

THAIMUN



Government Committee Guide

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1. Introduction

Welcome to one of the Governmental Committees (GCs)! This section should act as a primer for the basic concepts of the GCs and how it deviates from typical MUNs you may have attended in the past.

1.1 - What are GCs?

The Governmental Committees are a combination of Security Council and Historical Crisis Committees. It aims to replicate the debate and ongoing issues being considered in government and is a more action-focused type of MUN. It could be considered a form of introduction to HCC, due to the crises that members of the government have to respond to. If you are thorough in the knowledge of government procedure, you may notice some changes that have been made in the interests of debate.

The main objective of Governmental Committees is to, as an individual and as a committee, form resolutions on set topics, while also reacting to an ongoing series of events which will change based on the passage of time as well as your own decisions and actions. How you react will determine the events which follow.

As delegates, you will be representing the key people related to the government; the power and authority you wield will reflect those of these people. Information is asymmetrical, not everyone will be working with the same knowledge. This creates the opportunity for intrigue and espionage. The wider world as well as specific sections of government related to the specific committee (see section 2.3) are represented by the Crisis Directors and backroom.

1.2 - How is it different from standard MUN?

Compared to typical MUN committees, as previously mentioned, the pace is greatly heightened. The debate would alternate between entertaining rounds of debate, and unmoderated caucus (where the chairs may choose to tighten the rules on certain aspects at certain times) when delegates will react to dynamic Crisis Updates.

You will represent people in The House of Commons or The Senate, rather than countries. You will have to research your character and the power and authority or affiliations that character holds. You will also need to research your political party, your interest groups and your constituency, which influence your decision making.

Because you will be members of a political party, there will be no opening speeches, as most party members will support, with slight variations or degrees of support, your party's policy.

Yes, this means that personal pronouns ARE allowed. The fact that you are characters in a houses of government, rather than countries at the UN, means that there is a much greater focus on action. You don't have to 'recommend' or 'urge' in Crisis, you can take direct action - if you want something to happen, you can make it happen. Of course, this hinges upon two things: the action being realistic and being detailed.

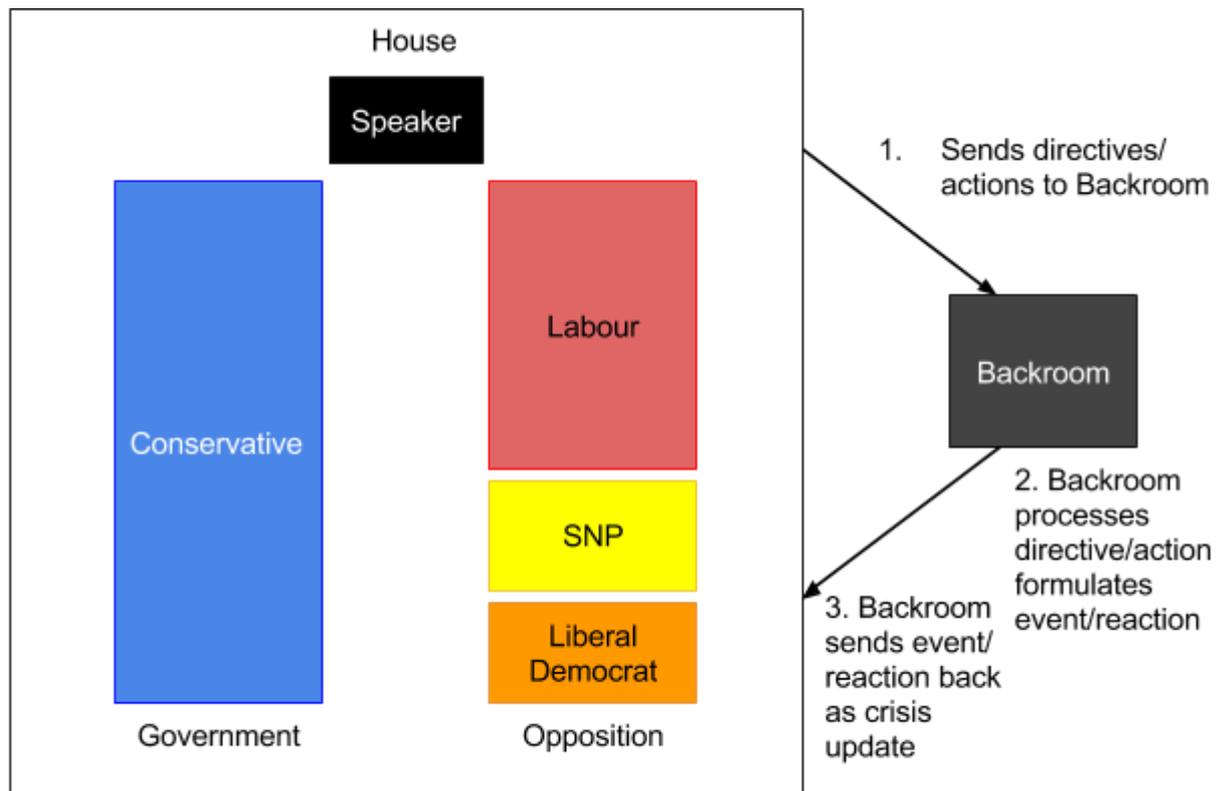
As a political leader, your focus will be on maintaining not only your position in power but also the general happiness and welfare of your people by issuing specific statements and enacting specific policies to reinforce this.

