topics provided.

10. Bid to Host the 76th Session Membership chair, Danijela Dudley, called for bids for the 76th Session;
- a. Cal Poly Humboldt, Noah Zerbe presented a proposal document that was circulated,
 - i. Kiera Sladen & Ruth Worthington will lead the proposed Secretariat,
 - ii. Theme: *Addressing Injustice: Overcoming the Obstacles to Meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*
 - iii. Committee Suggestions: GA, ECOSOC, UNEA, UNHCR, CSW, SC, ICJ
 - iv. Looking to build a consortium

Mesa suggested that ILO be included onto the proposed agenda. Humboldt noted that they are willing to update their agenda based on committee sizes and to differentiate itself from the 75th Session agenda. MUNFW noted that ECOSOC would be considered a "small" committee. MUNFW encouraged ECOSOC and ILO. Miriam College noted that talking about the rights of persons with disabilities and/or the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- b. There were no other bids to host the 76th session of MUNFW.

[Mesa Community College proposed a P-27 to postpone the meeting until 2:30pm. Approved]

11. Selection of Student Board Members: Membership heard from students to be Student Board Members:

CSU East Bay is attempting to communicate with an interested student. Western Oregon asked if a vote or board participation without the delegate present would be accepted.

The Executive Director, David Perry encouraged observers to the board for interested board members. Student board members must attend a quarterly board meeting and be in attendance to the conference the following year. Both are required for consideration. Student feedback is essential.

Cal Poly Humboldt moved to continue the student board selection process to 3pm April, 13 2025.
Seconded by Whittier, approved.

The Executive Director, David Perry, encouraged the known interested student to participate in the MUNFW board meeting.

The following students were approved by Membership as Student Board members

Shauyya Miglani,
Mesa Community College,
6027579796
sha2320386@maricopa.edu

Motion to move the 75th session bid to April 21st, 2024

Meeting suspended at 3:02 pm April 12th, 2025.

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American River College, Kathleen Collihan
American River College, Michael Nakada
California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, Noah Zerbe
CSU, East Bay, Maria Ortuoste
CSU, Fresno, Melanie Ram
CSU, Fresno, Nataliia Kasianenko
CSU, Long Beach, Ezgi Yildiz
CSU, Long Beach, Alex Lohman
Mesa Community College, Brian Dille
Metropolitan State University, Denver, Richard Moeller
Metropolitan State University, Denver, Bora Jeong
Miriam College, Mirma Tica-Ortiz
San Jose State University, Danijela Dudley
Santa Clara University, Ken Faulve-Montojo
University of Alaska (ANSEP), Ryne O'Reilly
University of Alaska (ANSEP), Meghan Duryea
University of Alaska (ANSEP), Marvin Johnson
University of Alaska (ANSEP), Monica Fast
University of Alaska (ANSEP), Katie Rearden
University of Nevada, Reno, Nicholas Seltzer
Weber State University, Stephanie Wolfe
Weber State University, Nicholas Ferre
Western Oregon University, Mary Pettenger
Whittier College, Mike McBride
Whittier College, Michelle Cervantes

Quorum: 16

12. Continuation of Selection of Student Board Members: Membership heard from the following students to be Student Board Members:

Mesa Community College moved to continue the student board selection process to the end of the agenda on April, 13 2025. Seconded by Cal Poly, approved.

The following students were approved by Membership as Student Board members

Itay Volk
Santa Clara University
6692463162
ivolk@scu.edu

13. Report of MUNFW Inc: The Executive Vice President, Kelcey Negus and Vice President of Operations, Rachel Wells reported the following items:
- a. 20 total schools are present at MUNFW's 74th session.
 - b. MUNFW welcomed ANSEP.
 - c. Hoping next year's 75th extravaganza will be a draw.
 - d. Questions about funding, approximately \$11,000 has been unpaid for the 74th session.
 - i. MUNFW clarified how the funding processes worked
 - ii. MUNFW noted that credit will default 30 days from the end of conference
 - e. 75th Session, events for Alumni
 - i. Panels run by alumni
 - ii. UNITAR Resolution writing session
 - iii. Professional development skills

14. Continuation of Selection of Student Board Members: Membership heard from students to be Student Board Members:

The following students were approved by Membership as Student Board members:

(Miriam) Alaska McCutchan
Weber State University
3463326711
agreenemccutchan@mail.weber.edu

15. Election of Officers for MUNFW, Inc.: The MUNFW, Inc. The Board consists of the current and incoming secretariat (SG) and advisors, student representatives, five community representatives (selected by the Board), and the Executive Officers. The Membership retains control of the Board through votes at the Membership meeting. Approval of the slate was moved by Humboldt, seconded, and approved.
- President – David Perry
Executive Vice-President – Kelcey Negus
Vice-President of Operations – Rachel Wells

16. Election of Chair of Membership: The primary responsibility is running the Saturday and Sunday Membership meetings, and representing the member schools on the Board which includes three additional virtual meetings, once a quarter. Cal Poly Humboldt nominated Danijela Dudley from San Jose State as membership chair for the 75th Session of MUNFW. Danijela agreed to hold the position as Chair of Membership. A motion was made by Humboldt, seconded and approved unanimously.

17. Approval of the Agenda for the 75th Session: Piper Lowinger presented the final agenda to membership. The agenda was circulated to Membership.
- a. Weber State clarified the CSW

Mesa Community College moved to approve the 75th Session of the Model United Nations of the Far West. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

18. Selection of the Host for the 76th Session: Cal Poly Humboldt distributed the final committee selection and consortium details to membership. The document was circulated.

