Simulation Paper # 2

S. Mehreen Tahir

POLY-103: Introduction to American Politics

Dr. Andy Tuholski

Simulation Paper Number 2

Every role comes at a cost in real-life, and that is what this simulation taught me. I am an international student from Pakistan. With that being said, I can never run for the U.S. presidency, and the U.S. has never had a female President in its history, and therefore, I decided to choose this role for my simulation. I also wanted to put myself in a situation where I was responsible for millions of lives. Even though it was only a simulation, I was taught as a child to perform my responsibilities to the fullest. In the beginning, I was overwhelmingly worried about the simulation because I had never taken a course before where I have had a similar experience with a similar teaching tool. Still, once I started, it became the most enjoyable part of this class. Applying lessons from our lectures and getting to make decisions within this simulation was a phenomenal experience.

The role of the President of the United States comes at a cost. There were many times when I thought almost the whole day whether I should sign a particular executive order or not, and that is what became my most memorable experience. When I learned that the US was on the verge of an attack, I contemplated whether I should sign the executive order to allow "Enhanced Interrogation," which uses sleep deprivation and waterboarding techniques. But what stopped me from signing that order was the thought that they were still humans with feelings. Where I could not have compromised the lives of people, I asked my team and discussed the implications of enhanced interrogation and expressed that I did not want to sign that order in respect of the fact that I still value human life and feelings. My team informed me that they supported my decision, and I did not sign the executive order.

If I had to do the simulation all over again, I would not change any of my decisions because I believe that I took them after a lot of thought and had the best interest of my people in

mind before making any decision. I took this simulation just as seriously as if I was the President of the United States, and where some of my choices may not be seen as significant decisions, then it may just be because of the lack of experience. I made the decisions to the best of my abilities and the best of my expertise. I am a Biochemist by profession and a political science enthusiast as well. However, I still do not believe that enthusiasm is enough for you to succeed. You must as well have experience in the field, which I do lack, and I admit, but even then, I would not take any of my decisions back because I made them after reading a lot of those on the web and trying to understand what the outcome of my choices would be.

If we had to restart the simulation, I would still choose to be the President of the United States because I admire the role and because I wanted to experience the responsibilities that come with it. As the President, I was at all times responsible for leading the country. Sometimes it was very challenging because some people that I wanted to correspond with never answered or answered when the simulation was ending at midnight. But even then, I enjoyed my role as the President because I liked the position where I had to think about my decisions and their implications critically. I would be least interested in a role where I had the least responsibility because I enjoy critical tasks that require critical thinking.

Running for re-election made me feel like it was more of a real-life experience and then listening to the media that would sometimes give out information that was not accurate. That made me realize that the fragility of this position and that any wrong move would have had severe consequences. While running for re-election, I was always cautious about not spending too much time campaigning (in terms of XP) and saving some time to make some critical decisions. Similarly, not signing the executive order would have permitted the authorities to conduct enhanced interrogation. While I decided not to sign the executive order, I wanted to

ensure that if that would have been the decision that I would have taken if I was a real President of the United States. Even I was the President; I still would not have allowed "Enhanced Interrogation" because of the human rights violation.

The simulation experience was phenomenal, and I want to especially request in my paper to please continue to use this simulation in your future classes. This was my first simulation, I was anxious about how it would go and how it would run, but all my fears proved useless. I very much enjoyed the ability to practically apply what I learned in class, just like I get to apply what I learn in a lecture in a chemistry lab. That is why I enjoy the STEM courses, which is why I enjoyed this simulation so much. I learned that our White House leaders have a huge responsibility, and even though our simulation was only four periods long and a wrong move would have cost me some "SP" but not real lives. I was still so stressed about making the best decision, and I believe that is how this country's leaders feel. When we say, "What have our leaders done for us," I think we're wrong. They work tirelessly to ensure that we are safe and make decisions in the best interest of their people. The most challenging aspect for me was working alongside ACLU. While we allowed the Drone Attacks to occur, we had two critical tasks to achieve. One of the most vital tasks was to ensure that attacks were still conducted to ensure no attack on the US occurs. As I would not have tolerated losing any of my citizens in a deadly attack, even that means taking the harsh decision and go against the ACLU. Secondly, gaining the ACLU's trust was essential, which we could not gain, and they sued us in court. Thankfully they lost, and we were still able to go ahead with our decision. The most rewarding part of this simulation was trying to be the best President to my people, even if it meant taking difficult choices and seeing my approval rating improve after making those choices.

In terms of my peers, Jared Giek was the most helpful person to me. He was always there, answering my concerns, forwarding me urgent decisions, and helping me understand his point of view. I saw him as a great leader and saw him excelling in his role. He always went above and beyond trying to run reports so he could best advise me.

In conclusion, thank you very much for providing us this opportunity. It is a special thanks to you for letting me be the President of the United States and for your trust in my abilities and for covering my simulation fees. I have learned a lot and I will continue to use that to improve my own country, Pakistan!