2. The Governmental Committees

With the introduction out of the way, it's time to talk about the specifics of how the committee works.

2.1 - Structure

The Governmental Committees are split into a committee and a backroom. The structure is as follows:



Example: House of Commons

2.2 - Committee Rooms

The committee rooms are composed of the key politicians who make up the relevant government committee. You will have to take actions based on the interests of your committee as well as your personal interests - depending on your role and the strength of your views- such as supporting a Hard or Soft Brexit or Trump Care, these two things may be at odds.

2.3 - Backroom

The backroom is the second 'room' of the GC and is occupied by the Crisis Director and Crisis Analysts, collectively referred to as 'backroom staff'. If you consider the GCs to be a game, the backroom represents the computer running the game, keeping track of all the information and responding to the players' (i.e. delegates') actions.

The backroom can represent all the countries, organisations, sections of government and individuals not included in the houses, so communication and action from within the house are not just limited to the characters represented within the GCs.

For example, the UKPC has the House of Lords and the Queen, and the USCC has the House of Representatives, President, Secretaries of the Departments and the Presidential Cabinet being represented by the backroom. The Secretaries of the Departments will be the ones that the bill relates to. For example, a bill on defence spending will have the Secretary of Defence review, revise and accept/deny the bill in the backroom.

The backroom staff are, as previously mentioned, the occupants of the backroom and will be the ones deciding on how to respond to the actions taken in the house. How delegates communicate with the backroom and how the backroom translates these into actual events will be expanded on in the 'Procedures and Mechanics' section.

2.4 - Crisis Staff

"Crisis Staff" is a term that is used to encompass both the backroom staff and the chairs in the individual houses. Previous experience gives an ideal minimum of four GC staff in total; two chairs and two crisis directors. While it is theoretically possible to have chairs process directives and manage committees, they can quickly become overwhelmed during periods of high activity.

3. Characters and Research

One of the key differences between GC Committee and regular MUN is that you are representing a character, not a country. You have specific roles, power and responsibilities related to your character. Your research should contain biographical information as well as information about the character's current and former positions and experiences.

It should include any affiliations your character has and this will influence your actions. For example, a Senator is lobbied by those who support gun ownership rights would not vote for a bill implementing gun ownership restriction!

3.1 - 'Character' vs. 'Delegation'

This is the simplest but most fundamental difference between GC and regular MUN. You will have noticed that you are not a country's delegation to the UN, but a person in a specific cabinet. What this means is that, unlike what you would normally do as a delegation to the UN, you are able to take direct action as your character. This ability to have a direct effect on the crisis means that a much greater standard of specificity is required in the actions than in normal resolutions. This will be covered in a later section.

4. General Procedures and Mechanics of GCs

This guide previously alluded to the GCs as a game of sorts. This section will cover the general rules and mechanics of this game, as well as how the committee in general will go. More information specific to the running of UKPC and USCC is mentioned below.

4.1 - Rules of Procedure

As mentioned in the introduction, the regular MUN rules of procedure are slightly altered in the GCs. Resolutions will be debated clause by clause, with crises being introduced at the crisis staff's discretion. More information can be found in sections 6 and 7. Other than the rules mentioned in this handbook, Chairs will use the IASAS rules of procedure in complement with the rules mentioned here. It should be realised that the GC Handbook rules overrule standard IASAS rules of procedure.

4.2 - Crisis Updates

Crisis Updates are the means through which the backroom translates the directives submitted by the delegates into actions, and then how those actions affect the outside world. The backroom can choose whether to accept directives and respond to them. Directives considered unrealistic, for example, will not be responded to, and therefore the action outlined in the directive will not occur.

Global Crisis Updates will be delivered to all delegates (of both cabinets if applicable); this represents the information reported on by the news, and is assumed to be known by the general public. The updates also represent events taking place in other relevant sections of government.