Kiera and Ruth presented the revisions of the proposed Agenda:

- a. UNESCO is now in full membership
- b. ECOSOC is now in limited membership
- c. ILO was added
- d. CSW was removed
- e. Limited membership committees follow the membership from present year membership of that committee when available.
- f. Adding the rights of peoples with disabilities onto multiple topics

Western Oregon moved to approve the bid to host the 76th Session of the Model United Nations of the Far West. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

19. Old Business:

- a. **Delegate Training Materials:** There is significant information that our delegates need to assist in preparing students for the conference. Mesa Community College thanked David Perry and the OED for putting together the current materials. Western Oregon noted small group conversations as a good tool for training within the conference. CSU Fresno noted minor discrepancies and asked for additional training samples, including additional resolutions and policy statements. San Jose State suggested that MUNFW ask for permission to students to share documents. Mesa Community College asked for additional materials for ICJ. Metropolitan State asked that the website be updated as quickly as possible, as much as possible. Mesa Community College asked for additional information on the World Press articles. CSU Fresno asked for when World Press documents will be available. The OED noted that the World Press this year students were waiting on photos, and there was a backlog. Metropolitan State confirmed that there will be an award for World Press. Santa Clara noted that advisors go through great lengths to emphasize norms. There seems to be a reversion on personal pronouns and addressing the chair. The question was posed to the body that is personal pronouns something that should be let go of? The OED argued that standards should be prioritized and the policy should not be relaxed. Weber State agreed to the statement and is hoping MUNFW should hold the line as a tool to train students. Metropolitan State noted that many chairs are working and some chairs are not. The Secretary noted that formal debate is not at the quality level that they would like to see. Mesa noted specific strategies they apply in their training to address formal debate. The OED noted that MUNFW can adjust training materials for the purposes of P-23s and P-25s during MUNFW. Humboldt noted the earlier conference date, and noted that less time may have impacted that more than the training materials. San Jose noted that as well. CSU Fresno asked if the chairs can coach the uses of P-23 and P-25s during committee meetings. CSU Fresno also requested templates for speeches. Western Oregon added the importance of P-23s and P-25s and requested that the focus. Metropolitan State requested that the country name be bigger than the student name on badges.

Santa Clara thanked Noah Zerbe and Humboldt for their training materials. Santa Clara reiterated that the pronoun usage does seem to be a specific issue. Training is the best that they can and then it seems to devolve during conference. Weber State notes that some of the delegate habits are still probably affected by the Pandemic. Weber also noted that MUNFW is academically better, they appreciate that it is tough. Mesa acknowledges that the issue is frustrating, and pronouns should be a matter of focus. San Jose noted that an in conference reminder of formality for chairs is a good fit. David noted that the credentials idea is important and will be noted. Piper noted that pronouns will be an additional focus in chair training. David Perry noted that many delegates want to stay involved, and they noted that the conference is trying to find a way to incorporate Alumni into the committee. Ideas included an alumni parliamentarian, a resolution expert, etc. MUNFW will request feedback from Membership and that MUNFW is attempting to include alumni who are not able to travel to conference. CSU Fresno clarified that they would like a blank script and not a written script. San Jose State suggested that they could add individual training material links to the website. The Secretary noted that schools could work together to have practice sessions with their neighboring schools or peers to practice. San Jose and Santa Clara reiterated that the training was very helpful. Mesa Community reiterated that virtual is not as good as in person but it is also better than nothing. CSU Fresno asked if there were any clips. The Secretary noted that they will take videos of the conference for the remainder of the conference.

20. New Business:

- a. **Use of Generative AI before the conference:** The use of generative AI was apparent in the policy statements. Hallmarks were very apparent, specifically the em dash. Policy statements had moments of nonsensical behavior. Many referenced similar sites that were not directly encouraged. Metropolitan asked if there is no use of AI allowed at all. The OED understands creative use is valuable but that writing a policy statement is a critical development that MUNFW offers. Writing with AI is noticeable especially in committee and undermines the delegate in committee. Western Oregon noted that the use of AI is something that will happen and the conference could identify how to use the tool vs fighting against it. The OED noted that there needs to be more editing in the prep. American River had some suggestions for incorporating AI into training: have chat GPT write a policy statement, then we will edit it. It also tells the students that they know what it looks like. More training on the search feature on the UN website. CSU Fresno noted that they require citations for their research but then pull it from the document before submission. The OED noted that there isn't plagiarism in resolution and policy statement writing but that is a skill that needs to be utilized. Weber State shared their editing process. Humboldt noted that the feedback from AI was better than peers but not than professors in research that they use. Humboldt also noted that generative AI is useful, specifically in editing.
- b. **Use of Generative AI at the conference:** The OED has seen use of Chat GPT in committee. Whittier noted that the use in resolutions were very obvious, including the use of the em dash. Piper Lowinger suggested that the use of Chat GPT could be used to assist the delegates in research but should not be used to write outcome documents. David Perry noted that they did not want to encourage or discourage any behavior for gaining awards, however, awards are primarily tied to writing and it should be considered in the outcomes.
- c. **Request for General Committee:** Long Beach asked what should be done by Membership during the meeting. Western Oregon proposed that this topic be moved to the general committee. Mesa endorses the sentiment and asks if it could be a formal motion. Cal Poly Humboldt, on

behalf of the General Committee, asked for clarification for what the request to the General Committee is. Mesa clarified that the request to the General Committee is to make a recommendation to the conference, not to create the policy. **Western Oregon motioned to have the General Committee study the issue and make a recommendation to membership to assist faculty on training their delegates on the appropriate use of AI.** Seconded, and approved by Membership, without dissent.

18. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m, April 13, 2025.