National Christian College Forensics Association
Business Meeting
Sunday, March 18, 2012
12:30 – 3:15 PM

A. President Skip Rutledge opened the meeting at 12:59 PM.
   1. Gary Harmon of Kansas-Wesleyan prayed over the meeting and the tournament.
   2. Thanks to Shannon Scott and Chip Hall for their work as Tournament Director and Tournament Host.

B. Everyone introduced themselves and their institution.
   All 26 schools attending the 2012 tournament were at the meeting.

C. Minutes from 2011 were accepted and approved.

D. Reports from Officers
   1. Treasurer Julie Welker reported that we are officially a 501c3. We entered this tournament with over $9000 in the bank account. After this tournament we are looking at adding over $3000 to that. The projected balance of the NCCFA after the 2012 tournament is $12, 515.46.
   2. Tournament Director Shannon Scott reported only 3 events in the tournament collapsed. Another positive was the increase of LD entries this year as compared to previous years.
      a. Survey results:
         1. Reasons for not coming: cost, one school only did British Parliamentary, religious topics not required all the time
         2. Date interests: nothing stood out
         3. Interest in adding another form of debate: 25% of respondents gave their interest in participating in IPDA.
      b. Skip asked the body if there is interest in adding IPDA to the tournament schedule.
         1. Erick Roebuck proposed to add IPDA to the NCCFI tournament schedule. He explained that IPDA is growing rapidly in parts of the country. It is very audience friendly and easier to judge than other forms of debate. You can expand your judging pool since technical jargon is not used. There are more metaphorical topics and government often clarifies with the opposition what direction he/she is going with the chosen topic.
         2. New Proposal: Moved and accepted that we refer adding IPDA to the tournament schedule to a committee consisting of the following volunteers: Erick Roebuck, Amy Jung, Gary Harmon, Ann Lawson, Shannon Scott, and Jay Bourne.

3. Tournament Host Chip Hall: everything is going well. There was just a complaint that trash cans were overflowing.

E. Business
   1. Hosting Interests and Bids
      a. Erick Roebuck, John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Arkansas: March 9 – 11, 2013. Erick stated they have the rooms to run this tournament. The campus has three new buildings with competition spaces since the last time they hosted NCCFI in 2006. Erick has hosted NCCFI twice at Biola and has strong administrative support to host at JBU. There are lots of restaurants in town to utilize.
      b. Michael Marse, California Baptist, Riverside, CA.: March 9 – 11 or 15 – 17, 2013. They have hosted twice before and have a huge judging pool.
      c. Konrad Hack, Concordia University-Irvine, CA expressed interest in hosting in 2014 but did not submit a formal bid.
      d. Body voted to have NCCFI at John Brown U. in 2013. Suggested weekends were March 1 – 3 or March 9 – 11. It would be good for schools that only do debate or individual events to have the schedule like this year. Body preferred to have the tournament March 9 – 11, 2013.

   2. Elections
      a. President
         1. Amy Jung, Azusa Pacific University and Jay Bourne, University of the Cumberlands were nominated.
         3. Jay Bourne was elected.
      b. Western Representative: Chris Leland from Colorado Christian was nominated and elected.
      c. Eastern Representative: Chip Hall from Carson-Newman was nominated and elected
      d. Tournament Director: Shannon Scott from Seattle Pacific was nominated and elected.
         1. Proposal from Skip that the tournament director be appointed be the President and executive council. Proposed amendment to Constitution and Bylaws to add, "The tournament director will be appointed by the NCCFA President with the approval of the executive council on a yearly basis." to IV. B Elections for officers shall take place during the annual business meeting (see Article V). The election for the President shall alternate with the election for the Secretary and the Treasurer.
         2. Concerns were raised that people may only choose their regional friends or that people may

not show their interest in being tournament director.

3. Proposals
   a. Proposal #9: The tournament invitation state should clearly how the events will be run. There needs to be some consistency from year to year how limited preparation events will be done. AFA for IEs, NFA for LD, and PRP for RT.
      Proposal did not pass.
      1. There was a recommendation that this be given to a committee to discuss how limited preparation events will be done at the NCCFI.
      2. Shannon Scott will lead a group to discuss this issue.
   b. Proposal #10-11 presented without a vote.
   c. Proposals 1 – 3 were clarified without a vote.
   d. Proposal #3 was clarified and voted on. The proposal passed.

F. Adjourned at 3:10 PM

G. Appendix A: Business Meeting Proposals to be presented at the 2012 NCCFI National Tournament

Proposal #1: 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 #2: 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 #3: 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 #4: 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).

