

Canadian National Debating Championships (CNDC)
Annual General Meeting
Montreal, Quebec
Friday, February 3, 2006

Present:

Provincial Voting Members:

Tracey Lee (BC)
Martin Poirier (Alberta)
Ray Logan (Saskatchewan)
Linda Martin (Manitoba)
Mike Podgorski (Ontario)
Rachel McCabe (Quebec)
Brian Casey (Halifax)

Governors: (voting)

John Robinson
Josh Judah
Harold Kyte
Chris George

Observers: (non-voting)

Courtney Faber
John Naugler
Janet Webster
Sharon Lindstrom
Audrey Greenhill
Michael Muir

Regrets:

Simon Lono (Newfoundland and Governor)

Minutes: Rachel McCabe

1. Call to Order

Chris George called the meeting to order at 9:16 p.m.

2. Chair

Motion: Chris will chair the meeting.

Moved by John, seconded by Brian. **Carried**

3. Adopt Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion: Adopt minutes from previous meeting on Oct. 31, 2004.

Motion by Josh, seconded by Brian. **Carried.**

4. Report on 2006 National Championships

- Hotel discussion rather than billeting, etc. Working out fine.
- \$2000 still provided for Oxford chaperon.
- Sponsors are ESU, QSDA, LCC, etc. and recovering taxes when done through school meant a lot of extra money and a small surplus projected.
- some discussion about the format and it seemed to work well.

Issues:

- a local Quebec Jewish school (Herzliah) had qualified but requested alternative times to debate their four Saturday rounds because of the Jewish Sabbath. The request was denied for logistical reasons.

Discussion about debating on Saturdays?

- John acknowledges difficulty of accommodating, especially when event is bracketed.
- Linda (Gray Academy) students cannot debate on Saturdays, reformed Jews can go, contentious, complaints from school, debates could be Saturday evening and Sunday – rather than start on Friday) if it can be done. Her head noted from a meeting in North America, programs are being shut down.
- Josh says that those that have issues should host the event every once and awhile, at host school's discretion, do different things different years, don't have to permanently change schedule.
- How many kids does this effect, more of a school policy issue?
- Linda: leave it to students and parents, at tournament Director's discretion. Some can't debate.
- Josh: shift blocks of free time?

At the end no conclusion was reached and should be left to host to decide what works best for them.

Motion: John moves to thank Chris for his work in chairing. **Carried.**

5. By-Law Amendments

Motion: Quebec moves that clause 10 be amended to allow for 7 governors (instead of 5). Rachel moves, seconded by Josh.

John: majority should ultimately be the provinces, if provincial reps got two votes each then OK since balance of power lies with them. Friendly amendment by John, accepted by Rachel and Josh.

Carried unanimously.

- Discussion about ultimately moving Championships to the spring and the need for the a new process to qualify teams for Oxford.

Motion: Rachel moves the following:

that the "Oxford" section be amended so as to be titled as "North American Championships and Oxford" and then add a new clause to read: "Every year the board of governors shall also organize a separate event, called the 'North American Championships' which will select the teams to participate at the Oxford Union Schools Debating Championships. This tournament will be held in British Parliamentary Format." Seconded by John.

- Mike –who's going to host event –TO, Mtl, BC, you need a hub, maybe U of T could host in fall.

- Martin thinks not an issue.
- Mike is worried about finding hosts.
- John: if we don't have a tournament in time for Oxford, two teams to go even if tournament. poorly run, some event should take place.
- Janet: not much happening in fall? National Seminar in Fall as regular event, Pan Ams is also in Fall –starting to thrive.
- John: North Ams needs to be in Fall.
- Janet: must coordinate dates.
- John: everyone agreed we don't want to lose Oxford.
- Harold: we are never going to win that event, who are we going to draw? Can go to Oxford without BP tournament present. Put in Worlds' can draw other countries (US, Mexico). Qualifying tournament of another kind.
- Chris: Oxford has an expectation that we send contenders, needs prestige.
- John, Martin, etc : just call it, "National," Semantics.
- Chris: we want to continue to go to Oxford.
- Mike: piggy back another tournament like McGill.
- Harold: can we have a long term NA competition?
- Chris: more US schools would have come this year if not same weekend as IISPS.
- John: First Sr. Nationals event hosted by Harold needed something special attached to it, Australia helped us get invitation to Oxford. Bound by tradition there. Not allowed to break at first (English Bar Association sponsors), but then opened up.
- Mike: do Irish get involved?
- John: top teams for each region, Oxford Union gets busy.
- Mike; what's the carrot for US schools who have nowhere else to practice BP? What are we calling it? Americans?
- John: change it from year to year, do we want to be bound by rules? Why do we need to restrict it
- Board can decide?
- Linda: this board of governors (not in nasty way) getting more power, cumbersome board.
- Janet: national team in training event in July – use that.
- John: not sharing wealth.

Friendly amendment

Mike: if no tournament can be scheduled, to select Oxford team than board can decide how to qualify them.

Carried 8 -2.

Motion: Rachel proposes grade 8 minimum age for National Championships. Mike seconds.

- John: thinks grade 9 is better.
- Chris; explaining secondary system in Quebec, CEGEP kids...
- Mike: running out of kids?
- Martin: whatever ... if you want to send 7s.
- Why are we voting?
- Brian: leave it to provinces, grade 5? No real competitive advantage.
- Linda: current events impromptu (knowledge base less) not fair to older or younger kids
Draw line somewhere.
- Martin: don't dumb down topics.
- John: Grade 9, reduce overlap at Junior Nationals, agrees with Linda.
- Martin: lowers scores of older kids.
- John: bullying of younger kids by older.

