Retreat Minutes: TFA EC Meeting, July 18, 2013

Meeting begins at 9:04 AM. Present: Uhler, Nash, Warren, Baker, Denny, Brandenburg, Mast, Waddell, Silva, Martin, Shepard, Hahn.

Uhler: Hard copy of agenda passed out to everyone. Emailed additional copy, dropbox.

Old man tap sound on Shepard’s computer was addressed.

Connection issues on-line addressed.

Uhler: Officially welcomes EC. Thank you for your time this week, thank you for the time commitment. Hopefully, a lot will be done and the process can be difficult, passionate, but group doesn’t take things personally and also, personal feelings on agenda need to be focused and calm. Respond positively as possible.

Uhler: Roles-Baker, minutes, Warren-constructs amendments for convention, any others? As we move around the room, any problems that need to be addressed. Please do so.

Warren: we have money that needs to be addressed. $14,000 in scholarship. $50,000 money in CD, only $26 dollars growth. A long term, mutual fund-esque plan may need to be used to generate funds.

General discussion on what to do, including a executive secretary who can work on the finances. Possible retired individual. Someone not a teacher.

Uhler: Financial adviser to look at the budget, money issues would be good.

Warren: Bank official says non-profits usually invest in low-risk options.

Uhler: Should get a diverse group of individuals to look at options of risk with the money. Should approach the body. General agreement.

Brandenburg: How does this work? How do we make sure money is still there, how it will be claimed?

Warren: I keep lists of students who are still owed money.

Martin: Did we put in a time frame to claim money?

Warren: Nothing has been set on that. They request it or they don’t.

General Discussion.

Warren: We give out about 15,000 a year. Last year, we moved IQT money into it to cover the amount. T shirt and IQT money to help with funds.

Uhler: Is onus on the students to get their scholarhsips?

Warren: I send out emails to coaches, students.

Warren: I need names of the 4 who got the $1,000 scholarhips last year.

Martin: I have in an email.

Uhler: I have awards script.

Martin: Constitution needs to be updated.

Uhler: Secretary report

Baker: Need to fix schedule alignment on calendar, add names to constitution for previous winners.

Uhler: Archivist report (Shepard stepped out of room). IQT Coordinator report?

Hahn: Working with Brent on how to make slight changes. Remove 30 day window, since it’s so easy to fix.

Martin: We need to stop giving points to students, if they are not a member yet.

Uhler: We need to show points, but not showing qualified.

Martin: I had to address this in court. Judge wanted to know why points are on-line and they aren’t members.

General discussion on memberships and what is/is not available to search on-line.

Brandenburg: This gets confusing. There seems to be so many deadlines out there.

General discussion.

Uhler: Why is it a problem for letting others in late?

General discussion.

Martin: The problem has been that the EC doesn’t have a backbone inholding schools to deadlines. Whatever the group decides, we have to live to that. If you want to enforce deadlines, we need to enforce those deadlines.

Denny: Can we send out an email… and stick to those deadlines.

Silva: There is inconsistency from year to year.

Uhler: My biggest problem isn’t leniency, I think the organizational structure on how information is given is a problem. There is no list to manually add schools into email.

General discussion on deadlines, excuses made by others, sticking to deadlines, new coaches, late fees.

 Uhler: Jason needs immediate information of membership and email contacts.

General discussion on making this happen with TSCA.

UHler: Arhivist report?

Shepard: I have a huge, heavy box of stuff… reporters, newletters, updates, what does the organization really want to do with this stuff?

Waddell: can we do an on-line storage?

Shepard: that’s my question. Scan?

General discussion.

Shepard: There is some guy who is driving me crazy. There are years of champions missing. I just need to know what to do about that?

Nash: We could do an info-search on Facebook page.

General discussion.

Shepard: How do we keep track on when it’s been modified?

Nash: Some of the older people, are getting older… we need to document how TFA got to be. Interview the founders. Make accessible to facebook page/website. Maybe at state site, we could compile interviews, etc.

Warren: A video montage.

General discussion.

Shepard: Founding fathers, or just more old people.

