

# ELLA GRANTS FOR 2011 ENGAGED LEARNING IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

Application for Funding



## College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Utah Valley University

On December 6, 2010, the ELLA Committee will begin accepting proposals for projects in the calendar year 2011. The committee will continue to accept proposals throughout the year for recommendation to the Dean as long as sufficient funding remains. Initial funding decisions will be made beginning December 15, 2010.

Please submit your completed written application to:

**Jolene Arnoff**  
**Dean's Office**  
**College of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**LA 209**  
**(801) 863-8743**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Name:** Geoffrey Cockerham

**Department:** History and Political Science

**Phone:** 5113

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### PROJECT

**Date of Application:** 12/7/2010

**Title of Project:** Model UN- Preparation for course offering and student participation

#### Others Involved in the Project:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student/ Faculty/ Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student/ Faculty/ Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student/ Faculty/ Staff: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### ABSTRACT FOR PROPOSAL

*Not to exceed 500 words. Please include project time-frame and specific objectives, and discuss how the project will contribute to the goals of engaged learning. Use a separate sheet and attach it to this application.*

**PROJECT ASSESSMENT AND RELEVANCE TO ENGAGED LEARNING IN THE LIBERAL ARTS.**

- 1) **ELLA funding not only encourages projects in engaged learning, but will provide you with opportunities to enhance your professional development as well. How will your proposal complement your teaching, service, and scholarship?**

Taking students to this type of activity really helps the History and Political Science department develop a much more robust offering in the international relations field. Currently, the department offers a course on International Organization, which exposes students to theories and scholarship on international cooperation. A Model UN course, however, will offer students the opportunity to engage more as a practitioner, albeit in a simulation format. While this type of activity has direct relationship to my scholarship it certainly helps fulfill my commitment to engaged teaching and creating opportunities that can help shape a students desires for graduate school and or employment once they graduate. Model UN programs have been a staple of political science programs around the country for years and UVU developing one is another sign of the strength of our program in political science and sends a strong signal to students that the political science offerings here at UVU are improving and at least comparable to other institutions that they might go, thus helping our department with student recruitment and transfer issues.

- 2) **How do you intend to assess and measure the results of your grant? (At the conclusion of the grant year recipients will be asked to discuss informally the results of their projects with ELLA committee members.)**

This project is really about student involvement, so with the creation of a class and after going to the Model UN conference, success will be determined by the number of students enrolling in the course and our ability to secure further funding to defer and or cover student participation costs for future Model UN activities. Our goal will be a first group of 10-15 students attending the simulation after taking the course here at UVU. As a result, we are essentially requesting seed money for a project that will not fully come to fruition until another year or two. However, our department is confident in the long term benefits of this project. For short term evaluation, the students attending the conference will write a report on their experience. They will also serve as student leaders in the Model UN class when it begins in the next academic year.

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

Amount Requested:	\$2,550- breakdown below (\$100 developmental material, \$200 Conf. Reg., \$1,200 Flights, \$1000 Hotel, \$50 Ground Transport)		
Has previous ELLA funding been requested?	NO	If yes, when?	

**DEPARTMENT CHAIR**

Comments: Enthusiastic support for this project is a no-brainer. Every strong undergraduate Political Science program has a Model UN program. It allows students to meet other students, make contacts with men and women making public policy at national and international levels, develop their analytical and debating skills, and get a feel for how international organizations are organized and run. The program will also benefit UVU and the program as both will have increased presence regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Signature: *Kathleen Brown* Date: *12/9/10*

<b>PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING UVU SOURCES TO COMPLEMENT YOUR REQUEST FOR ELLA GRANT FUNDING</b>	
Center for Engaged Learning	<a href="http://www.uvu.edu/cel">www.uvu.edu/cel</a>
Institute for Professional Engagement	<a href="http://www.uvu.edu/ipe">www.uvu.edu/ipe</a>
Faculty Flexible Grant Program	<a href="http://www.uvu.edu/facultycenter">www.uvu.edu/facultycenter</a>
Supplemental Faculty Travel Grants	<a href="http://www.uvu.edu/facultycenter">www.uvu.edu/facultycenter</a>
Presidential Scholar Award	<a href="http://www.uvu.edu/urip/undergrad/">www.uvu.edu/urip/undergrad/</a>
Exceptional Merit Grant	<a href="http://www.uvu.edu/meritgrants/">www.uvu.edu/meritgrants/</a>

UVU currently has no Model UN program for students. A Model UN program is an experiential opportunity for students to gather with colleagues from other institutions and participate in a multi-day simulation of the UN. This proposal seeks funding to send one faculty member and two students to the Model UN of the Far West Conference in April 2011 in San Francisco to observe the proceedings. Following this visit, a Model UN course will be developed and offered by the History and Political Science Department preferably by the spring of 2012 with a culminating activity being participation of a UVU delegation in the 2012 or 2013 simulation again in San Francisco (additional funding will be required for that- this request is simply to fund development activities for such an offering). Upon their return, the faculty member and the students attending will be better equipped to design a course that prepares students for the simulation and better able to design an offering that meets student needs while at the simulation. We request student participation because we want this to be a partially student run activity and need them in terms of promoting the class and helping run the program while in its infancy. In addition to the travel component, we are also requesting \$100 for course development materials, including a video series from American Model United Nations International (AMUN) on the UN General Assembly, and a Model UN simulation kit also from AMUN.

Model UN programs have been around for decades and have proven to be an effective means for exposing students to international affairs (hence a home for such activity in the political science discipline) and helping them make solid contacts for graduate school and other opportunities. While much more elaborate programs exist where students travel to New York and compete for national honors we prefer the San Francisco option because it is more in keeping with cost issues for our students and will certainly allow for many more students to be involved. This puts us in line with the Political Science program at Weber State, which offers a model UN course, and participates annually at the regional conference in San Francisco.

We believe this is a natural fit with engaged learning since it combines a series of classroom activities with an experiential component- that being participation in the Model UN simulation. The real issue here is not going to visit the UN and touring the facilities at the New York headquarters. Rather, the point is participating in a simulation that seeks to create an atmosphere similar to that found in the UN and making the students play by UN rules, recognize political forces that shape UN policy, and finally explore just how a final UN position is formulate. They get all this in a hands on simulation after reading and studying about the UN for the first part of the semester. This creates an exceptional experience in international relations, a field where it is very difficult to give students a sense of real world experience. It is also worth noting the interdisciplinary nature of international relations and the opportunities for interdisciplinary activities here at UVU as a Model UN program develops.