



# Quebec Student Debating Association

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**Quebec Student Debating Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Selwyn House – Wednesday, September 5, 2012**

## 1. Call to Order

Chris George calls the meeting to order at 4:38 pm.

## 2. Roll Call, Introduce QSDA Executive and all Coaches, Identify Voting members ( 1 per member school in 2011-12 )

### Present:

Chris George	Lower Canada College, President
<b>Jonathan Bracewell</b>	<b>Selwyn House, Vice-President (Proxy for The Study, Stanstead, VMC, Loyola)</b>
<b>Isabelle Fahmy</b>	<b>Treasurer, QSDA ( proxy for LCC )</b>
Stephen McCarthy	President, CSDF
Sarah Campbell	Kells Academy
Jill Darby	Kells Academy
<b>Donna Gold</b>	<b>St. George's</b>
<b>Emerson Thomas</b>	<b>Bialik</b>
<b>Christina Orlando</b>	<b>ECS</b>
<b>Mary Kate Jackson</b>	<b>Trafalgar</b>
Katie Rochford	Trafalgar

### Regrets:

Luigi DiScepola	Kuper
Greg Loudon	Vincent Massey
Denis Brault	Loyola
Tina Grivas	WIC
Melissa Onofrio	The Study
Shauna Katz	John Rennie
Sandy Cross	St. Thomas
Audrey Langlois	Stanstead
Lauren Shadley	Director
Caroline Wagner	Director

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<b>Vice-President:</b>	Jon Bracewell, Selwyn House School, <a href="mailto:bracewellj@selwyn.ca">bracewellj@selwyn.ca</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Isabelle Fahmy, <a href="mailto:isabellefahmy@gmail.com">isabellefahmy@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mary Kate Jackson, Trafalgar School for Girls, <a href="mailto:mkjackson@trafalgar.qc.ca">mkjackson@trafalgar.qc.ca</a>
<b>Director:</b>	Katie Rochford, Dawson College, <a href="mailto:kathleen.rochford@hotmail.com">kathleen.rochford@hotmail.com</a>



Voting members are indicated in bold above. The chair determined that quorum was established.

### **3. Adopt minutes from June 2, 2011**

**Jon Bracewell moves to adopt the minutes.**

Isabelle Fahmy seconds.

All in favour. Carried

### **4. Business Arising from Minutes of June 2, 2011**

No business arising.

### **5. Membership Update – Isabelle**

Lost 6 members, gained 2. (Mother Theresa Jr. H.S., Military College St. Jean - not technically able to debate.)

Chris - Rennie and St. Thomas have expressed interest in joining as paying members. Kells is interested in joining, and wouldn't need to pay this year.

### **6. Financial Update - Isabelle**

- financial statements for 2010-11
  - closing balance \$4931.77
  - grant (CSDF) registrations, membership fees
  - Chris audited (wasn't a board member)
  - Donna asked about the registration fees being part of it; Chris explained the technicalities (to do with our charitable status and taxes.)

### **Motion to accept the financial statement from 2010-11.**

Moved by Mary Kate, seconded by Jon. All in favour. Motion carried.

- financial statements for 2011-12
  - Stephen explained why the McCleese grant was lower this year (essentially, we still had some of their money, so we didn't qualify to get more.)
  - we paid more for insurance
  - web page is paid every 18 months, so will come due in December 2012

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- all schools paid their fee
- this statement is not yet audited

• **Budget for 2012-13**

- if we charged \$125 rather than \$200, we would still have some left over
- Chris asked if we're guaranteed \$1000 from CSDF; Stephen said that it's not guaranteed, but offered to show Chris and Isabelle what would qualify for funding

**Motion to adopt the budget for 2012-13**

Moved by Mary Kate, Donna Gold seconds. All in favour. Carried.

- Set registration fee for 2012-13

**Motion to set the registration fee at \$125.**

Christina moves, Emerson seconded. All in favour. Carried.

• **auditor**

- Chris explained the need for an auditor and asked for a volunteer. No one volunteered. Board will consider appointing someone later.

**7. Report on recent National Championships – Chris**

A good time was had by all. QSDA donated \$2000; LCC picked up the tab (a few hundred) for the rest. Detailed report was distributed.

**8. Report from CSDF and upcoming National Seminar - Chris**

- Chris discussed the details and deadline.
- Stephen gave an overview. Event has moved from Saskatchewan to Toronto. Events include Model Parliament, Debate workshops, Debate tournament, cultural events.
- Cost is \$450 (see invitation for details).
- rule about 1 person from each school has been changed
- deadline is Sept. 14, but really an idea of how many students QSDA plans to send is needed (for hotel bookings, etc)
- hopefully QSDA gets back into sending more
- Jon mentioned that the Marianopolis tournament (Oxford qualifier)

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- any questions - [smccarthy@csdf-fcde.ca](mailto:smccarthy@csdf-fcde.ca)
- good opportunity for networking

**McCleese Fund** - set up for all member provinces to give money to expand debate (to new schools, new areas, new schools hosting tournament, aimed at getting public schools, etc)

- Mary Kate asked if it could be used to explore debate in other parts of Quebec; Stephen said sure
- Chris asked if it could be used as a travel bursary; Stephen said possibly (CSDF didn't get a grant from Exchanges Canada this year)
- Katie mentioned debate in elementary schools

**Seminar host needed for CSDF next year; is Quebec willing?**

## 9. Review calendar of events and hosting schedule

- first senior tournament at Stanstead ( planning a bus )
- numbers are low; more than 2 per school might be okay
  
- first junior tournament at Trafalgar
- is the date okay? Seems to be.
  
- Oxford Cup Qualifier at Marianopolis – Sat. Oct. 13
  
- McGill Tournament – Oct. 26-27
  
- Carleton Tournament – Nov. 16 - 17
  
- Discussion of schools who host vs schools who don't, and the need to get more schools to host.

## 10. Proposed Amendments to By-Laws

**MOTION ( from Kuper ): adding a clause to the by-laws to have "have a mandatory panel of judges for important tournaments including qualifiers for provincials"**

Jon moved to discuss the proposal from Kuper.  
Stephen read an email from Luigi.

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Jon pointed out that there is an issue, and that it would be nice if we could have 3 judges, but it's not always possible. We do, however, aim to have 3 judges for the "important" rounds, and there is an effort to balance the experience level of judges. He acknowledges that there could be more transparency. He also points out that one judge per team would decimate our tournament pools.

Christina pointed out that her kids once got the same judge a few times in a row, and knew that they were "not doing well". ( not at QSDA event? )

Katie suggested that perhaps being more transparent about the process might help. Mary Kate agreed.

Chris briefly outlined how the "bracketing" of judges works.

Stephen pointed out 3 things: "expert" vs "layperson" judging; best practices, not something to regulate; not the best idea to regulate everything.

## **Motion:**

**Jon Bracewell moves to vote on the motion. Carried unanimously.**

## **Motion: ( listed above ):**

**One vote from Kuper in absentia counted in favour, all others against. Defeated.**

## **11. Election of Board of Directors**

Mary Kate nominates Chris George for President. Chris is acclaimed.

Mary Kate nominates Jon Bracewell for Vice President. Jon is acclaimed.

Jon nominates Isabelle Fahmy for Treasurer. Isabelle is acclaimed.

Jon nominates Mary Kate Jackson for Secretary. Mary Kate is acclaimed.

Jon nominates Katie Rochford for Director-at-large. Katie is acclaimed.

## **12. Other Business**

-Christina pointed out that some people don't necessarily appreciate the expertise of the university judges.

## **13. Adjournment**

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