Uhler: Old people with younger people to add to it.

General discussion.

Nash: Could Cy-Creek put something together?

Uhler: Also, right before awards ceremony, can something be put together?

Baker: Cy-Creek sees TFA State as an all-school function. Will present ideas to RTV and administration.

Uhler: Region Reports. Possible issues?

Denny: General discussion on Region 1 concerns.

Brandenburg: Point raises in qualification requirements caused more stress, not less. Do not consider a point raise. Increase in fatigue. Stressful and a lot of pressure.

Martin: We choose if we go to more tournaments. There is some truth to that, but I don’t want to hear coaches complain about their own choices.

Brandenburg: With 12 point system, I end up going to more. My decision. More and more, doesn’t keep people from going to more tournaments.

General discussion.

Uhler: Region 3 issues.

Mast: I’m new. I’m still learning. Nash hasn’t notified me of any problems.

Uhler: Region 4 issues.

Waddell: We have an open weekend. A school has asked to move to the open weekend. Alief-Taylor wants to move from December date to open January date? We need to do something to increase participation in TFA other than just TFA State. NCA doesn’t have high schools. Needs to do this. We need to promote what we do. As an EC, we need to offer more to others. Enrich curriculum, help others. Or encourage them to get into the community. I’m teaching at the Urban Debate League workshop. What do we do to get them to convention? What do we do to get them involved? How do we contact them, if we don’t have information.

Hahn: Website has to be more.

Nash: We can’t even see members.

Martin: Links to other sites, groups.

Waddell: NFL has done a lot to promote and share ideas. We need a different vision to help.

Martin: Professional development was offered at my tournament.

Waddell: That gives them opportunities.

General discussion.

Brandenburg: NIETOC does this. Packed sessions. Offered at nationals, too.

Wadell: What do we do with the information we collected last year from state?

General discussion.

Baker: How about a portrait of a TFA Student? Information about what students who do the activity look like.

General discussion.

Waddell: Is there a way to take info from workshops at convention and give them to new coaches,

 HUDL programs, etc?

General discussion on technology, videos, etc…dropbox.

Martin: We talked about having a technology person on the EC.

Uher: This is on the agenda later.

Hahn: What happened to the Officer’s Manual?

General discussion.

Uhler: Region 5?

Silva: Issues in Region 5 addressed. Travel is a concern with more points now to qualify.

Nash: How about adding Swings?

General discussion.

Uhler: What about a modified schedule for different regions?

General discussion about changes to point schedule for Region 1 and 5. Options.

Martin: We need to do something about fairness. We did nothing last year, but add points. No other options were addressed.

Silva: We are turning people away.

Uhler: Intention wasn’t to do that.

Silva: I know, but it has upset people.

Uhler: Okay, then tell us what to do to make it better?

General discussion on regional meets, travel, moving forward for all.

Nash: Could we do regional qualifiers? Qual for state by points OR regional qualifiers?

General discussion: How do we create regional meets for Region 1 and 5?

General discussion on equity.

short break at 11:07.

Resume at 11:20.

Baker: Regional options allow for coaches to make choices to limit number of tournaments.

Uhler: Does this all need to happen this year?

General discussion.

Warren: Let’s think on this and bring it back to discussion.

Uhler: Moved to Saturday morning, 1st item on agenda. Will discuss Regional Tournament information.

Nash: We need to have a committee that reviews constitution every year. Several areas need to be brought up to date. Technology issues. Mail ballot.

Waddell: Deadlines need to be changed to reflect technology.

Martin: Move to create a standing constitutional committee.

Baker: Secretary on committee?

Nash: Regionally balanced with current secretary as ex officio member.

Denny: Can someone be on multiple committees?

Nash: You don’t have to have different people on each committee.

Denny: Got it.

Silva: Consequences are not clear in constitution.

Baker: Committee should address it.

Hahn: 3-way tie is not same as constitution as JOT.

Martin: It is an issue of what constitution states and what computer does. Unbreakable ties are not same.