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.

My understanding is that #6-8 below are still on the table. I wish to raise these from the table *after* consideration of the first 5 items above.

Proposal #6: 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 #7: 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 #8 – Change in Executive Council
This is contingent on proposal #6. If proposal #6 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.
Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 1, Section B.

Proposal #9: Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 1, Section B.

Current Bylaw:
B. The following event descriptions shall be used. If AFA (for IE's), NFA (for LD), or PRP (for RT) changes event descriptions after the business meeting, the tournament director may include any revised descriptions as part of the tournament invitation without

having to propose a bylaw change. The bylaw will then be changed appropriately, and schools shall be given notice of the change in the tournament invitation.

Proposed Change:
B. The following event descriptions shall be used. Unless specifically stated, the administering of these events will follow the format found at the AFA-NIET. If AFA (for IE's), NFA (for LD), or PRP (for RT) changes event descriptions after the business meeting, the tournament director may include any revised descriptions as part of the tournament invitation without having to propose a bylaw change. The bylaw will then be changed appropriately, and schools shall be given notice of the change in the tournament invitation.

Rationale for Change:
There are many norms that change from tournament to tournament, geographic region to geographic region. For example, before arriving in rounds, students may not know how many quotations/topics are available in impromptu, the process for selecting extemp topics, using the internet during extemp prep, what scoring system will be used on ballots, etc. By accepting the norms of the AFA-NIET, this non-biased approach take pressure of making important decisions not found in the constitution or invitation due to the AFA-NIET precedents.

Points for Discussion:
- We can also use NFA over AFA… obviously POI is not included at NFA, but its standards can reflect that of the other IE events.
- If we do choose AFA, would we continue their tradition of having CX in EXT finals?
- I'm assuming that the "administering" of the events would also involve tab decisions. Unfortunately their selection procedures involve dropped ballots. Would we need to specify that there are no dropped ballots?
- NOTE: It would be great to have specific info in the bylaws about tie-breaking procedures. If AFA, this would be especially beneficial since they utilized an adjusted rank system.

Proposal #10: Proposed Amendment to Bylaw 5, Section B.

Current Bylaw:
Bylaw 5: Calculation of Sweepstakes Points
B. Individual Events
1. Preliminary round points will be earned on the following scale: 1st place in a round earns 3 points, 2nd place in a round earns 2 points, 3rd place in a round earns 1 point.
2. Preliminary round points may be earned for as many as 4 students per school per division.
3. Elimination round points may be earned for all students per school per division.
4. Elimination round points will be earned on the following basis:

1st -12 points
2nd -10 points
3rd -8 points
4th -6 points
5th -5 points
6th -4 points
Semifinals -2 points

Proposed Change:
Bylaw 5: Calculation of Sweepstakes Points
B. Individual Events

5. Preliminary round points will be earned on the following scale: 1st place in a round earns 3 points, 2nd place in a round earns 2 points, 3rd place in a round earns 1 point.
6. Preliminary round points may be earned for as many as 4 students per school per division.
7. Elimination round points may be earned for all students per school per division.
8. Elimination round points will be earned on the following basis:

1st -12 points
2nd -10 points
3rd -8 points
4th -6 points
5th -5 points
6th -4 points
Other finalists (7th, 8th, etc. if advanced to finals) – 3 points
Non-advancing Semifinalists (for events with 40+ entries) -2 points

Rationale for Change:

- This would create a set number required for an IE event to move to semi-finals.
- Provides points to people breaking after 6th place.
- Previously unclear if 2 points went to everyone advancing to semi-finals or just the non-advancing semifinalists.

Proposal #11: Bylaw 2: Definitions of Open/Novice

E. Novice IE events will be held for any event where ten or more competitors are available in both the open and novice divisions. Debate divisions will be held for divisions with 7 or more competitors/teams. If an open IE or Debate division does not have enough competitors, the below division will collapse with the open division.

F. If a novice IE event collapses into another division, the points received in that division will be considered as points received in the novice division (thus

allowing points to go toward novice speaker awards and to allow schools with four novice and open division entries to still be calculated towards team points).

Rationale: The above:

- streamlines a number for how many entries are required to hold a novice/jv division.
- clarifies that novices pushed into an open event can still gain those points toward their novice speaker awards.
- clarifies that collapsed divisions allow more entries for a school (and thus the school is not penalized for an event collapsing).
- clarifies that novice speaker points from collapsed divisions are merely the points gained while in the open division.