

Quebec Student Debating Association
Annual General Meeting – Tuesday, June 6, 2006
Lower Canada College

1. Welcome/Call to order/Introductions (at 4:02 p.m.)

Present:

Ryan Abrams	Centennial Academy / Marianopolis College (Secretary)
Noah Kochman	Herzliah (St. Laurent)
Louise Chalmers	John Rennie
Chris George	Lower Canada College (President)
Elizabeth Cohene	Lower Canada College
Catherine Grimanis	ECS
Liana Palko	Selwyn House
Jeff Deepprose	St. George's
Rachel McCabe	Trafalgar (Treasurer) / Proxy for Loyola / Proxy for Royal West/ Proxy for QAA
Sandy Cross	Westwood H.S. (Vice-President)
Isabelle Fahmy	The Study
Marsha Gouett	English School Board of Montreal (observer)
Bryan Badali	McGill University (observer)
Kozo Ota	McMaster University (observer)

Regrets:

Allan Tabatchnik	Herzliah (St. Laurent)
Judy Stein	Bialik
James Rioux	Stanstead College
Tina Grivas	West Island College
Denis Brault	Loyola High School
Erin Russet	Selwyn House
Sharen McDonald	Weston School
John Commins	Royal West Academy
Talia Ralph	Royal West Academy
Mary-Kate Jackson	Queen of Angels
Shawna Katz	John Rennie

Chair: Chris George

Minutes: Ryan Abrams

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

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

3. Adopt minutes from September 14, 2005

**Motion to adopt minutes from September 14, 2005. Moved by Liz, seconded by Sandy.
CARRIED.**

4. Business Arising from Minutes of September 14, 2005

No business arising.

5. Membership Report - Rachel

- Sandy: Possibility of getting new schools such as Beaconsfield and MacDonald for next year with new labour act.
- Marsha is working with EMSB schools,

6. Financial Report and set registration fee for 2006-07 – Rachel

- Budget was presented.
- Final balance yielded excess of \$512.98 this year, so no need to raise membership fees for next year.

Motion to set the registration fee for 2006-2007 at \$150.00 per school. Moved by Rachel and seconded by Noah. CARRIED unanimously.

7. National Seminar 2006 Report - Chris

- Chris: Selection committee for world qualifiers selected three students (selected by Liana and McGill students). Kirsten Lundell-Smith from Trafalgar invited back for next try out to hopefully join Madeleine Ballard (LCC) on the world team next year.
- QSDA Selection process should not change for next year. It should also be more competitive as grade 9 students can now apply.
- No official need to do cross-ex at provincial qualifying tournament for National Seminar.
- Next seminar will be the last to be held in the spring, where it will later be moved to the fall to be a less competitive event.

8. Junior High Nationals 2006 Report- Liana

- Liana: Problems with judging, they were not well briefed. Too many memorized speeches. Our teams were disadvantaged at these levels because of poor judging pool. Nevertheless, the students still had a great time.
- Suggestion: Less prepared rounds. Reduce amount of styles which our students aren't prepared for (ex: discussion style).

9. 2007 Junior Nationals in Montreal – Chris

- Chris to chair junior nationals next year. It will be run like a senior tournament and the above suggestions will be used.
- Selwyn will host and billet, LCC will host, ECS will billet and Rennie will host.
- Quebec will be able so send six teams (instead of four)

Motion to use the funds (\$1000) that would normally be used to send a chaperone to the junior nationals into hosting them in Quebec next year. Moved by Liana and seconded by Rachel. CARRIED unanimously.

10. National Championships Report – Chris

- Archives of National Championships documents on QSDA website (includes pictures)
- Next year's championships to be at UCC in March.
- Noah: Jewish schools cannot participate in tournaments held on Saturdays. Thanks goes out to schools who worked around those guidelines.

11. North American Championships Report – Chris

- Next years North Ams to be hosted again at Trafalgar.
- Next year more teams to compete.
- Will be held in BP style.

