

Dear Senators,

Welcome to Harvard Model Congress 2023! And welcome to Boston. We are thrilled to welcome you to Harvard Model Congress Boston and the Senate Armed Forces Committee. Our names are Celia Rees, Eddie Gonet IV, Vanessa Valvadere, James Bergstrom, and Sam Libenson, and we will be chairing your committee for this conference.

As Senators on the Senate Armed Services Committee you will be engaging in lively debates, collaborating to create and propose bills, all while generating solutions to philosophical military questions, diplomatic disputes, military deployments, and protecting US citizens. This year, we will be focusing on U.S. Military Involvement in Latin America and the U.S. Space Force.

It would be in your best interests to start learning about your senator and their political stances on some of the issues in the briefings. Think about some debates that could arise, also considering what counterarguments you may encounter along the way. Take time to actually read the briefings so we can have an informed, educated, and lively discussion and senate committee meeting about the Armed Services. Take advantage of this great opportunity to learn about a variety of views and hot topics in our nation today.

We hope to run fun, informed, and educated committee meetings that will enhance your understanding of the inner-workings of our Congress.

By way of brief introduction:

**Celia** is a Senior-Staffer at Harvard Model Congress and a second year student studying government. She is fairly local from Scituate, Massachusetts, and this will be her second year with HMC Boston's Senate staff. Outside of HMC, Celia is a member of the Institute of Politics JFK Jr. Forum, and Harvard Undergraduate Women in Business.

**Eddie** is a Senior-Staffer in his sophomore year studying Economics. He originates from Fairhaven, MA and this will be his second Boston HMC conference. Eddie enjoys being a PAF for Gray's Middle entryway. He sings with the Harvard Krokodiloes and is their Tour Director for the coming year. He is an avid tea-enthusiast and looks forward to meeting you all soon!

**Sam** is a Junior Staffer and third-year student at Harvard College from Chicago studying social studies and philosophy with a particular interest in the history of religious thought. Sam is also involved with the Harvard Review of Philosophy, the Harvard Ballet Company, and the Harvard Undergraduate Tibetan Cultural Association, and he can't wait to meet all of you!

**Vanessa** is a junior staffer for the Senate Armed Services Committee. She is a first year at Harvard concentrating in government with a secondary in data science. This will be her first year at HMC Boston. She served 6 years in United States Marine Corps. Outside of classes she enjoys being outdoors whether it's camping or surfing.

**James** is a HMC Junior Staffer and a first-year at Harvard College, probably studying economics, with a possible double major or minor in government, sociology, or physics. He is from New York City, where he went to Trinity School. He is also on the sailing team. One fun fact is that he did Parliamentary Debate, Model UN and Model Congress in high school, and actually was a delegate at HMC last year!

Please feel free to reach out with any questions, and we look forward to seeing you in February!

Salutations Senators,

Celia Rees, Eddie Gonet IV, Vanessa Valvadere, James Bergstrom, and Sam Libenson