

NCFA Business Meeting
Modesto Junior College
February 20, 2010

In attendance: Sue Peterson (CSU Chico), Whitney Dunham (CSU Chico), Nolan Cox (CSU Chico), Jeremy Morioka (Folsom), Eric Fletcher (FCC), Suzanne Ruckle (Yuba), Janet Brehe Johnson (Las Positas College), Marlin Bates (Pacific), Todd Guy (MJC), Mark Nelson (SRJC), Marina Whitchurch (SRJC), Julie LaBrincha (Contra Costa College), Rachel Dwiggin-Becker (Contra Costa College), Ken Dandy (Sacramento State), Alexis Litzky (SFSU), Jason Ames (Chabot), Tim Elizondo (Columbia), John Hanecak (DVC), Nicole Sandoval (Ohlone), Kay Harrison (Ohlone), Kristina Whalen (City College of SF), Nathan Steele (City College of SF), Steve Graham (SJDC), Tina Lim (SJSU), Patrick Moe (DVC)

Meeting called to order at 6:41PM

Welcome by President Patrick. The goal will be to finish meeting when the Parli round ends (or before).

1. Hosts

a. Fall Rookie Camp.

- i. The host is in charge of organizing, designing and running the camp. A suggestion was made to split the task into 1) host and 2) director
- ii. Typically, the date is before the SFSU tournament in September (one of the last two weekends of September)
- iii. Sue doesn't mind hosting, but Chico's far. Jason offered to look into hosting if someone else will direct it. Sue volunteered to direct and Jason will look into rooms and availability at Chabot. Fall Rookie Camp is tentatively decided.
- iv. Is continuing the focus of rookie camp on debate focus still okay? No one objected, so it is will continue to be this unless the director decides otherwise.
- v. There were some discussions on whether it should be a one-day or two-day event. Mark, Jason and Kristina all spoke in favor of 1-day for economic reasons. Tim and Sue agreed that one-day is good, but because they are so far away and not driving back Saturday night, they wouldn't mind having a short scrimmage Sunday morning (if Chabot can spare the meeting rooms)

b. 2010-11 NCFA Champs

- i. Mark won the bid for Santa Rosa to host Champs next year. With the new Student Center is built and finished, it will be a great place for students to hang out.
- ii. There was some tangential discussion of making the October Santa Rosa tournament a swing. Mark has no objections to that and offered that this academic year, but folks were against it. There were some concerns and disagreement about how to properly run a swing tournament so that it is "official"; however, it is decided that Santa Rosa would make the October tournament a swing next year.

- c. Coaches Conference suggestions
 - i. At the Coaches Conference back in August, folks suggested that we didn't want to pay money, so what should we do next year? Marlin raised the fact that there is \$1000 that was supposed to be for spending "on things." Kristina, as the treasurer, doesn't have any records from previous Treasurer, but can check with Sandy if necessary.
 - ii. Sue suggested that in addition to fun activities, maybe we could also have some development type workshops, instead of just having a business meeting.
 - iii. Lots of people reminisced about previous coaches conferences that were held in Livermore and its proximity to wineries.
 - iv. Julie volunteered that Las Positas could provide a few rooms for next year's coaches conference.
 - v. Patrick will send email soliciting suggestions for workshops and then follow up with Las Positas on dates that would work.
 - vi. Todd suggested the conference be held in August rather than September, to which majority of people were in agreement.
- 2. Elections
 - a. VP – Mark nominates Marina. Marina elected uncontested.
 - b. Treasurer – Kristina elected again uncontested.
- 3. Association Awards – Patrick will send out email to solicit nominations and awards will be given out at Spring Fling.
- 4. Debate Changes
 - a. Marlin raised the issue of breaking brackets in Parli at Champs because NCFA's practice should reflect national standards. He argues that there's no need to protect the "sanctity" of the bracket, especially when we're lag powering in multiple rounds, there are essentially no bracket. If rationale is bracket should be sanctified, then it needs to be protected all the way through.
 - i. Sue raised the following concerns with breaking brackets:
 - 1. it's a lot more judging in elim rounds,
 - 2. the bracket being protected are the breaking teams,
 - 3. it should be the decision for the tournament director (and has been),
 - 4. we don't need to follow the national model.
 - ii. Since it's just for Champs and Patrick is the director next year, he would break brackets if that's what the majority wants to do.
 - iii. Marlin made a motion to amend the NCFA constitution to reflect breaking brackets for Parli. Folks wanted to see the motion in writing before they vote on it rather than rushing into voting for something that may be vague or unruly in the future.
 - iv. The wording for the Constitutional Amendment will be listed in Section II as sub-paragraph K: "At the NCFA Championship Tournament, in all divisions of Parliamentary Debate, the tournament director shall, whenever possible, break brackets.

- v. A verbal vote was called and the amendment was passed with no “nay” votes.
 - b. Eric suggests that all 4-2 teams break
 - i. There was a concern involving the feasibility of doing this at some smaller schools. Eric’s response is that if this is the official rule, then hosts/schools can be better prepared with rooms to accommodate this.
 - ii. There was another concern about whether or not this partial break would violate NPDA rules. Marlin fielded this question that partial breaks wouldn’t count for points, so it would essentially be another “prelim” round before they get to bracketed elim.
 - iii. Several coaches suggested that breaking all teams with winning records poses a scheduling problem, not room problem, so Eric suggests that we try this at Champs next year to see what would happen. Patrick response with an executive order that all 4-2 teams in debate would break at next year’s Champs.
 - iv. Mark suggested that we should acknowledge the 4-2 teams at awards for this year. No one disagreed.
 - 5. Uncovered judge fees increase
 - a. Kristina stated that hired judges fees have been steadily increasing and lots of people bring constrained judges, which has led to an increased use of hired judges. This increase takes away NCFA’s ability to fund other activities, like the coaches conference or rookie camp, so she motions to raise the fees for uncovered judges.
 - b. Many people agreed that the fees should be significant enough to incentivize schools to bring judges; however,
 - c. Several coaches spoke against this increase. Many programs are not properly funded with only one coach available, so any increase in uncovered fees, would mean folks having to cut students from competing.
 - d. This problem is not going away and will likely get worse; something has to be done.
 - e. There was a lot of discussion back and forth on the pros on cons of raising these fees with no consensus.
 - f. Kristina moves to bring data for historical trend information on uncovered judges/hired judges to the Coaches Conference and for us to vote then.
 - g. Several coaches spoke in favor of also data on who’s actually showing up to pick up ballots to meet commitment and the need for actual judging data plus economic data to gauge if this is an economic issue or one of enforcement of current rules.
 - 6. Any other business? A motion was made to adjourn.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:41PM.