For example, the UKPC would have the House of Lords, and the USCC would have the House of Representatives being represented by the backroom. Crisis Updates can also be on the individual level - if a personal directive is submitted in secret, the results of this will become known only to those it affects. Similarly, if a cabinet directive is submitted detailing a secret operation, the results will only become known to the respective cabinet. In the UKPC an Emergency debate can be held depending on the urgency of the crisis update. (Please see section 6 for more information.)

4.3 - Actions

This sub-section will cover the various actions you can take as delegates.

For Personal Directives, Press Releases and Communiqués, you are not limited to simply taking individual action. If multiple characters (but not the entire cabinet, as in that case a cabinet directive would be appropriate) wish to undertake an action, this should be performed under the title of a Personal Directive, Press Release or Communiqué.

4.3.1 - Personal Directives

A Personal Directive is an action that you take as your character or group of characters e.g policies pursued on a State level, such as increasing the number of homeless shelters.

All directives must be held to a high level of specificity. Given that action, rather than a recommendation, is taking place, this specificity is important so that the delegate(s) submitting the directive is on the same page as the backroom staff. This is relevant whether the directive is military (specific instructions for movement of troops, for example) or political (laws, policies or even public speeches must be carefully crafted) in order to ensure consistency. Military directives can only be issued in the USCC, for more information on military options in both committees, see section 6 and 7.

Depending on the extent of the directive, the corresponding Crisis Update can be global, cabinet-specific or individual. Personal Directives are the most versatile and most commonly-used directive, which should be used to shape the crisis at hand.

4.3.2 - Press Releases

A Press Release is a statement released by a character (acting on his own or on behalf of his government) which is available to the public. All press releases must be submitted verbatim (i.e. it must be written in the way you mean it to be published) with a title, and will be released as a Global Crisis Update.

4.3.3 - Communiqués

Similar to a Press Release, a Communiqué must be submitted to the form verbatim, as the backroom will pass the message on as it is sent to them. This type of directive is used when an individual or group wishes to communicate privately with another individual or group. The recipient of the message does not necessarily have to be someone represented by a delegate; the backroom can respond on the behalf of any non-delegate entity.

4.3.4 - Cabinet Directives

Cabinet Directives are actions taken by the entire cabinet. These can result in global crisis updates - for example with a joint press conference, policy change or major operation - or crisis updates delivered specifically to the committee - for example, secret operations and internal affairs changes.

5. Military Directives

When directing military action, you need to be specific about what forces you use, their compositions, tactics and how this relates to your overall operational and strategic objectives. Please see the Military guide and Sections 6 or 7 for more.

6. Procedures and mechanics specific to UKPC

The UKPC has specific rules pertaining to the committee as well as small but important differences to a normal MUN committee. In the UKPC, the delegates represent Members of Parliament in the House of Commons, with the backroom representing the Queen and House of Lords among other entities. *In depth information concerning the House of Commons can be found here:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENIW7i48xHA&t=323s> , <http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/>.

6.1- The role and powers of the House of Commons

The House of Commons has the following roles and powers:

- To pass laws.
- To debate important issues of international, national or local importance.
- To scrutinise the government.
- To check and approve government finance.
- To raise taxes.
- To express the views of constituents.

6.2- The role and powers of the Speaker

In the UKPC, the Chairs take the role and character of the Speaker of the House of Commons, with their respective powers. The Speaker is perhaps best known as the person who keeps order and calls MPs to speak during Commons debates. The Speaker calls MPs in turn to give their opinion on an issue. For example, the Speaker of the house would currently represent John Bercow. The Speaker's powers include:

- Directing an MP to withdraw remarks if, for example, they use abusive language
- Suspending the sitting of the House due to serious threat or disorder
- Suspending MPs who are deliberately disobedient - known as naming (this is usually done by a vote in the commons, but will follow the normal MUN 3 warnings system)
- Asking MPs to be quiet so Members can be heard
- Voting on issues only in the case of a tie

An example of the Phraseology for asking MPs to withdraw remarks is here:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=i9hrfc40Lko>

6.3- Requesting POCs, POIs or Emergency debates

MPs signal that they want to speak by standing up from their seat (a custom known as 'catching the Speaker's eye') and holding their placard or they can notify the Speaker in advance by writing. The phraseology of a POC or POI is in section 6.4.

An Emergency debate is a debate called at short notice in the House of Commons on an important and specific matter that should have urgent consideration. Emergency debates cannot be called in response to an ongoing crisis that requires immediate action, for example, a war or imminent terrorist plot. They can only be called in response to a crisis that is not of the highest degree of urgency, for example, a travel ban or contaminated blood in the NHS. Whether an Emergency debate can be held will be at the discretion of the Speaker.

