



# Mediators Beyond Borders™

Partnering for Peace & Reconciliation

Last Revised: March 30, 2009

## UNIVERSITY CHAPTER PROTOCOL

### **Executive Summary:**

In a post modern world, it is clear that socially, economically, and politically we need to invigorate and adapt our conflict resolution processes to be more effective cross-culturally. University Chapters are an integral part of the ability of Mediators Beyond Borders to implement its mission. Chapters provide support by expanding the talent pool of conflict resolution professionals.

Students complement and supplement the work of MBB in several critical ways: Chapters provide research into specific geographic regions and may maintain an ongoing sister chapter relationship with universities across the globe. Students compile information on specific countries and conflicts for utilization in projects for in-country initiatives. One goal is to build institutional long term relationships university entity to university entity as well as individual virtual relationships student to student. They form ongoing sister chapter to chapter relationships in which students engage counterparts electronically or via formal educational exchange programs. Individual students may avail themselves of mediation and other processes inherent in their University Chapter.

For example, students may engage in a one on one or small group internet communication or relationships. This sort of communication creates cross-cultural awareness and builds mutual cultural competence in a world being shrunk by the blurring of economic boundaries and problems. The speed of electronic communications has eroded the ability for communities to remain isolated, as a result the interdependence of communities have become more apparent. Therefore, the next generation of professionals and leaders must be grounded in the international sphere and be prepared to think and act globally.

### **University Chapter Mission:**

University Chapters further MBB's mission by engaging students, faculty, and conflict resolution professionals in a university-based setting. University Chapters enhance knowledge and skills by partnering students with practitioners and global student networks to promote peace by the integration of diverse conflict resolution processes within vulnerable communities.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### ADVISORS

Each University Chapter is required to have at least one advisor from the university and one advisor from the local MBB community. The home university may require that there is a faculty advisor from the department that is sponsoring the organization.

#### 1. Faculty Advisor may be:

- a) Law School full time faculty or adjunct
- b) Faculty from related disciplines (e.g. cultural anthropology, social psychology, journalism, communications, international affairs, and other professional schools such as schools of public health and business)

#### 2. Local Member Advisors may be:

1. Local ADR practitioners, esp. mediators
2. Expatriates from assigned region, including native language speakers
3. Representatives of NGOs in community doing peace-building or other related work (e.g. Global Solutions, Council on Foreign Affairs, Catholic Charities, Refugee Resettlements (NB: Council on Foreign Affairs are not activities – better to include Search for Common Ground; moveon.org, or Open Society))

Each Advisor agrees to participate as a presenter in a public or student workshop at least once each academic year without fee.

Each Advisor agrees to participate, monitor, and assist in providing substantive expertise and support to the Chapter as needed.

## STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

### MBB requires that:

1. University Chapters are open to all, including cross-disciplinary students.
2. Dues of US \$365 per academic year for US Chapters & \$182.50 per academic year for international Chapters are paid to MBB annually by Oct. 1.
  - a. Local chapter dues are optional, but must be approved by MBB.
  - b. Additional Chapter fundraising is optional and at the discretion of the Chapter. Funds are not shared with parent MBB.
3. Each Chapter establishes its own requisites with respect to the minimum participation required of each University Chapter Member.
4. Each Chapter meets all requirements of their home university in order to become a recognized university student organization.
5. If university requirements conflict with MBB requirements, the Chapter must submit a request to the MBB Board of Directors demonstrating reasons for exemption from any of the University Chapter requirements.

## **MBB MANDATED ACTIVITIES OF UNIVERSITY CHAPTERS**

1. Maintain Country Profile and Contact Database on MBB's Internal Conflictpedia.
  - a. Profile should follow MBB "Country-Centric Model."
  - b. Chapter should designate a "Country Research Coordinator."
2. Maintain own Chapter webpage, listing all members, events, and contact information including a link to MBB webpage.
3. Attend a conflict resolution training workshop provided by Chapter Advisors/MBB Members at no or minimal cost to University Chapter Members.
  - a. Training workshops will consist of approximately 40+ hours of training split into two weekends: one during the fall and another in the spring.
  - b. Training will also require some independent work and may coincide with attending a mediation and other off-campus activities.
4. Hold one public event each academic semester. Below are possible examples.
  - a. Movie showings followed by discussion (*The Blood Diamond, Hotel Rwanda, The Last King of Scotland, Iraq in Fragments*).
  - b. Host lectures and/or workshops with Chapter Advisors or other members of the dispute resolution community.
  - c. Co-host educational functions with local nationality, ethnocentric, and cultural groups.
5. Create Sister Chapters through the creation of a sustainable relationship with an academic institution in a specific country.
  - a. The goal is to create a Sister Chapter with a university in a developed nation (outside of your own) as well as with a university chapter in a "at-risk" country. These multinational Sister Chapters should allow for diverse problem solving skills and a deeper understanding of the project country.
  - b. Designate a Sister Chapter coordinator.
6. Country Focus: An integral part of University Chapters function is conducting extensive research on countries and key stakeholders of the communities in which there are proposed or current projects. Chapters are also responsible for building contacts with local people.
  - a. Network with the legal community and other institutions in a particular country and receive online news and developments in a timely manner.
  - b. Have delegates participate in Project Team Selection for any project initiated by a Chapter or a Chapter in the country that a Chapter has responsibility for.
  - c. Keep an updated database of all NGO's operating in a Project Country.
  - d. Keep alert for all requests for proposals or other new projects and grant opportunities.
  - e. Establish contact with officials at United Nations, World Bank, State Department, specifically the U.S. Embassy in the country.
  - f. Subscribe to any English language news periodicals in the assigned country.
7. Adhere to core values of MBB.
8. All projects must be approved by MBB Board of Directors.

## CHAPTER OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Create newsletters or blogs, available on chapter webpage and archived for downloading.
2. Seek grants for funding trips abroad or exchanges.
3. Create internships, mentorships, and volunteer opportunities for members.
4. Co-sponsor and participate in conflict resolution training and activities in the local community.
5. Co-sponsor lectures and other educational activities.
6. Create educational podcasts for download and broadcast.
7. Participate in PR activities promoting MBB or peace initiatives such as weekly radio call in show, and local articles.
8. Attend the Annual MBB Congress.
9. Generate proposals for consideration by MBB Board of Directors.