TFA Executive Council Meeting 6-27-14

Meeting begins at 9:06 AM

Present: Waddell, Shepard, Hahn, Mast, Baker, Brandenburg, Uhler, Warren, Nash, Denny, Silva, Hollis, and Hinkle.

Nash: Welcome Brent Hinkle. We can start with you. Anything you would like to discuss and go forth from here. What do we need to do in your perspective? How is website going? What’s up?

Hinkle: It’s been a rough year. Not sure why, but it has. I got more questions about what’s not on website than before. Mainly announcements. Updates that are needed. Never a strong statement that Brandenburg had taken over the website. I got a lot of traffic. It became my problem, not going to Wendi.

Discussion about how to address these issues. Put a link on page, so it will go directly to Wendi?

Brandenburg: Website issues haven’t been much for me. I don’t hear people complain. People don’t use or go to the website.

Nash: Change is hard. A lot of people look for what they’ve always seen.

Brandenburg: People are in habit of just contacting Brent.

Nash: Calendar did change a bit just yesterday. Waited to do this one swoop. What can we do to make things better for you?

Hinkle: It will get better over time.

Waddell: Why was it a rough year?

Hinkle: I don’t like being chewed out over things I’m not responsible for.

Nash: If people are being disrespectful, they should be sent to me.

General discussion over how to address issues regarding complaints.

Discussion between Hinkle, Uhler, Nash, and Brandenburg over time delays to post and how to get emails effectively to groups/regions.

Brandenburg: I’ve made a few changes to the page to make it even more clear to others about who to contact about specific issues.

Nash: We need to empower the body to look for their own answers, not just ask others.

General discussion regarding communication issues to put messages out there for everyone to see easily.

TSCA:

Nash: There is a need for seasoned coaches to have more to see/sessions to attend. There members who want to grow and get better as coaches. What if we brought in people from outside of Texas. M’Liss was interested in this. Find out what is going on in different committees.

Ideas include: Gender (Sarah Spring, female debaters), CX/LD Race and Identity (Aaron Timmons, others?), Congress (Adam Jacobi), Extemp (various local coaches), Interp (Robert Shepard, Kristy Thomas, Ericson Bynum), PF (Adam Jacobi, Ryan Hennessey), Mass Presentation –NSDA rule changes.

Nash: How do we get national speakers to TSCA? Are we willing to spend money for these speakers?

Denny: TSCA is not sure about finances.

Hollis: One thing about TSCA is that the majority of the TSCA members are TFA judges.

Denny: My priorities are what Nash is working on here.

Hollis: Given percentage of numbers of TSCA that are TFA, it’s not too much to ask for them to help.

Denny: Currently, Meet-the-Author gets a small bit of money, but that has caused problems for this in the past.

Waddell: If the majority of programs are for people in colleges, junior colleges, etc….. there is a whole chunk of time that’s dedicated to only a few people.

Denny: Very few programs are just college oriented. We have 2 that are scholarship based, papers, etc… they present. Those are poorly attended. We are at mercy of what people send us.

Nash: When I talked to TSCA, I tried to show any co-sponsorship that can happen.

General discussion on multiple issues facing the funding of outside speakers and what is provided to attendees at TSCA. Discussion also addresses the ability to have access to a variety of options at TSCA convention.

Warren: Motion, allocate $5,000 to bring in non-Texas speakers to the TSCA convention in October. Second: Hollis. For: All, excluding Baker. Baker abstains.

General discussion over scheduling at TSCA.

Brief Break, website was discussed again and changes were evaluated.

Norms and Standards Committee Information:

General discussion on 1/10ths of points, perceptions of points given.

EC was given a handout that the committee created: a guideline on what to do for my tournament.

Shepard: How do I have to spend so much money at one tournament and another amount in another?

General discussion on norms and standards and why they are needed.

Denny: Why do we have to use 1/10th of a point?

Waddell: How do you explain that to a parent?

Denny: You can break ties other ways.

Warren: Two questions: 1. Should the constitution say point should range X to Y. If so, what is that range?

Mast: We should reserve the right to give someone under a 20, if needed. Differences in regions keep this an issue.

General discussion on judges and differences. Discussion addressed how TFA deals with variances in accounting, fees, standardization of tournaments.

Decision to send norms and standards committee back to continue working on document with suggestions from the EC.

Lunch break.

General discussion, over lunch, regarding judges, regional differences, hiring judges at TFA State.

Hahn: Eric Mears hosts a great swing tournament.

Warren: Right now, if there is a problem at the tournament, wouldn’t it be good that there is someone on call to answer the questions?

General discussion over whether EC has power during the tournament. Martin said years ago it is on the tournament host, EC can rule afterwards.

Uhler: That empowers the tournament host.

General discussion on role of EC during tournaments.

Nash: Do we want to go down the path of letting EC members make decisions at a tournament?

General discussion on EC roles at tournaments.

No action taken regarding EC’s role at local tournaments.

General discussion on other house-keeping issues of the constitution.

Calendar Dates for 2015 TFA State discussion.

Deadlines: Check for accuracy: February 11, 2015

Entry online: February 17, 2015

Payment in Jason Warren’s hands: February 27, 2015

Drop Deadline: February 27, 2015, by this day, no additional fee

Documentation Completed: February 27, 2015

Judge Paradigm Information: February 17, 2015

Stipend Survey:

General discussion on stipend survey results.

Nash: How can we use this information to better our organization?

General discussion on what to do with the information provided in the survey.

Ideas include a snapshot of information, video on TFA, presentations at administration conferences.

Brief Break.

Denny: Motion, allow TFA to support Gay Hollis $1000 to attend Debate Topic Selection Meeting. Mast: Second. Unanimous vote for.

Meeting Dates/Alternative to OoVoo.

EC will meet on first Tuesdays at 8:00 PM. September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3.

General discussion on Hall of Fame and Emeritus Nominations. Hall of Fame will now be for active members. Emeritus for previous coaches. Moved, seconded. All voted for motion.

Last year, we assigned committees to region reps. Mast has debate topic and finance, Denny has scholarship and Congress, Hall of Fame/Emeritus, Nominating for Silva, Public Relations for Brandenburg, Professional Relations for President (Nash), Past President is Constitution. VP is State Judging Committee (consults the region reps).

EC reviews additional house-keeping items in constitution.

EC Meeting adjourns at 4: 22 PM