

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Delegates,

Welcome to HAMUN 52's War of the Roses: House of York Crisis Committee! My name is Fernando Urdaneta, and I have the distinct honor of being your chair for this momentous event!

My first crisis committee was held in the midst of a certain pestilence that plagued the world starting in 2019 (perhaps you've heard of it). In a way, this is a full circle moment for me, for my first Crisis Committee was a triple-joint crisis about the War of English Succession, and now my first time being a chair shall be for the most iconic and popular war of English Succession, the War of the Roses! Believe me when I say that all of the relevant staffers and chairs for both the House of York and the House of Lancaster have been putting in so much work to ensure that this crisis is the best one to date! We've been researching the period and the characters since the summer of 2026 to make sure that you all have a fruitful and enjoyable committee this year (some of us even *intentionally* bought a *book* to read and learn). A *book*! Can you believe that? We may as well have time traveled to 1442!

I love history, it is perhaps the second or third most vital of all the studies (in terms of the humanities, anyway). To add on to a quote by a certain historian, we study history to know, "our past, our future, the pitfalls, the possibilities...the perils, the promise. Perhaps an answer to that universal question, 'Why?'" (Doctor Emmet Brown, 1989). My biggest hope for all of you for this committee is to be able to think critically about the selected time period, answer some big questions about why things went the way they did (or perhaps why *you* did things the way you did when in a character's shoes), and be able to apply the things you learned to your own life, both in terms of understanding your own decisions in the future, and perhaps in understanding the decisions of the people in power around us! After all, history and the present are usually much more similar than we in the 21st century are comfortable admitting.

You're going to hear this a lot from me, your teachers, and the other HAMUN staff, but the most important part of this conference is to enjoy it! Put in effort to make a memorable experience for yourself and your peers. We're all here to help y'all grow and prosper. If you have literally *any* questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, I'd love to help you prepare as best you can for February!

Fernando Urdaneta

War of the Roses: House of York

HAMUN 52

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