

UCBMUN XXVIII



THE MYSTERY OF THE MY WAY KILLINGS





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Letter From the Chairs

Esteemed Delegates,

I am honored to welcome each and everyone of you to UCBMUN's My Way Killings committee! Working to prepare this committee with Anousha and Maanas has been a great experience. Committees like this one, that let us interact with the mysterious and hypothetical, are amazing experiences because they allow us to truly think outside of the box and push our creativity and deduction to their limits. Even outside the subject matter of our specific committee, I hope you all enjoy being surrounded by peers of similar energy and passions. In my time at Berkeley, I've seen time and again that MUN has a unique value and I hope you can make the most of it.

In our committee you will be confronted with many scenarios that are uncertain. It is up to you to piece together the clues you are given and form a coherent and compelling strategy for the committee. Be ready to bring out of the box thinking and plenty of good vibes—the standard MUN playbook will only take you so far in this committee. If you can help make the committee more fun, happy, or interesting, that is a win in my book!

As I end this letter, I want to offer a last round of appreciations and acknowledgements. To my fellow committee staffers, I send my deepest gratitude for working with me through this process. To our Secretariat, especially our amazing SG Harsh, DG Sehr, and USG Maanas, my most sincere thanks for your dedication as well. Also, to see if anybody reads this far in the chair letter, I'll Venmo \$5 to the first person who says "ponyboy" in committee. As to you, the delegates, I eagerly await seeing you in action and wish you the best of luck!

Sincerely,

Milad Brown

Chair, My Way Killings



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 28th edition of UCBMUN! My name is Anousha Athreya, and I'm so excited to be your co-chair for this year's Mystery of the My Way Killings Specialized Committee. I'm currently a second-year at UC Berkeley studying Electrical Engineering and Computer Science with minors in Public Policy and Data Science. I was introduced to Model UN in college after doing debate all through high school, and I've grown to love the activity in college. Outside of MUN, I am on course staff for one of the largest data science classes at Berkeley, work in the ASUC to support the student technology experience, and research security and technology policy at the Berkeley Risk and Security Lab.

There's honestly not much to do in San Jose (born and raised), and I grew up watching tons of mystery movies and detective shows like Monk, and Psych. That's why I am so excited to be your chair for this committee, and bring a real-life mystery, the Mystery of the My Way Killings, to life in this committee. In a nontraditional committee such as this, my advice would be to hone your deductive reasoning skills, trust your instincts, and be as creative as possible. This mystery is a puzzle for you all to piece together, and I'm incredibly excited to see what you will come up with. Most of all, have fun! You will have the opportunity to engage in some really cool elements of this committee that we've planned for you, and we want you to enjoy it as much as possible as we delve into the cryptic clues at hand.

I also just want to thank everyone who helped prepare this committee: Milad, Maanas, Harsh, and Sehr! You all are incredible and genuinely some of the smartest people I have ever met on this campus. Your passion for the story and this activity is unmatched, and it was amazing working with you, both on Secretariat and while planning this committee. Finally, good luck to all the delegates competing, and I look forward to seeing you in action!

Sincerely,

Anousha Athreya,

Chair, My Way Killings



Introduction

In the shadowed corners of karaoke bars across the Philippines, a melody lingers—a tune so iconic yet harboring a deadly consequence for those who dare to perform it less than perfectly. Frank Sinatra's "My Way," a song celebrated worldwide for its empowering lyrics and grandiose melody, has taken a sinister turn in this archipelago. It has become the soundtrack to a chilling sequence of events that has both baffled and alarmed the public and authorities alike. These incidents, known infamously as the "My Way Killings," involve the tragic demise of individuals who have braved to sing this very song at karaoke establishments, only to meet their end in the most violent manners.

You, as delegates, are not merely stepping into a tale of mystery and intrigue. Instead, you have been chosen, handpicked by the Philippine government, to form an elite task force. Your mission is as critical as it is daunting: to delve into the heart of this enigma, to unravel the threads of these seemingly inexplicable crimes, and to restore safety and confidence among the citizens and karaoke enthusiasts alike. Your skills, intelligence, and bravery are the keys to solving a mystery that has cast a shadow over the nation's favorite pastime.