An MP can call for an Emergency debate by sending a request in note form to make an application to the house. If they are given permission, they will then need to prepare a 1-minute speech in order to obtain the satisfaction of the Speaker on the matter and then permission from the House to debate the matter.

After the MP has given the speech, if the Speaker is satisfied that the matter is proper to be debated, the House will then vote by standing in their seats in support of the MP or sitting down in opposition.

If the application is successful, the Speaker shall announce the length of the debate and the time at which it is to be held.

Standing Orders, which are referred to below, are the written rules which regulate the proceedings of each House.

For example:

Speaker: I would now like to call ____ (Name of MP) to make an application for leave to propose a debate on a specific and important matter that should have urgent consideration under the terms of standing order number 24. The Honourable Member has up to 2-minutes in which to make such an application. _____ (Name of MP).

MP gives their 2 minute speech

Speaker: I am satisfied/ not satisfied that the matter raised by him/her is proper to be discussed under the terms of the standing order number 24.

(If the Speaker is satisfied)

Has the Honourable Member the leave of the house?

Members stand in support, or sit in opposition

The Honourable Member has obtained/ has not obtained the leave of the House.

(If the MP has obtained the leave of the House)

Speaker: I can inform the House that the debate will be held ____ (when it will be held- e.g. after lunch or in 10 minutes). The debate will last for/up to ____ minutes/hours.

If the matter is to be debated immediately, or in a short while, the Speaker can also motion to enter into unmoderated caucus to write resolutions.

Please see this video as an example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT4JN05MivU>.

6.4- Rules of procedure concerning phraseology of debate

Instead of being delegates, as in a usual MUN committee, you will represent Members of Parliament, or MPs.

As in the real House of Commons, the MPs must address each other with: May the Speaker please ask/tell/respond to/inform the honourable gentleman/lady/member that (fill in here), instead of May the Chair please ask the delegate of.....that. If the MP is one in your own party, then you can refer to them as my honourable friend. If the person being referred to is a Privy Counsellor, then they are referred to as the right honourable gentleman/lady.

Privy Counsellors are members of the Privy Council. Privy Council members include Cabinet members past and present, the Speaker, the Prime Minister, the Opposition Leader, Archbishops, various senior judges as well as other senior public figures.

When the Speaker rises to speak, all other Members, including the Member who has the floor, must resume their seats immediately.

Unlike in usual MUN debate, banter (as mentioned in the U.K. Parliament's website) witty comments at an MP's expense are in order at the Speaker's discretion.

Members may not: accuse other Members of deliberate misrepresentation, or lying, to the House; use abusive or insulting language likely to create disorder; criticise the personal conduct of individual Members or Peers, refer to the alleged views of members of the Royal Family; or refer to matters awaiting adjudication by a court of law (except when discussing legislation).

Accusing a Member of the House of one of the following unparliamentary phrases is out of order, and doing so will result in the MP being asked to withdraw the word or allegation, and if the MP refuses, a warning.

The phrases are as follows:

Bastard

Blackguard

Coward

Deceptive

Dodgy (But as used without consequence by Ed Miliband, can be used at the discretion of the chair)

Drunk

Falsehoods

Git

Guttersnipe

Hooligan

Hypocrite

Idiot

Ignoramus

Liar (Specifically lying to the House of Commons, as would be assumed without any context placed by the MP. Accusing a member of lying to other government bodies, groups or individuals is in order)

Pipsqueak

Rat

Swine

Stool Pigeon

Tart

Traitor

Sod
Slimy
Wart

In addition, accusations of 'crooked deals' or insinuation of the use of banned substances by a member are considered unparliamentary language

An example of a MP being asked to withdraw his remarks can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXNb3j2ZZEM>.

Please see an example of debate here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnKKPwEX_ac,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUqhqsfe0YQ>.

6.5- Resolutions

6.5.1- Writing Resolutions

A Resolution should contain in the following order:

TITLE: This tells people how to refer to the resolution.

AUTHORS: Requires 2 or more authors for the bills to be debated in the chamber

SIGNATORIES: Requires 6 signatories or more for the bills to be debated in the chamber

PREAMBLE: The preamble should be a one or two sentence statement of purpose- it should briefly state what the resolution states to accomplish and how it would do so.

ENACTMENT CLAUSE: “Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:” This clause gives the resolution the full legal authority of the body passing it.

CONTENT: This section of a resolution enumerates the specific actions that the document will mandate. Content clauses should be positive and not normative in nature: that is, they should accomplish something definitive (i.e. allocations, authorisations, etc.). Normative language should be kept in the preamble.

DEFINITIONS: Any technical terms, as well as the abbreviations of any organisations or departments referred to in the text of the resolution, should be defined and included in the section. Any ambiguous phrases should also be explained further in the definitions sections.

