**Cybersecurity for Future Presidents 2016**

**Debate Format**

The class will feature five student debates on topics drawn from the list of resolutions provided separately. Each group of 6 students will be assigned to prepare a position paper and oral presentation either in favor of or opposed to one of the resolutions. For each topic, the oral presentation will be handled as follows (PRO is the side in favor of the resolution, CON is the side opposed):

*Formal debate (30 minutes)*

1. PRO: present opening position (5 minutes)

2. CON: present opening position (5 minutes)

3. PRO: rebuttal to CON arguments (5 minutes)

4. CON: rebuttal to PRO arguments (5 minutes)

5. PRO: closing statement (5 minutes)

6. CON: closing statement (5 minutes)

*Question period (15 minutes)*

Each team will have three members and each member will have one of the speaking slots.

For the next 15 minutes, the students not on either of the teams for that week will pose questions to either side. Each student in the audience should, during the debate, write down at least one question for each side (PRO and CON) on a piece of paper along with the student’s name. The professor will collect the questions and call on students to pose them to the debaters. At the end of the question period, a vote on the resolution will be recorded.

*Position paper and oral argument*

The position paper can be up to 2500 words long (a typical page of single-spaced text in 12pt. Times Roman in MS Word is about 500 words, so this is about 5 pages). The References section does not count against the 2500 word limit. For purposes of preparing your oral arguments, note that, speaking at a moderate pace, your professor can read about 800 words aloud in 5 minutes.

*Contents of the argument and position paper*

Your argument should address the resolution from the following perspectives:

* Economy
* Innovation
* Civil liberties, including freedom of expression, privacy
* International relations / National Security / Law Enforcement

These areas are taken from Chapter 5 of the NRC report *The Nexus of Cybersecurity and Public Policy*, which is required reading and is available on Canvas. You may find other parts of the report helpful as well. Although you should address all four perpectives, if you think a particular perspective is not very relevant to the resolution, you should just say so – no need to belabor it.

*Preparing for the debate*

Even though you will argue one side of the question, you will need to understand the arguments on both sides, since you will need to respond to the arguments the other side proposes against your position. You should consider the position you want to take and seek evidence, including citable references that support your position, as well as evidence that might help you argue against claims the other side may make. It’s very important to keep track of your references and have them available during the debate. Your position paper should similarly cite the references relevant to the discussion and include the reference list as the last section of the paper.

*Voting*

Prior to each debate, the each person in the audience will vote as either in favor, opposed, or undecided about the resolution. At the end of the debate, a second poll will be taken. The winning team will be the one that converts the most voters to its position.

*Grading*

Your grade for this assignment will depend on

* Your team’s position paper
* Your team’s performance in the debate, including responses to questions
* The questions you submit to the other four debates