As you embark on this journey, remember that the stakes are high. The "My Way Killings" are not just a series of unfortunate events; they are a phenomenon that has captured the world's attention, posing questions about culture, passion, and the dark turn a simple song can inspire in the human psyche. Your investigation will take you from the vibrant streets of Manila to the serene provinces where karaoke is considered the heart of community gatherings. You will interview witnesses, sift through evidence, and perhaps even place yourself in the very spots where these tragic events unfolded.

This taskforce is more than a team; it is a beacon of hope. As you work together, piecing together clues and navigating the complexities of these cases, remember that your goal is not only to solve a mystery but also to understand the profound impact of music on human emotions and actions. The "My Way Killings" have become a legend in their own right, a cautionary tale that has echoed through the halls of karaoke bars and into the annals of true crime history.

Prepare yourself for a journey into the heart of darkness, illuminated by the flickering light of a karaoke screen. The path will not be easy, and the melody may haunt you, but your resolve must be as steadfast as the song's infamous refrain. This is your mission, should you choose to accept it: to solve the mystery of the "My Way Killings" and ensure that music can once again be a source of joy, not fear, in the Philippines. Welcome, delegates, to the Mystery of the My Way Killings.



Background

This committee, as you may have guessed, is loosely based on the My Way Killings of the Philippines! Between 2002 and 2012, there was a social phenomenon in the Philippines where several karaoke bar-goers were murdered simply for performing a less-than-good rendition of Frank Sinatra's "My Way." It's estimated that over ten people have lost their lives as a result of this phenomenon. And that's really all there is to the story; there's no concrete number of murders or any evidence to link it to a single killer, with the motives for each murder unknown. However, the whole ordeal is truly quite an interesting phenomenon, and so it's the base for this committee. Our committee, however, will be different. Each murder will be connected in one way or the other, leading eventually to a final suspect: The My Way Killer.

Rules of Procedure

As this committee will be operating as a "murder mystery" of sorts, the rules of procedure for this committee will be quite different from typical MUN proceedings, even by spec-bod or crisis standards. The format of the My Way Killings committee (abbreviated as MWK hereafter) will be similar to a board game in many ways, so the following rules of procedure will be arranged much like a board game rules manual would be. A reference page will be provided to you at the start of the committee as well for quick access to important information regarding committee procedures for you to use during the session, so don't be overwhelmed! Any confusion about the "rules" will be covered briefly at the beginning of the conference, but we urge you to read through the following beforehand so that we can jump right in! But as always, should you have any questions about this committee, please feel free to email us at maanashah@berkeley.edu.

Also, a disclaimer: RoP is subject to change at the discretion of the chairs at any moment to best facilitate the flow of debate and the enjoyment of delegates!

Despite the specialized procedure, it is important to note that this committee will adhere to the UCBMUN Code of Conduct. UCBMUN policy makes it expressly clear that we have a zero-tolerance policy for any harassment via notes. If you feel uncomfortable with a note sent to you, please bring it up to the Dais as soon as possible. Similarly, notes containing unacceptable content are also prohibited, and all final decisions in this regard are at the dais' discretion. If you have further questions on what constitutes acceptability, feel free to reach out to UCBMUN staff. Conflicts between your in-committee delegations or countries must be kept out of any out-of-room discourse. All in-room discourse on such conflicts must remain cordial and respectful. All language used in committee should be appropriate and respectful.



Premise and Objective

Your goal in MWK is to find and prosecute the elusive mastermind behind the My Way Killings. Starting from a mere line-up of potential Suspects, you and your fellow delegates must narrow down the suspect pool to ultimately accuse one final perpetrator as guilty. To accomplish this, throughout the committee, you all will be traveling among the three major islands of the Philippines to gather evidence from both residential and business districts. Using these clues, accusations can and will be drafted against the various suspects in order to close in on those you believe may be the perpetrators. However, a crisis may strike at any moment, and for your team to work effectively and efficiently, you all must have a concrete plan of attack for your future actions well in advance!