Hahn: Computer doesn’t do judges’ preference. Constitution needs to be clarified on this issue.

General discussion.

Warren: Move that constitutional change be made to clarify the use of judges’ preference and reciprocals in a 3-way tie.

General discussion.

Warren: Motion that EC will write a constitutional change on 3-way ties. 2nd by Nash, motion passed.

Brandenburg: How do we make changes to PF argumentation?

Martin: PF mirrors the other debates.

General discussion on PF argumentation.

Mast: community norms haven’t been developed. Can’t set rules. Let community make the decisions and norms will be focused.

Bradenburg: Then, when you go out of area, you get destroyed.

Silva: Since it’s new, referring to guidelines gives us norms, but opening can of worms…

General discussion on what norms are/should be OR can we set norms for an event.

Nash: Sweepstakes wording needs to be changed. To clarify school sweeps.

Warren: How about giving individual sweepstakes awards to top kids?

Martin: Love it, we do the same for debate.

Warren: I will write this up to submit.

Nash: Page 55, Congress, Line 1. 1C contradicts with # 3. Need to hit either deadline to be good for state deadline.

Baker: Will correct as needed.

Nash: Hosting state on page 51. Submit region’s choice that year. Needs to be corrected, then recommend changes to the body.

Silva: Order of the regions. There was a line that needs to be clarified.

Nash: Order of regions needs to be addressed.

Silva: Pages 9 & 10 of Professional Standards… we need to follow procedure.

General discussion on TFA’s ability to monitor school payments to one another.

Shepard: TFA should create a 30-day and 60-day notice of payment for hosts to give to schools, if needed.

Shepard will create the letters.

Brandenberg will move letters to the appropriate site.

Nash: What about finances being spent on judges or not?

General discussion.

Warren: Tab sheets coming into IQT Coordinator. Data file should come from JOT.

General discussion.

Hahn: I can check numbers with the JOT file, if sent.

General discussion.

Uhler: Definition of the word “school.”

Shepard provides a definition.

General discussion on definition of the word, “school.”

Martin: Definition is fine, but also definition in membership.

Nash: Change language on page 3 and page 51 (membership and eligibility). We can refer to articles of membership.

Nash: Change in terminology and definitions discussed and given to Warren for change.

General discussion.

Uhler: Letter of complaint –S. Magee

Martin: I will leave during this discussion. (Martin leaves the meeting).

General discussion on types of memberships.

Uhler: Fix if we can define memberships for TFA.

General discussion.

Uhler: Martin requests permanent revoke of membership. Sent to PRC. Uhler explains the PRC’s recommendation to take no action on Martin’s request. Uhler reads Magee’s reply to Martin’s protest.

General discussion.

Warren: Motion to accept recommendation of PRC. Denny: 2nd. For: Uhler, Mast, Silva, Waddell, Warren, Brandenburg, Denny. Opposed: Baker, Nash.

EC accepts PRC recommendation to take no action on Martin request.

10 minute break at 1:30 PM.

Resumed at 1:42 PM. Martin was permitted back in during the break, but left the meeting.

General discussion.

Uhler: Congress Plagiarism. All EC members are aware of issue. Uhler reads letter from coach involved.

Nash: Discusses thoughts on actions that could be taken against school. Thinks higher burden placed on

Congress is unfair to punish the school.

General discussion and points of clarification.

Break at 2:30 PM for a few minutes.

Resume at 2:42 PM.

Warren: Recommend to disqualify for state.

Warren: Motion to DQ offending plagiarism school from 2014 TFA State as per constitution. Silva: 2nd. For: Uhler, Waddell, Baker, Warren, Denny, Silva, Nash. Abstain: Mast and Brandenburg.

Uhler: I will notify school of decision.

Silva: I’d like to address previous issue of Martin complaint.

Warren: Move to reconsider. Silva: 2nd. General discussion. No objection.

Uhler reads the PRC report to EC. For clarification, PRC recommends Magee email be kept on file for later actions, if needed. No current actions are needed to be taken, unless Mr. Magee decides to become a member again.

General discussion.

