

Quebec Student Debating Association
A.G.M.. - June 8, 2004
St. George's School

Present:

Riley McMullen, President QSDA (St. George's)
Sharen McDonald, Vice-President QSDA (Weston)
Rachel McCabe, Treasurer QSDA (Trafalgar)
Kozo Ota, Acting Secretary (St. George's & Marianopolis),
Chris George (LCC)
Catherine Grimanis (E.C.S.)
Denis Brault (Loyola),
Geoff (Grenville Christian College)
Deborah Banks (E.C.S.)
Louise Chalmers(John Rennie)
Judith Schurman (Chambly Academy)
Jeff Deeprise (St. George's)
Alexandre Amar-Zifkin (Marianopolis)

Regrets:

Tino Bordonaro (Sacred Heart)
Isabelle Fahmy (The Study)
Sandy Cross (Westwood)
Gloria Koyounion (Royal West)

All motions passed unanimously unless otherwise noted.

1. **Welcome/Call to order** (4:10 p.m.) Riley warmly welcomed all members.
2. **Approving minutes from December, 2003 Meeting**
-Minutes from the previous meeting were unavailable
3. **New Executive**
-Riley McMullen resigns as President.
-Sharen McDonald resigns as VP.
-Rachel McCabe agrees to continue as Treasurer.

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT

-Chris George from LCC is nominated, and is subsequently acclaimed as President for 2004-2005.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

- No nominations forthcoming.
- Christina of WIC is suggested as a possible candidate.
- The nomination/vote is held off.
- The executive was empowered to approach and appoint a new Vice-President.

4. Webpage

RILEY:

- After 2 years of woe, most of the kinks seemed to be solved.
- Current webpage was created by Brandon Steinmetz, a St George's student, as a school project.
- The website contains resources that can side in organizing a tournament.
- Need to find someone to update the site.
- Other resources, such as minutes, can also be obtained from new website.

CHRIS:

-Should these resources be available to the public? OSDU has implemented a simple password protection scheme on their website. It isn't the most secure, but will do the job.

RILEY:

- Password protection can be explored.
- We have two options for a maintainer, a teacher or hire someone to do it.

RACHEL:

-Can do it if it is simple, already fulfills a similar role at Trafalgar. Cannot write code.

CHRIS:

-OSDU has hired an individual to update/maintain their website, would probably also update the QSDA website for a fee (maybe around \$250) OR this individual can simply setup the code, and the rest can be contracted out.

JUDITH:

-Costs should be capped in budget.

SHAREN:

-The QSDA should recognize Brandon's contribution somehow.

RACHEL:

-Perhaps a gift certificate of some sort. Future Shop?

RILEY:

-Can also pass around a card the coaches can sign.

MOTION to recognize Brandon Steinmetz's work on the QSDA website with a \$100.00 gift certificate from Future Shop. **PASSED**

MOTION to have Rachel McCabe maintain the QSDA website to the best of her ability, and contract out any other work to a maximum of \$500.00. **PASSED**

5. Approval of a new member (Chambly Academy)

JUDITH:

- Chambly has a good staff and a very good history with debate.
- Can probably help expand debate on the South Shore.

MOTION to accept Chambly Academy as a new member of the QSDA. **PASSED**

6. Private schools vs. Public schools

RILEY:

- Has been discussed in the past
- Sharen has proposed a team code system, where a team will be given a code rather than a team name. This system can alleviate some judges bias that occurs.
- It has also been discussed that uniforms may unfairly influence judging decisions.

CHRIS:

- Not really public vs. Private, there is a more inherent bias towards a host school due to parent/teacher judges.
- Unless uniforms are banned team codes will only have a limited effect on bias.
- Can be difficult to regulate uniforms since we run tournaments during the day.

JUDITH:

- Team codes can make catching judging conflicts much harder. As a coach will only realize he/she would be judging their own team, once they show up to the room.

DENIS:

- Since uniforms are already banned in public speaking, it's not unprecedented to schools to have a uniform ban.

KOZO:

- Perhaps this should be discussed with the administrations before tabling a motion in September.

ALEXANDRE:

- What does this mean for pins and other small identifiable objects? Also, what about last minute replacements?

Motion

A one year ban on uniforms at all QSDA events was tabled until the September meeting.

7. LCC Tournament

CHRIS:

- Debating in Canada is changing, as such, the LCC Provincial qualifiers will be significantly different from previous years.
- National tournaments will no longer be using Cross-Examination style.
- Impromptu topics will be more significant, and will require a greater knowledge of current events.
- Points of Information will be allowed. Hopefully a seminar on POI's will be held one week prior to the tournament.
- The tournament will be bracketed, with four rounds of impromptu OR two rounds of a prepared topic and two impromptu rounds. Format should be decided now.
- Will run from early afternoon to late evening in order to get more experienced university judges. Dinner will be served.

