

Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference VII

Saturday, February 2nd to Sunday, February 3rd, 2019

Boston University Academy

Boston, MA



Intelligence Committee

Specialized Committee: Artificial Intelligence

Welcome to BUAMUN 2019! My name is Nicket Mauskar, and I will be your chair for the Artificial Intelligence Specialized Committee at BUAMUN this year. Nangwa Nyambose and Friedrich Liu, sophomores at BUA, will be your vice chairs. I am a current junior at Boston University Academy, and I have been a part of Model UN throughout my time in high school. I have been involved in BUAMUN since my freshman year as a staffer, and most recently, chaired a GA committee last year as a sophomore. I am incredibly excited to be chairing my first crisis committee, and can't wait to see what unfolds this year!

When I am not doing Model UN or BUAMUN, I take part in the student council as a class representative, I am in the BUA advanced jazz band, and I take part of the peer tutor and peer advisor program at BUA. I am also the captain of the varsity basketball team here, a runner on cross country, and row for the crew team.

In committee, we will operate under a modified version of the parliamentary procedure, reverting to a permanent moderated caucus rather than a speaker's list. We will review this—as well as all other procedural matters—for all new delegates at the beginning of the committee.

My advice to you as a chair is to do plenty of research to become very familiar with the topic. Know who your allies are and possible arguments to reach your goals. If you have any questions about research, writing a policy paper, or anything else, please don't hesitate to email me (address below). I am looking forward to meeting you all at the end of January!

Best,
Nicket Mauskar
BU Academy 20
nicketm@bu.edu

Position Paper Guidelines

In order to be considered for awards, please write a position paper for each of the two subtopics introduced in the following background guide. For each position paper, consider including a brief overview of the subtopic and related issues as well as your representative's involvement, policy, and proposed plan for future action. There is no required length or word count for the two position papers, but you must cite your sources.

The header of your position paper should be formatted as follows:

Name

School

Committee Position / Representative

Topic



Introduction to Committee

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the development of computer systems that can perform tasks without human intelligence, including, but not limited to, decision-making, language translation, and speech recognition. Ever since the developing stages in the mid-twentieth century, our understanding of AI has increased exponentially. Today, AI has a profound and unquestionable impact on our daily lives, from Google Maps to Cortana and Siri. However, with great power comes great responsibility. While artificial intelligence greatly benefits our society, it poses just as many risks. Whether it be a machine using destructive methods to achieve a goal or an autonomous weapon, the risk is imminent and cannot be ignored. It has become critically important to establish principles to ensure a future that is prosperous for all while increasing the cybersecurity of citizens and minimizing any risk for destruction.

In June of 2017, twenty nations came together for a United Nations summit regarding the development of artificial intelligence and its potential role in addressing some of “humanity's grand challenges.” At the time, AI was primarily used in products such as smartphones and self-driving cars. Some of the representatives at the summit, however, believed it had the power to create a more sustainable living and eliminate poverty. Others brought up valid concerns regarding the rapid growth in AI around the world. Former UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres remarked, “there are also serious challenges and ethical issues which must be taken into account – including cybersecurity, human rights, and privacy.” Thus, the summit aimed to optimize the use of AI by applying it for good causes but taking into account the potential for destruction. Guterres summarized this when he declared, “Artificial Intelligence has the potential to accelerate progress towards a dignified life, in peace and prosperity, for all people. The time has arrived for all of us – governments, industry and civil society – to consider how AI will affect our future.”

Well, the future is now. The current year is 2025. There have been a plethora of technological breakthroughs regarding the state of artificial intelligence. While it is widely beneficial to applications such as the economy and education, many are concerned about the potential dangers that AI poses to our lives. The purpose of this committee is to create a plan for the future of AI and determine how much it should or should not be regulated.

Subtopic 1: AI regulations

In today's society, artificial intelligence is all around us. Its applications range from medical machinery to self-driving cars and smartphones. As time progresses and new innovations emerge, society becomes increasingly dependent on technology. Similar to technological advances such as arms and nuclear weapons, it is now time to decide whether or not artificial intelligence should be regulated.

In 2017, the United States Congress took initial steps toward regulating certain aspects of AI. They passed the AV Start Act and the Self Drive Act, which also passed in the House of Representatives. Both involve the safety of automated vehicles or self-driving cars. While regulations might not appear to make much of an impact, the fact is that they do. Regulations give an insight into how Congress is cautious with passing concrete regulations, only tackling a sector that had a near term effect.

This year, the European Union announced plans to increase available data for and funding of artificial intelligence research. The European Commission has been working with member states of the European Union to develop a strategy for the application of AI in the European economy. However, the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) subjects tight restrictions on applications of AI that involve personal data. Policy makers of the European Union are continually planning to implement additional restrictions to address the fears of the private and public sectors alike.