Nash & Others: As an EC, we will send letters of support and appreciation for Heath Martin.

Hahn: Nominate Kirsten Nash to submit the letters.

Warren: Move to accept PRC recommendation, and send letters to all other organizations which received notices about Heath Martin defending his actions which show TFA’s organizational support of him. No objections.

Warren: Create a standing constitutional committee amendment.

Uhler: Standing committees. Took me a lot of time/energy to make sure committee members knew and wanted to still be on the committees. Acknowledges difficulty. Steps need to be taken, process, to make sure there are people that want to be on the committees. Region Reps. Need to be more thorough on making sure there are members who want to be involved. Want standing committees to meet at TSCA. Asked Hindman to make sure time is available at TSCA convention.

General discussion.

Uhler: Is it realistic the standing committees will meet?

Warren: Should have 3 meeting times, one should be good for this.

Nash: Officer’s manual needs to clarify responsibilities for committees. Discussion of roles for different committees.

Baker: Can we remove committees from the constitution.

Discussion on committees and if they are actually used or not?

Regions Reps. go through committee members to discuss changes/additions.

Uhler: Congress committee would like a face-to-face and meet to make corrections.

General discussion on when the Congress Committee can meet, what they will accomplish.

Options for costs are discussed and analyzed for Congress Committee meeting.

Calls to Potts and Stubbs about Committee meeting possibilities.

Uhler: Ad Hoc committees? Which ones and who is on them?

Nash: Those are supposed to have met.

Brandenberg: Schedule issues came out of precedence, etc….

Nash: Cutting the weekends down was a possibility. Must address precedence first. Any rec. should include shortening season.

Warren: Do we need a precedence committee before we cut calendar?

Nash: Yes, this will be unpopular.

Discussion on charge of precedence committee.

Uhler: Will create an Ad Hoc Precedence Committee at convention.

Warren: Is Regional Realignment and Precedence the same thing?

General Discussion.

Uhler: Committees will have regional balance in mind.

Warren: Constitutional committee?

Waddell: Potts and Stubbs feel they need two days for recommendations.

Baker: Motion to allocate $ 3,000 funding for Congress Committee to meet and work on constitution this summer. Hahn: 2nd. No objections.

Uhler: Webmaster/Web Tech/Public Relations Position?

Hahn: Someone not on EC who is willing to do this free.

Nash: Like Archivist or IQT Coordinator. Presidentially appointed.

Hahn: Joe, can you think of this and make a decision on who you want.

Shepard: Change to constitution to be part of EC.

Waddell: Do they have to be part of the EC?

Uhler: Sure, we don’t have to make them a constitutional change.

Nash: You can appoint now, but it needs to be a position that is being added to the EC. Advocating an addition to EC.

Shepard: Then, we need to add position to constitution.

General Discussion.

Shepard: Old people request—I love technology… I will go to websites…. Whatever EC decides… final info spot needs to be very clear.

Hahn: Can there be a link website, like NFL, registering for state. When you go enter into the first tournament, can there be a new info sheet.

Uhler: Log in like before?

General discussion.

Uhler: Write an amendment for Public Relations Position.

Hahn: Can they be a EC member, plus PRP?

Uhler: Yes. PRP is a non-voting member.

General discussion.

Shepard: when was the last time we sent a flash out to schools?

Hahn: I’ve never flashed a school.

General Discussion.

Uhler: Elections. VP and Treasurer to be voted upon this year.

Uhler: Hosts of TFA State in 2015 and after?

Silva: We rotate to leave burden of travel with different regions.

Nash: In 1997, we will go 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Then, changed…. General discussion.

Silva: We need to codify order again.

General Discussion on fairness for regions.

Silva: Does a change make for a constitutional amendment? El Paso fought very hard to get on rotation. We aren’t seen as having the “right judges.” I know what this intent is, but what about down the road. It could be easy to rotate areas off the region?

General discussion.

Uhler: Jason will you write up corrections to rotation?

Uhler: Who will write 1,3,5 vs 2,4 every other year.

Uhler: Recess at 5:23 PM.