COMMENCEMENT ORDER (optional): A commencement order is designed to bring into force the whole or part of an Act of Parliament at a date later than the date of the royal assent.

If there is no commencement order, the Act will come into force from midnight at the start of the day of the royal assent.

Please see the below links for an example of a resolution:

Title, preamble, enactment clause: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/introduction>.

Content: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/part/1>.

Definitions: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/section/3>.

Resolutions will be vetted by the advisors for content (grammar, structure etc.) and the crisis staff for resolution format.

6.5.2- Passing Resolutions

Once a resolution has passed, it must go through the House of Lords (the Backroom) for Lords amendments.

Lord Amendments are suggestions made by the House of Lords that have to be made in order to pass it through the house.

The Commons has to reach a decision on each Lords Amendment. Motions may be made to agree or disagree with, amend or provide an alternative to individual Lords Amendments.

If necessary, the resolution passes backwards and forwards between the two Houses until all points of disagreement are resolved; the resolution is then ready for Royal Assent. This is when the Queen formally agrees to make the resolution into an Act of Parliament (law).

The legislation within the resolution may come into effect immediately, after a set period or only after a commencement order by a government minister.

6.6- Voting (Division)

6.6.1- Voting phraseology

Voting in the House of Commons is referred to as division, therefore a delegate would say if they wish to move to voting procedures: motion to move to division procedures, or a chair would say: we will now be moving onto division.

6.6.2- The voting process

The Speaker will say: *the question is as on the order papers, as many as of that opinion say aye.*

Those for the resolution say aye

The Speaker will then say: of the contrary no.

Those for the resolution say no

If it cannot be determined how many agree or not, or if the Speaker's decision is challenged by further shouts of "aye" or "no" then the speaker calls for a division.

If the decision is clear from the shouts, the Speaker will say: I think the ayes/nos have it, the ayes/nos have it.

Upon this call, MPs go to either the left or right of the room, the right side being an aye side, the left side being a no side, and are counted by the pages.

Upon receiving the result, the Speaker will then say: The ayes to the right number of votes, the nos to the left number of votes. So the ayes/nos have it, the ayes/nos have it.

Please see this video for an example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nl5JLohLWI4>.

6.7- Military actions

The Prime Minister and cabinet have the power to declare war and carry out military actions; however, unless there are circumstances that require an immediate military response due to the security of the country, permission is usually granted from the Commons and the Queen. In this case, the declaration and specific military actions must be outlined in detail in a cabinet directive.

A simple majority from the House of Commons, and the agreement of the Queen (represented by the back room) is all that is required for military action and declaration of war.

7. Procedures and mechanics specific to USCC

The USCC also has specific rules pertaining to the committee that differ from the usual MUN format. In THAIMUN United States Congress Committee, the delegates represent Senators in the US Senate, with the backroom representing the House of Representatives, President, Secretaries of the Departments and the Presidential Cabinet. The Secretaries of the Departments will be the ones that the bill relates to. Here's the link to all of the necessary executive agencies controlled by the Presidential Cabinet and the Executive branch: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/fedgov.html>.

7.1-The role and power of the United States Senate

The Senate's powers and duties are as follows:

- To confirm and provide advice on presidential appointments and nominations of judges and executive officers that require Senate confirmation.
- To elect the Vice President of the U.S., if necessary. This would only happen if state electoral votes were tied and the House would have to be in agreement.
- To create new legislation—bills, laws, etc. The House and Senate can introduce new legislation—usually at the subcommittee level—but the Senate has the most power to debate, modify, and even block proposed legislation. The exceptions are the introduction of revenue-related bills or legislation governing the use of federal money. Usually only the House of Representatives can introduce these; however, due to the interests of debate, certain modifications are made in the handbook. (See section 7.6.2 on Funding)
- To consider any legislation and bills introduced by the President.
- To ratify treaties and agreements negotiated with other nations by the President of the United States. This must also be ratified by a two-thirds majority.
- To act as the jury for the impeachment of a sitting president, vice president or other civic officials such as a judge for "high crimes and misdemeanours," as written in the Constitution, when the action is recommended by the House of Representatives. With a two-thirds majority, the Senate may thus remove an official from office.
- To investigate matters of national interest. There have been special investigations of matters ranging from the [Vietnam War](#) to organized crime to the [Watergate break-in](#) and subsequent cover-up.

Due to Senators' longer term of 6 years compared to the House's 2-year terms, they can avoid caving to public opinion (for at least 5 of those years before having to gain support for re-election) and make decisions based on the overall good of the country rather than voters. The House is meant to be more representative of the people's desire, hence their power over tax (see below).

