



Harvard Model Congress

Boston 2024

House of Representatives Oversight and Accountability Committee

Dear Oversight and Accountability Delegates,

Our names are June, Sebastian, Roberto, David, and Maria and we are your chairs for Harvard Model Congress Boston!

Hi there! My name is June and I'm a senior originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but I now call Pforzheimer House my (Pfo)home. I am concentrating in Government with a language citation in Japanese. I have staffed HMC Boston, HMC Asia, and HMC San Francisco. I am also the President of HMC Asia 2024. Outside of HMC, I help students get out the VOTE through the Harvard Votes Challenge and write K-pop articles for Crimson Arts. I am a political junkie, avid K-pop listener, women's soccer superfan, and crossword enthusiast!

Hi everyone! I am Maria Shytaj, a freshman here at Harvard College. I moved from Albania to New York four years ago, so I guess I'm from both Albania and NY. I plan on concentrating in Government and Economics. This will be my first year staffing HMC which I am very excited about. I am also a writer for Harvard Undergraduate Law review as well as a member of Campaign and Advocacy, Albanian Student Association and HPU. When I am not studying or occupied with clubs I love to hang out with my friends, watch movies and explore Cambridge.

Hi! My name is David and I'm a first-year student from Germany. At Harvard I plan to concentrate in Chemistry with a secondary in Philosophy. This year will be my first year staffing the Harvard Model Congress. When I'm not studying or spending time with friends I like to play the piano, read books or spend time with the Harvard Ballroom Dance Team, which I'm a part of this year.

Hi! My name is Roberto Quesada, a freshman at the college. I'm from New York City (Queens, the best borough and home of Spiderman BTW) and plan to concentrate in Government. This is my first year staffing Harvard Model Congress and I'm excited to work with you. When I'm not doing work, I enjoy drinking mango smoothies, going out with friends, and exploring new places.

Hi everyone! Hi my name is Sebastian and I'm a first-year from Azusa, California. I plan on concentrating in government with a language citation in Arabic. This will be my first year staffing Harvard Model Congress. I spend a lot of my time watching Netflix and scrolling through political TikToks. At Harvard, I am part of the Debating Union and am a teacher for CIVICS.

The House Oversight and Accountability Committee possesses one of the broadest jurisdiction and legislative authorities of all committees in the House. It oversees the federal government and all of its agencies to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability. This Committee looks at everything from a wide range of policy areas, ranging from government operations to



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health care, information technology, interior, energy and environment, national security, and intergovernmental affairs.

Our first briefing will address the state of civic education in the United States. The current state of civics looks grim: Americans are disengaged, disinterested, and at times even disillusioned about America. Moreover, the current civic education system is failing Americans, especially young Americans, in teaching them about civics. If the cycle of disengagement and disillusionment in America continues, the civic crisis will escalate, and our democracy might be at risk. As representatives, it is up to you to diagnose and find solutions to fix this civic crisis. You must consider not only what the definition of “civic education” is, but also navigate the politicized nature of education to determine what and how Americans should learn about our country.

Our second briefing addresses labor rights and barriers to organizing. In the past few years, several high profile corporations (Starbucks, Amazon, Trader Joe’s, Apple, REI, etc.) have come under fire for questionable labor practices. In committee, we will discuss union busting, the right to organize, and how recent events have shed light on potential gaps in worker protection.

We hope that you come away from HMC Boston feeling that you were intellectually challenged and fulfilled; we also want you to have an absolute blast! If you have any questions beforehand, please feel free to reach out to us and introduce yourself.

HM(See) you in February!
June, Sebastian, Roberto, David, and Maria