

The Model Arctic Council: A UAF-UArctic Initiative

University of Alaska Fairbanks's (UAF's) membership in UArctic has been essential for the development of the Model Arctic Council (MAC) initiative. MAC is an opportunity in which

Arctic Council priorities, and the remarkable cultural diversity of the students heightened the learning experience.”¹

The article can be found here:

<https://academic.oup.com/isp/article-abstract/doi/10.1093/isp/ekx005/3742134/The-Model-Arctic-Council-Educating-Postsecondary>

Dartmouth College’s “Arctic Science Diplomacy and Leadership Workshop & Model Arctic Council” program represented the first *regional* Model Arctic Council sponsored through the UArctic Model Arctic Council Thematic Network. It grew from the Thematic Network (TN) leads’ vision of regional MACs occurring between the biennial fully international Model Arctic Council programs that rotate throughout the Arctic with the chairship of the Arctic Council.

Melody Brown Burkins and Leah Sarson of the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College collaborated with Mary Ehrlander, Brandon Boylan, and Troy Bouffard at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to plan a weeklong program on Arctic science diplomacy for Canadian and U.S. students.

Twenty-five graduate and undergraduate students from various universities, mostly in Canada and the United States, participated. The program included orientation exercises; lectures by Arctic scholars, Arctic Council practitioners, and other civic leaders; a negotiations workshop; and the two and a half days of the Model Arctic Council. The MAC addressed the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group’s work on operationalizing the One Health project, which addresses ecological, animal, and human health-related impacts of climate change holistically.

The program taught about the Arctic and the role of science diplomacy in meeting challenges and opportunities in the region and in fostering leadership capacities and global awareness in participants. The program offered an interactive, multi-modal learning environment that engaged Arctic Council practitioners and other civic leaders and that provided a high level of authenticity in the Model Arctic Council portion of the program. Students greatly appreciated the hands-on negotiation workshop prior to the Model Arctic Council that prepared them for working towards consensus during the simulated Arctic Council meetings.

For more information on this program, please visit: <http://dickey.dartmouth.edu/global-engagement/conferences-initiatives/science-and-diplomacy-arctic>

Boylan, Ehrlander, and Bouffard are currently writing an article that evaluates the MAC 2017 at Dartmouth, focusing on the value of multi-modal, including simulation, and interdisciplinary methods of teaching, as well as the value of engaging practitioners in simulations to achieve a level

of experiential learning. They are using data from a debriefing, participant surveys, a focus group, and their own observations.

The University of Lapland will host the next fully international Model Arctic Council October 24-27, 2018 in conjunction with an SAO meeting in Rovaniemi. The program organizers are currently designing the program.