Grade 9 minimum proposed as a friendly amendment. Quebec and Ontario accept.

Carried unanimously.

Motion: Quebec wishes to add a sentence at the end of clause 25 to read "This same system shall be used for rounds 3 to 6 inclusive." In addition, alter clause 26 to read "After round 6, there will be the quarter- finals, with the first seeded team debating the eighth, the second vs. the seventh, the third vs. the sixth and the fourth vs. the fifth. The side shall be determined on a coin toss. This round and all following rounds will be elimination rounds." Alberta seconds.

John: "at least" 6 preliminary rounds. Alberta agrees to friendly amendment. Quebec agrees.

Carried unanimously.

Motion: John wishes to discuss Harold Kyte award (sportsmanship hard to define) and change it to the top individual speaker at the tournament instead. Seconded by Brian. Harold is in favor.

Carried unanimously

6. Amendments to Rules

- Martin: proposes that the scoring scheme move to world's style, a lot of criteria currently, beginner judges use it. Still need break down but simplify list with 3 criteria (content, style, strategy). For big tournament –need experienced judges.
- Chris: categories give wide ranges of scores, supports holistic scoring as simple, less problems.
- Martin: it's restricting.
- Mike: how to best train judges, novice judges need something, what is best system? Best way to categorize. Easier 30, 30, etc.
- Martin: get kids to think about categories
- Muir: easier to train judges, try for year, see results.
- Josh: clarify 40,40, 20, no 50 points for rebuttal?
- Martin: no points for rebuttal.
- John: novice judges have problems figuring out percentages, dividing into categories Letter grades, team scoring versus individual scoring

Motion: to change categories on ballot from 5 to 3 (content, style, strategy), still allowing holistic marking. Moved by Martin.

- Tracey: what do categories mean?
- Brian: strategy category the tricky one.
- Josh: why only 20 –isn't strategy most important.
- John: refutation forgotten, especially with a new judge.
- Martin; selection of judges
- "Manner, matter, method"
- refer this to committee?
- John: change name.

Motion: Move to table this until board suggests something specific. Brian moves to refer issue to incoming BOG to determine.

- Linda doesn't want to table, it's important should think more on it.
- Mike: try it in TO.
- John: refer wording issue to BOG .

Friendly amendment to have only 3 categories, then discuss and vote on, BOG comes up with new proposal about naming. Motion to table not voted on.

In favor 8, Opposed 1, Carried.

Motion: Martin moving, Mike seconds to refer to board the names and descriptions of three categories. **Carried.**

Motion: Martin Moves, seconded by Mike to amend what constitutes new information in reply speech:

Alberta wishes to proposes that the following item in the Rules, item 6 “Of course, no new information is to be presented in this speech.” be changed to *“During those speeches no new constructive arguments may be introduced except by the proposition debater who is exercising his/her right to reply to new arguments tendered during the final Opposition constructive speech. he/she can not introduce new lines of reasoning. The counter argumentation and counter example (or even counter illustration) must be in 'close and direct' opposition to the opposition points.”*

Unanimously carried.

7. Upcoming Hosts for National High School Championships

- Michael Muir: For 2007, UCC has issue with dates, senior exam conflicts, March 2nd?
- Tracey: National Seminar in Spring?
- Janet: CSDF has opportunity to make it teaching seminar, happy to switch to Sept. Oct. Year of transition a problem, this April in Halifax, One whole year with no seminar? 2007 again in April just one more time, provinces rotate Ontario’s turn.
- McCleese Chair to help but with Tim gone, not fair to put it on new person, CSDF – registrar McCleese.
- Josh: looking for host (Seminar) in April 07 and Sept 07 (BC), Ottawa?
- Mike maybe won’t be in Ottawa, who will do it?
- John to Muir; does this effect decision to host Nationals? UCC link to Seminar necessary? Another group of TO schools do it?
- OSDU needs to get sorted out.
- Brian: alternatives: Swap ONT & ALB
- Muir: time to regroup and restructure
- Janet; doesn’t want to shortchange kids
- Grade level of attendees –10s, 11s?
- Spring selection process followed by Fall Seminar, Who’s missing out?

Motion: Move to host the 2007 Championships on March 2nd weekend at UCC in Toronto. Seconded by Brian.

Carried unanimously.

2007 Tournament Chair

Motion: Move that Michael Muir be named as tournament chair.

Moved by John. Seconded by Josh.

Carried unanimously.

Seminar 2007? / Championships 2008

Tracey: April 26 – is Martin willing to host seminar in 07?

Martin: no

Motion: Martin to host 2008 National Championships in April, 2008

Moved by John. Brian seconded. **Carried**

Seminar 2007 again:

- Josh thinks it's important to hold a seminar every year, funding an issue.
- Janet disappointed in Ontario.
- Mike would if he could.
- Will talk it up to the people in Ottawa (Pierre, Marilyn, etc...).
- John is moving for other business.

8. Amendment to by-laws, e-mail votes?

Motion: As issues arise between the annual meetings and when it can be resolved by email

that members can vote via e-mail, at the direction of the BOG matters may be decided by members by mail or e-mail. **Carried unanimously.**

9. Election of Board of Governors

Janet as an impartial observer is asked to conduct the election. There will be 7 members.

As chair of the 2007 Nationals, Michael Muir is automatically a governor.

Janet calls for nominations and receives:

Josh Judah

Harold Kyte

Martin Poirier

John Robinson

Chris George

Brian Casey

Janet declares the above seven as the new board.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Motion to adjourn by Mike. Seconded by Rachel. **Carried.**