Team Objectives:

While you have all been tasked by the Philippines' government to track down and detain the My Way Killer, each of your teams may have their own goal in mind.

1. **Detectives:** These private hires have but one goal: to catch the perp by any means necessary and as soon as possible, using methods outside the law if needed.
2. **Police:** The local police are determined to bring the killer to justice and are willing to exercise their authority to make sure both citizens and delegates alike comply with this mission.
3. **Federal Agents:** The government needs someone to take the fall for this case, and fast! They hope to simply lock someone up as the "killer" and get this debacle over with, and they'll use their oversight to end this investigation early if they have to.
4. **Journalists:** The news is keen-eyed and a powerful source of information, but what they see more than evidence is profit, as they hope to use their resources to catch the killer for their own gains for a quick scoop.

Gameplay

Rounds:

The "game" behind MWK will operate in "rounds," which are essentially equivalent to crisis cycles from a standard crisis committee. Rounds will be made up of the following phases:

1. Crisis Update
2. Debate Phase 1
3. Press Release Phase 1 (Action Plan)
4. Movement/Action Phase
5. Debate Phase 2
6. Press Release Phase 2 (Suspect Accusation)
7. Prosecution Phase



Crisis Update:

Every round will begin with a crisis update, which can range from large changes that greatly shake up the flow of debate to smaller pieces of information that may only slightly guide your actions for the upcoming round.

Never become complacent in your investigation because who knows what the killer may be plotting in the background...

Debate Phase 1 (Action Planning):

The majority of any round will be the actual debate that will occur during the Debate Phases. Debate procedure will follow standard MUN motions and consist of moderated and unmoderated caucuses. The reason we have split them into two phases is to clearly define the topic of each phase.

The goal of Debate Phase 1 is to create an Action Plan. An Action Plan is essentially a directive/resolution that sets forth a proposal for what the committee as a whole should do during the Movement/Action Phase. Essentially, the debate during this phase should be centered around what the goals of the committee are in terms of movement, evidence gathering, etc.

This Action Plan can be as vague or as specific as you desire, but we look favorably upon more concrete and detailed plans. For example, an Action Plan may simply formalize the goals of the committee as below:

Action Plan A:

Sponsors: Anousha, Milad, Tavishi

1. We affirm that our current focus as the MWK Taskforce is the broad search for evidence
 - a) We have no concrete leads at the time, so a wider net must be cast

On the other hand, an Action Plan may also specifically designate certain tasks to be completed, as shown below:

Action Plan B:

Sponsors: Maanas, Harsh, Sehr

1. We affirm that our current focus as the MWK Taskforce is the broad search for evidence
2. To this end, we must make sure every current location is searched
3. Send at least 2 agents to each currently available Location on the Map
 - a) Ensure that a Journalist is present at every Residential Location

When an action plan with specific goals (such as those above) is passed, the movements dictated are binding unless noted otherwise. You cannot, however, force someone to use any action. For example, you can say that you want the aforementioned Journalists to investigate, and while they would be required to move to the locations as specified, what they do there is up to them. What that means is that care should be taken when writing and passing Action Plans and that they can be used to unify the committee in its goals. As such, we heavily encourage collaboration amongst all delegates.



Adding onto that, we will not consider “first-sponsor” or “front-paging” in our awards deliberations, so collaboration and teamwork should be your primary focus! You may sponsor only one Action Plan, and there is no requirement for signatories; a cap may be placed on the maximum number of Action Plans submitted at the Chair’s discretion.

Multiple action plans are allowed to pass (this allows for “passing in conjunction” and other forms of collaboration), but if there's ever a conflict between the proposals set forth by the passed directive, the order in which disputes are resolved is in the order of last to first passed. This is subject to change at any point at the discretion of the Chair.

Movement/Action Phase:

This is the fun part! During this phase you will be able to Move and take Actions around the Philippines to further your goals in committee. Movement and Actions will be done via Slack (you will message the dais saying where you’d like to move and what action you’d like to take).