- New change: Oxford delegates will be selected from North Ams.

12. Calendar of Events for next year

- Calendar located online.
- Four junior events for next year.
- Isabelle: Junior event at study next year will be strictly capped at 20 teams.
- Brian: McGill workshop fee to be 15 dollars per student. Will be helpful for new and experienced debaters (junior and senior).
- Most tournaments to include POIs next year.

13. QSDA Website - resources updated

- Note CSDF also has website.

14. Judging – discussion to consider consensus and/or conferral judging

- Jeff: Can lead to better judging but it can take longer.
- Liz: I judged with parents who dropped the superior team.
- Noah: Conferral may be a good middle ground. Some parents don't feel comfortable when they can't answer questions.
- Ryan: Consensus can sometimes save time because you only get one ballot. Conferral can at least give less experienced judges more information to judge on.
- Liana: Agrees with Ryan. Consensus can alienate less experienced judges while conferral can make them feel more comfortable.

Liz: If a motion is moved, we should just make conferral panels for preliminary rounds.

- Rachel: Conferral can eliminate some biases in experienced judges.
- Liz: Conferral limited to a certain time (approximately 5 minutes) and should be respected to the head judge.

Motion to include conferral judging in QSDA tournaments from September, 2006 until December where it will be evaluated and re-considered. Moved by Ryan and seconded by Jeff. CARRIED unanimously.

15. QSDA ballot – discussion to consider removing categories from ballots

- Chris: Too many judges make mistakes adding incorrectly.
- Liz: Add what scores are out of.
- Rachel: Still need to have categories somewhere
- Noah: Change judges briefings
- Rachel: New ballots can complement conferral judging.

Motion to modify the ballot at QSDA events with the proposed changes discussed. Moved Noah and seconded by Liana. CARRIED unanimously

16. Style of Debate - discussion to increase use of "National Debate Format" to come in line with styles at national events.

- This style is similar to parliamentary and rules are very simple.
- Works well for prepared/impromptu.
- Places emphasis on value debates.
- Junior Championships will use it next year.
- Junior times can be: 5,5,5,5,2,2.
- Discussion on whether or not debating is trending toward using plans or not (not used in National format)

Topic will be discussed at next general meeting.

17. Proposed Amendments to By-Laws

Motion to accept the following amendments to the QSDA by-laws. Moved by Ryan and seconded by Sandy. CARRIED unanimously.

- Clause 89. Change “top ten individual speakers” to “top five individual speakers”.
- Amend clause #88 to include c) “if still tied, the team with the highest ranked speaker” before the part about the coin toss.
- Clause 5. Change entire clause to read “ Schools who have not joined the QSDA in the past five years shall have their fee waived for one year.”
- Clause 63 about National public speaking qualifier:
Change “without restriction” to read “such that at least one student has not previously attended”.
- Clauses 52, 56, 60, 64
Strike: “Priority will be given to a person from the same school as a debater attending the event.”
- add a clause after 90 about the McLeese award:
“ Every year, the QSDA shall present the ‘Willis S. Mcleese Award’ for ‘outstanding service to student debating in Quebec’. The executive shall call for nominations by December 31 of each year, and shall determine the winner and an appropriate venue for presentation of the award.”

- Clause 83:
Change “Provincial Championships” to “any qualifying event”.

Clause 77:
Change “the Provincial Championships” to “any qualifying event”.

Clause 95:
Change “the Provincial Championships” to “the Provincial Championships and the Junior Provincial Championships.”

18. Elections

President – **Noah Nominates Chris George and seconded by Louise.**
Vice-President – **Rachel Nominates Sandy Cross, seconded by Noah.**
Treasurer – **Sandy nominates Rachel McCabe seconded Noah.**
Secretary – **Noah nominates Ryan Abrams, seconded by Louise.**

All positions were acclaimed.

19. Other Business

Louise thanks the executive.
Noah congratulates the QSDA on discussing debating.

20. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. moved by Ryan and Second by Noah. CARRIED unanimously.