It is decided to have two prepared rounds and two impromptu rounds.

8. Standards of judging

RILEY

-Judging is very inconsistent in the QSDA right now, many inexperienced judges are being used. Perhaps we should move towards having fewer judges in a room, but ensure that they are properly trained. Looking for ideas on how this can be resolved.

JUDITH:

-Many inexperienced judges are intimidated by the judges briefing and are afraid to ask questions. Perhaps the briefing should be conducted according to a script, by the head judging in each room.

CHRIS:

-You will get consistent scoring if judges are properly briefed on a holistic scoring range. Although consistent doesn't mean good scoring.

KOZO:

-In university conferral judging, where judges have time to discuss among each other before filling out the ballot is being tried. Though this means giving comments to debaters will be harder.

9. Worlds Qualifiers

CHRIS:

-Worlds qualifier applications should be opened to any eligible debater, rather than the top 10 provincial finalists.

-From experience, will not get a flood of applicants.

-Puts emphasis on consistency rather than performing well at provincials.

-The selection committee should also be changed to be more objective. (No member should be the coach of any applicant)

MOTION to open Worlds Qualifier applications to all eligible students. **PASSED**

MOTION to ensure that the Worlds Qualifier selection committee is independent of the QSDA executive. **PASSED**

10. Schedule of events

-non-QSDA tournaments now posted on website.

-WIC will hold a senior invitational in early January.

-Westwood will hold a tournament in February. Would like to make this tournament the provincials.

-ECS junior invitational in the fall. (Nov. 25)

-Royal West senior invitational in the third week of November.

-Herzliah junior invitational in fall

-Selwyn junior invitational in February.

-The Study will host another workshop.

- Loyola on Nov. 30

-Need a school for junior provincials (April)

-early May is open

11. Awards

RILEY:

- There has been a great inconsistency in the way awards are handed out.
- Dream Debate participants have on occasion not received an award, while those below them in the standings did.

MOTION to establish a minimum set of awards, which consists of two top team awards (one per team member) and ten top speaker awards (regardless of participation in Dream Debate).

PASSED

NOTE: This decision does not preclude tournament organizers from presenting more awards, but the above awards must be presented.

12. Clarification on the eligibility of Pre-University students (Grade 12) and first year CEGEP students.

MOTION to clarify eligibility standards to allow Grade 12 students to participate in the QSDA. **PASSED**

MOTION to clarify eligibility standards to allow CEGEPs to participate in QSDA events provided they compete exclusively on the High School circuit. **PASSED**

-Riley McMullen is presented with farewell gifts.

13. Membership responsibilities

RILEY:

-Just wanted to reiterate that schools are responsible to host a QSDA event (tournament, workshop, public speaking etc.) every two years as a condition of their membership.

LOUISE:

-Understand the reason behind rule, but public schools may have more hurdles to go through to organize events.

JUDITH:

- Everyone is willing to help.
- Don't have to organize a large tournament, perhaps a small work shop.

CHRIS:

-Clarify that membership will be reviewed, rather than an outright expulsion.

MOTION to clarify that schools be responsible to host a QSDA event every two years, or equivalent, or membership will be reviewed. **PASSED** (1 abstention)

14. Resolutions committee

RILEY:

-System that was in place this year. Wishes to formalize the procedure.

MOTION to have a resolutions committee, consisting of the tournament organizer and the QSDA executive, review all prepared resolutions. **PASSED**

MOTION that all decisions of the resolutions committee be made within 48 hours of their submission to the committee. **PASSED**

15. Spectators

RILEY:

-While the QSDA doesn't have a problem with other debators coming to watch, a number of problems have been caused by parents coming and making unreasonable demands to tournament organizers.

RACHEL:

-Tournaments may not always have space for other debators either.

RILEY:

-Should be noted in invitation.

-Tournament organizers should be allowed to charge a fee to cover costs.

MOTION All spectators must register with the tournament organizer prior to the tournament. The tournament organizer charge a fee (not to surpass the registration fee per debater) for each spectator, to cover costs. **PASSED**

16. Debate Camp

-More info at www.debatecamp.org .

16 New business

ALEXANDRE:

-Details on Marianopolis tournament (October 16). 4 rounds of squirellable impromptu, 3 rounds of organized Public Speaking.

CHRIS:

-North Americans will be held in Worlds-style.

Motion to adjourn meeting **PASSED**.