Recent debates have broken out between important technology giants regarding potential regulations AI. Prominent public figures such as Elon Musk, an extremely successful businessman and inventor, as well as Stephen Hawking, a famous professor and scientist, have taken stances in the debate. They believe that regulations are necessary to prevent a potential economic dislocation or human annihilation. In fact, AI is Musk's main concern for the future. However, not all technology giants agree. CEO of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg believes that Hawking's and Musk's respective opinions on regulating AI are "quite irresponsible."

This committee, composed of both government officials and technological CEOs, must decide if regulations are the appropriate method moving forward, keeping in mind not only a successful economy and company profits but also the future of mankind.

Subtopic 2: Militarization of AI

Since this committee is composed of both government officials and technology CEOs, a large part of the committee will focus on the interactions between the two. Establishing a firm relationship between the public and private sectors will ease the process of developing purely beneficial uses of artificial intelligence. This portion of the debate will mainly concern cyber privacy, arms and defense technology, and the military.

The integration of AI and the military is a major concern, as it provides a direct platform by which governments can construct dangerous vehicles. The principal reason for artificial intelligence playing a role in the military is directed towards data processing and communication. Currently, many countries are implementing an education system for new soldiers to ensure that they have a basic knowledge of artificial intelligence in order to serve. Since the development of a robot with OODA (observe, orient, decide, and act) with the ability to kill humans is right around the corner, there are major ethical questions at hand. As a committee, delegates must decide to what extent technology giants should assist with the making of weapons, and how far artificial intelligence must go to secure world peace rather than world destruction.

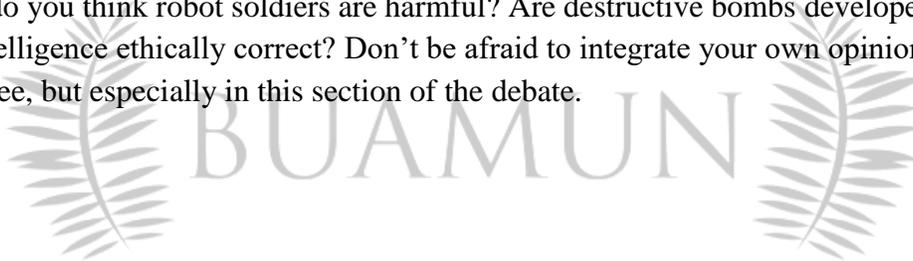
Machine learning and artificial intelligence are crucial to the cybersecurity of every person on this planet. They combat major cyber attacks and keep everyone's personal information safe from hackers and cyber terrorists. But most people aren't aware of the potential for disaster it contains. Since most companies have a single master algorithm for universal protection, a single infiltration of that algorithm could lead to major problems. Furthermore, the government at the current time (2025) is under heavy duress for "wrongfully spying" on citizens through various methods of technology (unrestricted access to accounts, laptop webcams, etc.). Thus, this committee was also brought together to figure out how to address this problem, and how the government should move forward with cybersecurity. Cyber attacks on the government are also an extreme risk and something that is still eminent today. For example, in 2008, an infected flash drive was left in a middle eastern military bases parking lot, and was found. When they plugged in the flash drive, it contained malicious code that essentially spread to other computers and retained military information from these computers. Acts of terror such as these must be considered when discussing this issue.

Questions to Consider

After having discussed the potential regulations on AI and the relationship between the government and public, it is pertinent to discuss the future. I'd argue that the future is now and that we must tackle major ethical questions in order to start our progress toward a better tomorrow.

Could a benevolent AI ultimately turn evil? Can we trust our governments with AI technology given the massive privacy breaches that have occurred? Can we trust the business community? Will a fully functioning AI be able to gain consciousness and defy its programmers? Does a conscious AI deserve rights similar to humans? How will humans and cognizant bots interact?

Delegates, this is your time to get creative! To the technology CEOs: what developments do YOU think can end world strife in your respective technologies? Would you sell harmful software to the government for war purposes? Similarly, delegates of world governments: at what point do you think robot soldiers are harmful? Are destructive bombs developed from artificial intelligence ethically correct? Don't be afraid to integrate your own opinion throughout the committee, but especially in this section of the debate.



Committee Positions

CEOs

Jeff Bezos

Amazon

Sundar Pichai

Google

Mark Zuckerberg

Facebook

Dara Khosrowshahi

Uber

Tim Cook

Apple

Elon Musk

SpaceX and Tesla

Ginni Rometty

IBM

Bill Gates

Microsoft

Robin Li

Baidu

Marilyn Hewson

Lockheed Martin

Government Officials

General Paul M. Nakasone

Director of the National Security Agency, United States of America

Miao Wei

Minister of Industry and Information Technology, China

Konstantin Noskov

Minister of Digital Development, Communications, and Mass Media of Russia

Ofir Akunis

Minister of Science, Technology and Space, Israel

Dr. Patrick Vellance

Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Council for Security and Technology (CST), United Kingdom

Frédérique Vidal

Minister of Science, France

Cornelia Rogall-Grothe

State Secretary and Federal Government Commissioner for Information Technology, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Germany

Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the European Union

Masahiko Shibayama

Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan

You Young Min

Minister of Science and ICT, South Korea

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