7.2-The role and power of the President of the Senate

The Vice President of the United States acts as the President of the Senate and has the following powers and duties:

- To cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.
- To call Senators to order for breaches of the rules of the Senate, either on their own motion or at the request of any other Senator.
- To permit the Senator to continue speaking once reprimanded.
- To enforce order on his own initiative and without any point of order being made by a Senator whenever confusion arises in the Chamber.
- To make the necessary arrangements upon appropriate notice to allow former Presidents of the United States to address the Senate.

7.3- Rules of procedure concerning phraseology of debate

All speeches must be addressed to the presiding officers, who are addressed as either "Mr. President" or "Madam President", and not to another member; other Members must be referred to in the third person. In most cases, senators do not refer to each other by name, but by state or position, using forms such as "the senior senator from Virginia", "the gentleman from California", or "my distinguished friend the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee". Senators address the Senate standing next to their desk. Senators can use the first person however.

No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator. (This can be done only at the discretion of the presiding officers)

No Senator in debate shall refer offensively to any State of the Union.

When a Senator is called to order he shall take his seat, and may not proceed without permission from the presiding officers.

Please see an example of debate here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqHUVSUUN5k> (4 minutes onwards).

7.4- Requesting POIs or POCs

A point of information is known in the USCC as a request for information. An example of phrasing is below:

President of the Senate: The floor is now open to requests for information. Are there any on the floor at this time.

Senator from Virginia, you have been recognised.

Senator from Virginia: May the President please ask the Senator from California.....

Senator from California: May the President please thank the Senator for their question and respond that.....

7.5- Rules of procedure and phraseology of debate

Discussion of the source of funding is allowed (see section 7.6.2)

There are different names of motions or different motions to normal IASAS MUN procedure:

Cloture (motion to previous question): A motion to end debate on a bill and vote. Requires a two-thirds majority vote.

Motion to lay on the table: A motion to temporarily hold off on discussing a bill or amendment.

Motion to take from the table: A restoratory motion to bring back to the floor a measure (bill) previously laid on the table.

Motion to reconsider: A restoratory motion to bring back to the floor a measure (usually a bill or amendment) previously disposed of. Only a delegate on the “winning” side of an original vote can move to reconsider. Only a majority vote can bring a bill or amendment back from defeat. E.g. a representative who has cast an against vote on a defeated bill can move to reconsider the bill.

Motion to divide the question: A motion to split a topic into distinct segments of debate of debating a voting. E.g: An amendment calling for lower criminal penalties and increased enforcement may be divided into two amendments, each of which calls for one of these proposals.

7.6- Bills

7.6.1- Writing bills

A Bill should contain:

TITLE: This tells people how to refer to the bill.

ENACTMENT CLAUSE: “Be it enacted by the United States Senate.” This clause gives a bill the full legal authority of the body passing it.

PREAMBLE: The preamble should be a one or two sentence statement of purpose- it should briefly state what the bill states to accomplish and how it would do so.

CONTENT: This section of a bill enumerates the specific actions that the document will mandate. Content clauses should be positive and not normative in nature: that is, they should accomplish something definitive (i.e. allocations, authorisations, etc.). Normative language should be kept in the preamble.

DEFINITIONS: Any technical terms, as well as the abbreviations of any organisations or departments referred to in the text of the bill, should be defined and included in the section. Any ambiguous phrases should also be explained further in the definitions sections.

ENFORCEMENT: The legislation must also explain who in the government (e.g. department, agency) or international community (e.g. UN, non-governmental organisation) will be responsible for the implementation of the bill. If any monitoring or supervision is required, the party or parties responsible for doing so should also be listed in this section.

ENACTMENT: This sets the number of days until the law or action goes into effect.

FUNDING: If the legislation requires funds for certain projects, creates a new agency, or calls for any kind of reorganisation that would require money to be spent, the bill must specify the amount and source of the funds.

AUTHORS: Requires 2 or more authors for the bills to be debated in the chamber

SIGNATORIES: Requires 6 signatories or more for the bills to be debated in the chamber

For more information, please visit:

<http://congress.org/advocacy-101/the-legislative-process/>

Bills will be vetted by the advisors for content (grammar, structure etc.) and the crisis staff for bill format.

7.6.2- Funding

Usually, only House of Representatives has the power to introduce revenue-related bills or legislation governing the use of federal money; however, in the interests of debate, some of these rules will be modified. **Furthermore, the question of source/methods of funding can be raised in the Senate as opposed to traditional Model United Nations committees.**

7.6.2.1- Taxes and Budgets

As only the House of Representatives has the power to create legislation to raise taxes and set fiscal budgets, Senators must send a personal directive to the backroom to ask specific Representatives of the House to put forward legislation, which specifies as to which tax and how much it will be increased or decreased. If this passes, this will then naturally pass into the Senate, where it can be agreed upon and then the new funds can be used in a separate bill. The Senate can pull out funds from specific agencies or simply state that it will be funded on the *House Committee on Appropriations*. *The House (only contains House of Representatives) Committee on Appropriations works with the Senate to regulate and allocate spending across all branches of government.*

7.6.2.2- Grants

The National/Federal government can give grants and aid to the State government as incentives to follow certain policies. These can be mentioned in the Funding section of the bill.

