



Mediators Beyond Borders™

Partnering for Peace & Reconciliation

UMD Baltimore MBB Constitution:

Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB)

Purpose: MBB is a non-profit provider of pro bono conflict resolution capacity building within post-conflict communities. A key goal of MBB is to develop indigenous skills for group facilitation, public dialogue, strategic planning, collaborative negotiation, and peer mediation. Teams of volunteer mediators will conduct skill-building workshops consistent with the norms, values, and culture of the locale. The mission is to increase the capacity of hostile communities to prevent, resolve, and recover from violent conflict. An array of conflict alternatives can be explored by strategic integration into the political, economic, and social institutions. A team(s) may volunteer for between 1-8 weeks per year, over a number of years in the same country, to build sustainable initiatives and to develop local peacemakers and peacekeepers. MBB will partner with existing NGO's and ADR entities to provide experienced mediators as trainers and consultants to complement and expand the conflict resolution capacity of already funded peace projects. Students may become involved in MBB in order to learn alternative dispute resolution processes and their importance in a hands-on environment. Participating in and contributing to MBB initiatives will allow students the opportunity to travel to developing nations and provide help to people in post-conflict communities.

Activities: To fulfill its purpose, MBB will sponsor a range of activities, programs and services. Events will include hosting forums and discussions with speakers who are experienced mediators, involved in the political realm, or representatives from partner nations or organizations. Movie screenings will show films related to international conflict resolution initiatives and their needs, including Hotel Rwanda, Battle of Algiers, and Iraq in Fragments. MBB will host fundraisers to help raise dues and travel expenses for students, and consistent meetings with frequent talks by professors from various departments within the university will take place.

Membership Requirements: A diverse membership will be encouraged of students from all academic graduate programs, of all races, creeds, ages, sexes, sexual orientations and nationalities. Members must attend at least one event or meeting per semester to maintain membership. No hazing or illegal discrimination will be used as a condition of membership in the organization.

Financial Obligations of Members and the Chapter: Chapter dues of US \$365 are to be paid annually due on Oct. 1. University Chapter Member dues are included in the US \$365 Chapter dues and include faculty members. University Chapters, with the consent of MBB, may

implement local chapter dues or other in-kind service requirements. Fundraisers throughout the year will help raise money for Chapter dues.

Associate Membership: Faculty, staff and alumni of the University and non-University persons may participate in the meetings and activities of the organization but may not vote, hold office, or serve in formal leadership positions.

Membership Procedures: Recruitment of new members will be constant, with extra focus on the beginning of the Fall and Spring semester. Meetings will be held in September and January which will be open to all new members. At those meetings, forms will be given out in which potential members will sign-up. All members that meet the membership requirements will be accepted. The privileges of membership will include access to meetings, the ability to run for formal office, the ability to vote for officers, the ability to attend all meetings and events, and to potentially be involved in international travel and initiatives.

Voting Privileges: Voting privileges are limited to active student members in good standing with the organization. Requirements to maintain voting privileges include paying dues and meeting membership requirements.

Officers: MBB must maintain at least three student officers currently enrolled and in good academic and social standing at the University of Maryland School of Law to be certified. Faculty, staff, alumni and external affiliates may not serve as officers. MBB's officers will include a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President will have overall control of the organization and interact constantly with MBB International. The Vice-President will assist the President in operations and be available to take over presidential duties should the need arise. The Secretary will take minutes of all meetings and organize the UMD MBB website with announcements. The Treasurer will be in charge of collecting and managing dues from members. The Treasurer will also keep track of financial books, including spending and earnings from events and fundraisers.

Election of Officers: The election of officers will take place once a year during the close of the Spring semester at a meeting in early April. Officers are nominated by anyone present at the meeting who meets the membership requirements. All Officers are required to be members in good standing who meet the membership requirements. The election process will be by printed ballots or blackboard. The results will be announced by email within 24 hours of the vote. A simple majority of votes cast will be required to win a position. An officer can hold only one position at a time. No proxy ballots can be cast.

Terms of Office: Terms of office will begin after the spring semester and end the last day of the close of the following spring semester.

Removal of Officers: Officers can be removed by a vote of more than 75% of the active members in good standing. A new vote will then be taken to fill that position, and that new officer will fulfill the remainder of the current term.

Voting Powers of Officers: All members including officers will be allowed to vote.

Meetings: Regular meetings will be held at least once per semester, and at least two times per year. Anyone may attend meetings. Five members must be present to constitute a quorum.

Finances: All spending must be approved by both the Treasurer, and either the President or Vice-President. All checks must be signed by two parties.

Advisor: MBB will have two main faculty advisors. Professor Roger Wolf will be the head faculty advisor, and contact from MBB. Additionally Toby Treem, Deputy Director of C-Drum will supervise and advise on issues to the organization.

External Affiliations: UMD Baltimore MBB will be a part of Mediators Beyond Borders, a non-profit organization. To be recognized as student organization of MBB, UMD MBB will have to adhere to certain guidelines set by MBB including payment of chapter dues, consistent operation on a day-to-day basis, and monthly correspondence between MBB Officers and MBB.

Amendments: The Constitution may be amended by the approval of 80% of the active members of MBB, and consent by a majority of the MBB Officers.

Template for Constitution drawn from University of Pittsburgh MBB University Chapter. Modifications made by University of Maryland Baltimore University Chapter.