

Business Meeting
National Christian College Forensics Association
Azusa Pacific University
Saturday, March 12, 2011
Minutes

I. Opening

NCCFA President Skip Rutledge opened the annual meeting at 2:20 PM by welcoming everyone. Skip prayed and then everyone was introduced. Twenty-four of the twenty-six institutions attending the tournament were at the meeting. Skip announced the job opening for Director of Forensics at Biola University.

II. Reports

A. President Report

Skip thanked everyone for being at the meeting and tournament. He reminded everyone that daylight savings is TONIGHT.

B. Treasurer Report

1. Julie Welker announced that we have official 501(c)3 status. Technically, the NCCFA's application is still at the Federal Government waiting for its final approval, but we anticipate there being no problems.
2. We are planning on posting IRS W-9 forms with the NCCFA 2012 tournament invitation.
3. NCCFA income is currently over \$26,000 but tournament expenses have not been withdrawn. This total also does not reflect donations from Regent University. We have about \$2,000 in donations. Our goal is to break even.

C. Tournament Director

1. Rebecca Sietman reminded everyone about the LD flighting for one round.
2. 2011 National tournament Cums will be posted online by the end of the tournament instead of handing out hard copies.

D. Tournament Host

1. Amy Jung asked everyone if they would be please help clean up especially our debate prep rooms.
2. Pictures were also available to be taken. Each school needs to ask Ann if she would take them and then the file will be e-mailed out.

III. Old Business

- A. Motion to bring 2010 Business Meeting minutes to a vote. The minutes were voted on and approved.

IV. New Business

- A. Hosting the NCCFA tournament in 2012
 - 1. Host school needs to be able to hire about 12 extra judges to cover.
 - 2. Traditionally we have alternated back and forth from West and East Districts.
 - 3. Two schools have shown an interest in hosting for 2012. Kansas-Wesleyan has shown an interest in the past.
 - a. DOF Chip Hall from Carson-Newman in Jefferson City, Tennessee near Knoxville offered to host. The closest airport is Knoxville where there are several attractions for visitors including Civil War tours, Riverboat cruises, museums, and close by is Dollywood. If people picked Carson-Newman, they would host either the third or fourth weekend in March.
 - b. Konrad Hack from Concordia-Irvine stated he would also be available to host in 2012 if people wanted to come back to California.
 - 4. The NCCFA body voted for Carson-Newman to host the 2012 tournament.
- B. Elections
 - 1. Secretary:
Brooke Adamson from Northwest Nazarene University ran unopposed and was re-elected.
 - 2. Treasurer:
Julie Welker from Howard Payne University ran unopposed and was re-elected.
 - 3. Tournament Director:
There were three candidates running for Tournament Director for the 2012 national tournament: Shannon Scott from Seattle Pacific University, Amy Jung from Azusa Pacific University, and Jason Stahl from Belmont University. Shannon Scott was elected as NCCFA Tournament Director for 2012.

4. Eastern District 2 Representative (Ann Lawson's position):
Ann Lawson from Malone University ran unopposed and was re-elected to represent the Eastern District.
5. Western District 1 Representative (Shannon Scott's position):
Amy Jung from Azusa Pacific ran unopposed and was elected to represent the Western District.

III. New Business

A. Add British Parliament or other forms of debate to NCCFI.

1. Coaches showed interest in adding more forms of debate including British Parliament, Public Forum, or International Public Debate Association (IPDA).
2. There was no consensus on one kind of debate to add.
3. The Executive Council was asked to conduct a survey and study interest in what alternate forms of debate the membership would like to add to the tournament. The Executive Council agreed.

B. Proposed Amendments.

1. Discussion on proposals 1 – 3 about having a student representative for each district.
 - a. Students are welcome to attend our meetings. There was a desire for the coaches to know how the students felt about representation and figuring out ways for students to be able to voice their concerns and desires for the tournaments. It was suggested that the students organize a Facebook page. There was also discussion of having a student social one night of the tournament for students to spend time together.
 - b. These amendments were tabled for discussion for next year.