There are different types aid given through grants:

Formula grants: When the amount of funding for the State is determined by a mathematical formula. E.g. for every person classified as poor, a State gets a certain amount of money to help them.

Project grants: When States submit proposals to the Federal Government to obtain aid. The States then compete for the grant.

Block grants: When the Federal Government gives a State a large grant for general development in a sector e.g. Infrastructure. The State can then determine how to spend the grant.

7.6.3- Amendments to the Constitution

An amendment to the Constitution, must be proposed as a joint bill, which means the bill must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. In this specific case, as the President of the United States has no constitutional role in the amendment process, the joint bill, if approved by Congress, does not go to the White House for signature or approval.

7.6.4- Passing bills

Once a bill has received a majority vote and passes through the Senate, it must pass through the Secretary of the relevant Department who will review, revise and accept/deny the bill in the backroom. It will then pass through the House of Representatives (Backroom) and then to the

President (Backroom) for his signature. If it is sent back to the Senate, it will be sent back with suggestions and criticisms on certain sections. If it is passed by the Secretary of Department and the House, but not by the President and is vetoed by the President, then the veto can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in both chambers. It should be noted that just because the House and President are represented by the backroom, it does not mean that they will have the same views. Replicating reality, the House and President will have their separate and contrasting views represented.

7.8- Procedure concerning the powers of Government, specifically Congress over the Executive branch and the President

7.8.1- Presidential vetoes

Once the bill passes through the Senate, the bills goes the backroom which represents the interest of the House of Representative, the Presidential Cabinet and the President. The authors of the bill will have to present the bill to the backroom which will be under intense scrutiny over the specifics of the bill. The President can also influence the legislative agenda by a threat of veto in which the President can persuade legislators to alter the content of the bill to be more acceptable to the President.

7.8.2 - Overriding Presidential vetoes

If the President vetoes a law, this can be overruled with a 2/3rd vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

7.8.3- Overriding Executive Orders

Executive orders are presidential directives that have the force of law. Executive orders cannot reverse a law passed by Congress. They can be implemented without Congress but can be revoked, modified or superseded by congressional laws and the following President. Congress has the power to overturn an executive order by passing legislation that invalidates it. The Supreme Court can also declare an Executive Order illegal or unconstitutional.

7.8.4- Presidential Impeachment

The House of Representatives and then the Senate can impeach the President but only by a 2/3rds vote. While Congress can impeach a President, the President is not out of office until the vote to impeach has passed. The Senate act as the jury for the trial and their vote acts as sentencing. Once proceedings have started, the Senate must debate on the topic including summoning witnesses or reports. Only if impeachment is passed, the President is out of office.

7.8.5- Presidential Speeches in the Senate

If the President would like to speak in the Senate, the Senate or backroom can motion for allowing him to speak in the chamber and then the Senate can vote on the matter, as usually the President is not allowed in the Senate. In this case a Crisis Director will act as the President of the United States.

7.9- Military actions

The President has the power to immediately direct the armed forces without congressional approval. However due to the War Powers Act, Congress usually give an Authorization for Use of Military Force before the President commits troops, but Presidents have committed troops without this approval. The President must however obtain authorisation to use troops within 60 days of when he first committed them, or else he has to recall the troops. Although the President can direct the armed forces, only Congress has the power to formally declare war.

7.10- Voting

7.10.1- Means of voting

In the United States Senate, there are three means of voting:

1. **Voice vote:** The primary voting method, the presiding officers first ask those in favour say “aye”, and then opposed say “no”. A voice vote is not counted individually but rather judgement by the presiding officers, whether the officers see more senators in favour or opposed. In a scenario where the voice vote is doubtful, they could use other voting methods which can be called by the senators or the chair.
2. **Division vote:** In a scenario where voice vote does not work, the presiding officers ask those in favour stand up from their seats followed by those opposed to stand up after those in favour sat down. However, this rarely happens and this method is only used after the voice vote is only doubtful.
3. **Recorded vote:** The presiding officers will ask the pages to call the senators by name in alphabetical order, and each of the called out senator responds in ayes or noes. This method is only used after the voice vote is only doubtful.

In a scenario where the vote is tied in the committee, the Vice President or in this case the chair will cast the tie-breaking vote on the merits of the Vice President’s interest.

