



BOSTON UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer Report – Colin Rosenow

This past year I have been delighted to serve as your Treasurer, and I would like to share what exactly I've been doing behind the scenes for BUIAA. As you probably know, the Treasurer position is probably the least public of all the positions on the BUIAA E-Board. This is generally due to the sensitive nature of our financial information and decisions, but also because budgeting is a task left solely to the Executive Board and the Treasurer. That said, I have been very busy with the job, and I think it is important for members to know what my responsibilities are and what I've been doing.

When I first joined the E-Board last May I think it is safe to say that I made a lot of changes and overhauls to the system. I remade the websites, branding, updated the logos, etc. Naturally, I revamped the Excel budget that we have been using for the last few years and completely rebuilt it to better suit our needs as an organization. All the errors and bugs in the old system have been fixed, and now the system is more usable. I updated our invoice templates as well to be more professional and easy to use.

In addition to the substantive changes, I set out and largely fulfilled my goal to make stronger connections with the Allocation Board and other BU bodies like SAO and SABO. I met personally with the Allocations Board this summer and had a good conversation with them about our organization and our needs, and then worked to submit more realistic funding requests. As a result, we have received roughly 40% more funding per conference than we did last year. I've also met with SABO and SAO when we've had questions and misunderstandings, and have resolved any issues when they've arose. For instance, I personally called, met, and negotiated with BCD Travel and SAO to allow the IAA to have special privileges when booking

travel and hotel accommodations. This has helped us immensely, and means that members no longer have to put hotel or transportation costs on their personal credit cards when we travel.

Another key aspect of the Treasurer position is auditing and overseeing conference financials. For both BosMUN and BarMUN I've played an active role in verifying that the expenditures and inflows add up, and that we are running sustainable conferences. BarMUN IV made the largest profit of any BarMUN, but more importantly it paid for itself. BosMUN is on track as well financially, thanks mostly in part to the conference secretariat in charge of the budgeting operations. Providing solid oversight of the conferences is a vital part of what I have done in my term.

As Treasurer I've checked our PO Box every other day, at least three times a week. I personally deposit all checks and process invoices that we receive. It is a time-consuming task, but I usually set aside around an hour to visit our mailbox, and then SAO, on the days that I check the mailbox. I also write and inform the conference secretariat when they receive payment from a school, and keep my own separate records. I have also archived all physical letters, invoices and receipts that we have ever received. This allows me and anyone else to look back and determine exactly when and how much a school or organization has paid. I have also made scans and copies of important information, and keep them backed up in the event of a computer crash or disaster. Protecting information is very important, so I've also been very scrupulous about access to financial information and have ensured that only authorized people get to know sensitive information.

For the Travel Team, I've worked with Oriana to come up with accommodations, negotiated transportation costs and services, looked at registration options, and provided for expenses incurred the week of the conference. The two conferences this fall semester, CMUNNY and UPMUNC, both went very smoothly from a logistical perspective. I am proud that our hard work has paid off, since things have definitely not gone as smoothly in years past. I have also found ways to reduce the conference fees for Travel Team participants by up to 50% compared to last year, which makes traveling more affordable and therefore more accessible for our general membership.

In addition to performing the duties of Treasurer, I also did a lot of things for the club as a whole. Here are some highlights:

- This summer I completely rebuilt our organization's website to make it more comprehensive and professional.
- I unified our branding, designed new logos and utilized a new, uniform font family for our graphics and materials.
- I designed and ordered the steel water bottles that we have distributed to our membership.

- I designed and ordered the BUIAA tag-cards and promotional materials that we have used for marketing purposes on and off campus.
- I created a preferred account with a printing vendor to provide our club and conferences with high quality printing services and deferred payment options.
- I rebuilt the email and server infrastructure for the BUIAA and conference sites, and upgraded our databases and unified our accounts.
- I've also participated in both CMUNNY and UPMUNC, where I represented BU proudly. At both conferences I've forged good connections with people at other schools, and built friendships with schools on the circuit.

In addition to being Treasurer, I had the pleasure of serving as the Chief Information Officer of BarMUN IV, and also currently as the Chief Technology Officer of BosMUN XI. It's been a great year for BUIAA, and I've had a great time both working with and hanging out with everyone! I am happy to say that, while my GPA would probably be higher had I not done any BUIAA this past year, I've gained so much enjoyment and experience (not to mention awesome friendships) from participating in the IAA. I'm going to miss you guys this spring, and I'm looking forward to hearing all about the awesome things that we have been doing!

All the best,
Colin