Proposal #1: Student Representation

Proposed by Ryan Soller, Bethel University

Amend the Constitution, article IV as follows:

Current text:

A. Positions

1. The officers of the NCCFA shall include: President, Tournament Director, At-Large Representatives, the Webmaster, and the Secretary/Treasurer.

Proposed change: Add the position of Student Representative to the list.

Justification: There are two particular justifications for this proposal:

1. Many other forensic organizations, such as NPDA, NFA, PKD, and AFA already have student representation. There is no reason that NCCFA should not have representation.
2. This gives students a voice in the organization. Students have asked about having a voice for several years, and this proposal would allow that to happen.

Proposal #2: Student Business Meeting and Student Representation

Proposed by Ryan Soller and Michael Dreher, Bethel University

Amend the Constitution, Article VI as follows:

Add the following as H:

H. Student Business Meeting

1. The tournament director and the host shall schedule time for a student business meeting. This meeting shall be conducted before the coaches' business meeting.
2. Both the student and the coaches' business meeting should not interfere with any of the events that take place during the tournament.
3. The student representative shall be elected during the student business meeting. The student representative's term shall last for one year.
4. There shall be two student representatives: one representing each of the NCCFA districts.

Justification: In order for the student representatives to communicate issues to the regular business meeting, their meeting must happen before the regular business meeting. The proposal also would allow representation from across the country.

Proposal #3 – Change in Executive Council

This is contingent on proposal #1. If proposal #1 fails, this proposal becomes irrelevant.

Proposed by: Michael Dreher, Bethel University

Change Article V, A 2b as follows:

Current text:

The Executive Council shall rule on any rules violations that arise during the national tournament, and shall be responsible for deciding appropriate penalties.

Proposed change (highlighted in bold):

The Executive Council (**with the exception of the student representatives**) shall rule on any rules violations that arise during the national tournament, and shall be responsible for deciding appropriate penalties.

Justification: Prevents conflict of interest.

2. Proposal #4 was to encourage faith-based resolutions in preliminary rounds of parliamentary debate.
 - a. There was a need expressed to have a definition of what “faith-based”.
 - b. There was a much concern about how some topics have been debated in the past that have caused division, hurt, and schools to stop coming to the NCCFI.
 - c. Some directors stated that we need to be very careful with religious debate topics especially with novice debaters, and they did not want to put a requirement on having faith-based resolutions.
 - d. Other directors really liked the idea to have more topics dealing with religion. Since we are a Christian tournament, there is a desire to be different and have special topics that reflect the religious focus.
 - e. There were several suggestions on having more faith-based topic opportunities:
 - i. Editorial Impromptu event
 - ii. Christian Apologetics to have faith-based resolutions
 - iii. Showcase the top open teams and have them debate a religious topic.
 - f. Question was called and Proposal #4 was voted down.

Proposal #4: Encourage faith-based resolutions

Proposed by: Ryan Soller, Bethel University

Add to Article V, D 3 – the roles for the Parliamentary Debate Topics Committee as follows:

4. The topic committee shall be encouraged to include faith-based topics as part of the resolutions for the tournament. A minimum of two faith-based resolutions in the preliminary rounds shall be utilized in parliamentary debate.

Justification: While I recognize that this may tie the hands of the committee, such an outcome is desirable. Over the past few years, the number of faith-based topics at NCCFI has decreased significantly. The net impact of that is that NCCFI becomes just like any other parli tournament. In fact, there were more faith-based resolutions at NPDA last year than NCCFI. If “the goal of the NCCFA is to provide member schools of the CCCU and schools of similar beliefs the opportunity to gather once a year and celebrate our faith while we engage in an activity we all love,” then parliamentary debate should be part of that. The same can be said of Extemp and Impromptu as well.

3. Proposals 5 – 9 were not discussed because of time constraints.

Proposal #5: Announce potential dates and hosts as part of the business meeting agenda

Proposed by: Michael Dreher, Bethel University

Under Article VI, Business Meetings, add

- H. Potential hosts and dates for the tournament for upcoming years shall be included in the agenda. Specific hosts and dates shall be mentioned.