Movement, as the name implies, simply moves your character to a new location on the “Board.” Remember that movements outlined in a passed “Action Plan” are binding and must be taken during this phase.

After movement, you may take an action. The possible actions are as follows:

1. **Team Ability:** Each team has unique abilities that only members of that team can use. Team abilities are subject to change based on the performance of each team, so always be aware of them, but don’t abuse them!
 - a. Team abilities also have a “favor” ability, which can be used by members of other teams if they request any member of the team with the ability
2. **Personal Ability:** Each delegate has an ability uniquely based on their personality or background, which gives different characters different strengths and weaknesses.
3. **Gather Evidence:** You gain a piece of evidence based on the location you are currently at.
4. **Interrogate Suspect:** You gain a piece of suspect testimony based on the location you are currently at.
5. **Verify Evidence:** You can verify a piece of evidence to determine how “legitimate” it is, or you can verify two pieces of evidence with only a 75% chance of determination.

These will be further explained during committee session 1, and specifically, Team/Personal abilities will be given out during the session in the reference guide, as they are by far the most important, fun, and likely confusing aspect of the MWK committee!

Debate Phase 2 (Suspect Accusation):

Again, to restate what was previously mentioned, the majority of any round will be the actual debate that will occur during the Debate Phases, and procedure will follow standard MUN motions consisting of moderated and unmoderated caucuses. The reason we have split them into two phases is to clearly



define the topic of each phase.

The goal of Debate Phase 2 is to draft a Suspect Accusation. A Suspect Accusation is essentially a directive/resolution that denotes a **suspect(s)** as persons of interest in the committee's investigation and marks them with a point of Suspicion. Suspicion has effects on the committee, which will be covered later in this guide.

The format of a Suspect Accusation is much looser than a typical directive and/or Action Plan, and while they can be as vague or as specific as you desire, they should mainly encompass the Suspects being accused and some evidence for why this is the case (which can, of course, be built upon in verbal speeches as well). As always, we look favorably upon more concrete and detailed plans that have shown clear collaboration and thought put forth.

Only one Suspect Accusation can pass, so if multiple get above the 50% threshold of votes, the latter replaces the former. All Suspects noted in the Suspect Accusation are marked with a point of Suspicion.

Prosecution Phase:

Finally, at the end of a round comes the Prosecution Phase. This is when delegates can motion to enter "Prosecution Bloc" to formally declare one Suspect as the My Way Killer! A quick point to consider is that you can only Prosecute someone if they have **three or more** points of Suspicion already, so keep that in mind! If no motions are made to enter Prosecution Bloc, the round ends, and you begin a new round with a new Crisis Update.

If, however, the aforementioned motion is made, speakers will be taken to give speeches for and against entering Prosecution Bloc, with the number of speakers based on the Chair's Discretion. After which, a vote will be taken to enter Prosecution Bloc.

Delegates will be allotted a time period (determined by the Chair) in which to conduct debate regarding which suspect they ultimately believe to be the killer. At the end of the allocated period, one final vote is had to leave Prosecution Bloc in the event that the committee has come to the agreement that they were not, in fact, ready to Prosecute. Should that vote fall, all Suspects with **three or more** Suspicion points are then voted on to be Prosecuted. Each delegate is only allowed to vote for one Suspect. The suspect with the highest number of votes is officially chosen to be Prosecuted! In the event that the highest number of votes is not a majority of the committee, remove the lowest voted on Suspect(s), and commence a revote. If it was the case that there was only one Suspect and they did not meet the majority threshold, the Call to Prosecute has failed, and you immediately return to standard gameplay, proceeding to the Action phase.

What happens when someone is voted to be Prosecuted? You'll find out in committee! Just know that whether you're right or wrong, the fate of the Philippines is in your hands. So don't be wrong.



Closing Notes

Don't be worried if this is all a bit overwhelming! We understand that the Rules of Procedure for this committee are like no other, and we fully expect there to be questions that we will be happy to cover at the start of the conference, and at any moment they may arise! Additionally, we will provide you all with a small guide during the conference with the "rules", so don't feel obligated to memorize all this by any means!