The senators can abstain or decline to vote, in which case the senator will be given the floor to justify for the action.

While there is a motion for division (motion to divide the house) it is not often used as the Vice President can cast a vote, which often is for the interest of the political party that controls the White House and the Congress.

As the parliamentary procedure allows Senators to question other Senator’s vote or to reintroduce a bill, the chair can if necessary record the vote.

7.10.2- The Voting Process

Once the votes have been counted, the presiding officers will say: “*The ayes are number of votes. The nays are number of votes. Therefore, the bill passes/fails.*”

8. For the Crisis Staff and Secretariat

This section is not meant for delegates, although those of you who are interested in the inner workings of the GC Committees are welcome to read it. Included are lists of things to consider on both the micro (for the Crisis Staff) and macro (for the Secretariat) level.

8.1 - Organisation: Crisis

- Team organisation:
 - The backroom should consist of two full-time members for each committee .
 - The committee requires two chairs
- In the lead-up to the conference, you must prepare the following:

- Placards:

The Placards must have the name of the Member of Parliament or Senator, the County or State name and any governmental role, for example Shadow Secretary or Treasurer.

○ Crises scenarios and scope

You must work out not only which crises you are doing, but how long they are and when they will be implemented in normal debate. Will they be implemented regardless of the progress on the topics, or only if debate is slow or there are successful bipartisan efforts with no resistance? This also includes working out how much real time per in-crisis day you are allocating (for example, three crisis hours equals one real hour). It goes without saying that the committees should be decided here as well.

○ Research and portfolios

Unlike in HCC, the MPs or Senators need to conduct their own research, effectively forming their own portfolio, and then send this to the Chairs at a set date for review. This ensures their research is effective and correctly focused, as the chairs can respond with advice if it is not, as well as that the Chairs understand the different stances in the committee.

○ Directive submission method

Possibly the next most important aspect of Crisis is sending directives. The method by which delegates submit their directives to the backroom must be efficient and easy to track. American conferences favour a paper system, which can work but may result in lost directives. A proven method used in THAIMUN is Google forms, where delegates fill in the type of directive (a multiple choice option) and the content of their directive (a long form answer box). If using a Google form, remember to record the sender's username so you know who it came from.

○ An update presentation method

The crisis element of the Government Committees would be pointless if the delegates could not see what effect their actions have on the world. The delivery of both global and cabinet-specific crisis updates must be considered. The most low-tech and usually most amusing option is for crisis staff to act out the crisis update to the cabinets, temporarily taking the role of some other character. Alternatively, an update can be written out by the backroom and read out to the cabinet by the chairs or, as the most high tech option, a webpage set up where delegates can access the crisis updates. Tumblr has been used in the past; the THAIMUN IV HCC blog can be found [here](#).

8.2 - Organisation: Conference

- Rooms: a GC needs two rooms, one for the committee and one for the back room. This should be taken into account when doing room allocation. The room should be relatively close to the backroom.
- Internal set up: the UKPC must be set up with the Government seats on the right of the Speaker, with the Prime Minister and Government Ministers sitting at the front, and the Opposition seats on the left of the speaker, with the Shadow Ministers also sitting at the front. The seats must be facing each other, with a podium on each side to represent the dispatch and opposition dispatch box.
- The USCC must be set up in an arc format facing towards the chair who will be in the front center facing opposite the senators.

9. Miscellaneous

9.1 Frequently Asked Questions

● What is this based on?

The ruleset for this is mainly based on a Historical crisis rulebook and guide, with elements modified to pertain to a singular government based committee. The USCC rules are based on the Harvard MUN rules of procedure with additions to allow greater quality of debate.

9.2 Credits

Much thanks must go to the following people, without which the development of this Handbook and the committees would not have been possible.

9.2.1 Resources used:

- The HCC Rules of Procedure
- The Harvard MUN Rules of Procedure
- <http://www.parliament.uk>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standing_Rules_of_the_United_States_Senate
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/about-the-us-senate-3322271>
- <http://congressbase.com/97/u-s-senate-powers-and-functions/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Senate-United-States-government>
- <https://www.rules.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=RuleXIX>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-supermajority-vote-in-us-government-3322045>
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOfse2ncvffeeITrqvhrz8H>

9.2.2-The GCs Handbook:

- The THAIMUN V Secretariat:
 - Secretaries General: Nafis Mahboob (BPS) and Jing Jing Piriyaletsak (HIS)
 - Parliamentarians: Dillon Rajakarier (BPS) and PunPun Leelamanthep (ICS)
- THAIMUN V UKPC Staff:
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9.2.3-The original HCC Handbook from which this was modified from:

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