Justification: There are four potential justifications for this proposal:

1. This allows directors of programs that are involved in multiple organizations more of a chance to coordinate various national dates.
2. In addition, this will help with regard to making the Council of Forensic Organizations national tournament calendar more accurate. That calendar is utilized as various national organizations try to schedule nationals dates at their business meetings.
3. This would give time and a way for schools who could not attend a particular NCCFI or people who could not attend the business meeting to provide feedback about dates and hosts, thus increasing voice.

4. This will help potential hosts to get their bids together before the tournament, thus providing for better bids.

Proposal #6: Clarifying Number of Students Advancing and Trophies Awarded to Students in Final Rounds in Individual Events

Proposed by: Michael Dreher, Bethel University

This is a three-part proposal – the first part deals with the number of students advancing, the second part deals with the trophies, and the final part deals with the sweepstakes points.

Part 1 – Add the following text to Bylaw 6 G, starting numbering at 4:

4. If there are more than 12 students in the event, all finalists shall be advanced. If there are 35 students in an event, there will be semifinals.
5. Semifinalists shall be seeded into two patterns. Semifinal A shall have the 1-4-5-8-9-12 seeds; semifinal B shall have the 2-3-6-7-10-11 seeds. If there is need for a 13th student, that student shall be placed in semifinal A. The top 3 students from each semifinal shall be advanced into the final round.
6. If there are less than 12 students in an event, what happens shall be based on the division:
 - a. If the division is novice, and the open division has 12 or more students, then the entries will be collapsed into a single division. A novice champion shall still be named.
 - b. If the division is open, and the novice division has 12 or more students, then the open division will advance 50% into finals. The novice division shall not be collapsed into open.

Justification: This corresponds both with past practice and with the invitation. This clarifies also when there are semifinals in individual events, which currently do not exist in our governing documents.

Part 2 - Change Bylaw 6 G 1.

Current text: The tournament will offer trophies to all students reaching elimination rounds in both open and novice division in all individual events.

Proposed change: Add the following text after the current text.

If there are less than 12 students in an event, the tournament will offer trophies to the top half of participants. Should ties advance more than 50% of the field (i.e., if there are 11 students, 6 would advance), all the appropriate trophies would be awarded.

Justification: Right now, we are compelled to offer trophies to all 6 students, even if there are only 7-11 students in an event.

Part 3 – Change Bylaw 5, B as follows:

Add the following as 5:

If there are less than 12 students in an event, only the top 50% (rounding up if there are an odd number of entries) will be awarded finalist points.

Justification: This follows current practice, and was highlighted in Skip's letter. This codifies the practice.

Proposal #7: Clarifying Tie-Breaking Procedures Used in Individual Events

Proposed by: Michael Dreher, Bethel University

The following shall be added as Bylaw 6G, starting at 7 (assuming proposal #6 passes):

7. In final rounds, the determination of rankings shall be as follows:
 - a. Majority of first place rankings (a student who gets two of the three first places in the round shall be declared the winner)
 - b. Total ranks
 - c. Judges' preference (In a 3-way tie, if judges' preference breaks the tie, it shall be used first.)
 - d. Speaker points.
 - e. If there is a 3 or more way tie, and speaker points can break part of the tie, then the remaining students involved in the tie shall be assessed using judges' preference.

Justification: This is actual practice for 3-person IE rounds. This is the tie-breaking procedure used in many AFA Districts for three judge panels, is codified in both the District 1 and District 7 bylaws, and has been standard practice in many other AFA districts (such as District 4). Until the 2010 tournament, this was actual practice for the organization as well.

Proposal #8: Technical correction to awarding of RT preliminary round points

Proposed by: Michael Dreher, Bethel University

Change Bylaw 5, C1 as follows:

Current text: 3 points will be earned for each preliminary round win. Byes will be counted as wins for purposes of points.

Add the following text: If there are two judges per preliminary round, then each preliminary round shall earn 1.5 points.

Justification: This has been historical precedent, but needs to be codified in the bylaws.

Proposal #9: Housekeeping/Technical Edits to the Constitution and Bylaws

Proposed by: Michael Dreher, Bethel University

Simply allow Michael and Brooke Adamson to make editorial changes to the Constitution and Bylaws without having to have each one approved individually.

For example, there are incorrect cross-references to articles (Article V is referenced in two places where it should be Article VI).

IV. Meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.