

Minutes 2003

NFC Meeting 2003 Boise State University

Meeting Agenda

Procedurals

1. Thank you to BSU and Idaho programs for hosting the fall meeting; hot breakfast included scrambled eggs and ham!
2. In attendance: Sam Mathies, Pacific; Tabitha Miller, Albertson; Mack Sermon, Albertson; Gary Gillespie, Northwest/Seattle; Derek Buescher, UPS; Pete Mohn, Oregon; Amanda Hale-Wisener, Washington State University; Shannon Valdivia, Mt. Hood CC; Kerrie Baker-Hughes, U of Portland; Kara Heinrichs, Seattle U; Marty Most, BSU; Erin Van Engelen, BSU; Jeff Stoppenhagen, BSU; Tiffany Seeley-Case, CSI; Chris Bragg, CSI; Amanda Feller, PLU; Jim Hanson, Whitman; Ed Inch, PLU; Amber Joiner, Lane CC; Angelina Malmsten, Spokane Falls CC; Craig Rickett, Spokane Falls CC; Dave Kosloski, Clark; Keola Whittaker, Reed; Jackson Miller, Linfield; Robert Trapp, Willamette; Bill Sheffield, Lewis-Clark State; Dennis Waller, Northwest Nazarene; Brooke Adamson, Northwest Nazarene; Bill Russell, Northwest Nazarene; Steve Hunt, Lewis & Clark; Brent Northup, Carroll College
3. Introduction of officers; President (until May 2005) Brent Northup, Carroll; At Large Rep – Derek Buescher, UPS (until May 2004); Community College Rep Tiffany Seeley-Case, CSI (until May 2004); NIET Rep Sam Mathies, Pacific (until May 2004); NPDA Rep – Gary Gillespie (serving until May 2004); Policy Rep Steve Hunt (serving until May 2004)
4. Budget Report
 - Cash on hand, August 31, 2001: \$1498.55
 - Cash on hand, August 31, 2002: \$1221.20
 - Cash on hand, August 25, 2003: \$1182.34
 - Loss of \$38.86 for 2002-2003 season
5. Budget recommendation: Maintain \$4.50 per student fee for 2003-2004 Designateds.\
6. All Conference awards. Distributed by e-mail and at the meeting. (See appendix to survival guide). Schools invited to send spelling corrections.
7. Directory and calendar updated
8. Designated Reports
 - Lewis & Clark, first designated, reminds people that there may be a classroom shortage, so bring your best and brightest!

Pacific University and Sam Mathies agreed to replace U of Oregon as host of the second Designated on October 24-26. Invitation has been distributed.

Spokane Falls CC will host the third Designated. Coaches voted to allow SFCC to have two prelims in individual events – in three NIET patterns, with two events allowed per pattern.

9. Tournament Reports, any and all. Calendar was updated, and has been further updated since the meeting. Check calendar for most recent additions/changes.

10. Discuss Northwest Ethics statements (Hunt). Steve noted that the NFC ethics statement that is supposedly in the annual survival guide has not been there. BN promised to correct the oversight. (Ethics statement enclosed in this year's survival guide.)

11. Policy proposals

Policy Proposal #1 (Jim Hanson 1): A proposal to encourage Designated tournaments to allow judge strikes in parli, policy and in individual events.

A discussion followed in which concerns were expressed that such a policy might create a “culture of striking” with team meetings held to determine strikes. Others suggested that strikes are a common feature at many debate tournaments, nationals and otherwise, and that no such negative culture has resulted. Others noted that harassment by judges could/should be handled in other ways, by directly confronting/removing the judge.

The Jim Hanson #1 policy proposal failed with 6 voting for, and 17 voting against.

A discussion followed about whether or not coaches were encouraged to contact tournament directors about concerns over judges. All Designated directors said that they would welcome communication from entering coaches about concerns over specific judges – and that they would handle such information confidentially. Translation: If a school entering a designated tournament has strong reservations about a judge, that coach should feel free to contact the tournament director and express that concern before the tournament begins.

The original proposal from Jim follows:

9. JUDGE SELECTION

Judges shall be assigned randomly and preferably by computer except that judges will not be assigned to judge students from their school. Competitors shall be given the opportunity by hosts to exclude at least one judge from any pool of 15 or more judges or two judges from any pool of 30 or more judges (this will probably operate at the school level for IEs and at the team level for Debate). In general, there will be three pools at a tournament: IE judges, Parliamentary judges, and Policy judges. These exclusions shall be honored except in emergency situations where only an excluded judge is left to judge a round.

Rationale: Two specific incidents prompted me to offer this proposal: 1) After being told we could not have any strikes at CEDA Champs, one of our students received a judge that had engaged in borderline sexual harassment toward her. This incident led to a complaint with the CEDA national organization and one of their specific suggestions for dealing with similar situations was to use a strike. Some have suggested that this be handled via communication with the tournament director that harassment is an issue but I

do not believe we should have to reveal this; it means we have to reveal private information. 2) At one of the Designateds last year, a judge who we have had problems with in the past wrote some rather mean comments to one of our students. My student read the ballot and began crying. I'm hoping my proposal can avoid this kind of event from happening again. When our students perform, they should be evaluated by those they feel comfortable in front of, whose decision they trust, and by those they believe will offer them the best education. Under the current system, students and coaches do not have any assurance of this. Under this proposal

Policy Proposal #2 (Jim Hanson 2): A proposal to double the number of points awarded for all debate events at Designated tournaments. A discussion followed in which a number of coaches expressed concern about the undervaluing of debate in Designated sweepstakes calculations. Others disagreed, suggesting that not all programs have all types of debate and that doubling debate disadvantaged such programs. Others suggested doubling might be too drastic, and that a less dramatic increase be considered. Proponents responded that individual events participants who had multiple events could earn far more for their school than a successful debater who might have only one event: debate. Opponents suggested debaters could and often do enter multiple individual events. A few suggested the NFC needed to spend time determining what it ultimately values, and to present proposals at a later time after the conference had time to reflect on its values. A suggestion to table/delay consideration of this proposal – but the vote to table failed, and discussion continued and a final vote was taken.

The proposal to double debate points failed, with 10 voting yes, and 12 voting no.

Policy Proposal #3 (Derek Buescher #1): A proposal to prevent schools from banning pre-round debate coaching in parliamentary debate at Designated tournaments. Discussion followed in which some coaches expressed opposition to allowing coaches to assist students in preparing for a debate round. Some said as a judge they were opposed to such assistance. A number of voices were heard suggesting that such preparation was not always inappropriate – and that coaching before rounds had become part of the culture of parliamentary debate at many/most tournaments including nationals. Some coaches expressed concern that such pre-round coaching might consist in thinking for the students, and writing cases for the student. Others responded that if a novice did not have a clue about the meaning of a topic, that it was appropriate and even compassionate for a coach to provide the student with some background on what the topic might mean.

The final wording of the proposal was as follows:

“The Designated host agrees to allow pre-round debate instruction.”

The pre-round debate instruction proposal passed, with 16 voting for, 2 against, and 3 abstaining.

Policy Proposal #4 (Derek #2): to correct the bylaws on the speaking times for policy, which were incorrect in the last survival guide. Unanimously agreed. BN will make changes.

Policy Proposal #5 (Craig Rickett #1): To permit the Spokane Falls Designated tournament to offer only two patterns of individual events at their February 2003 Designated Tournament.

Passed unanimously, 23-0.

12. Organizational Reports

1. CEDA, Steve Hunt. The national tournament will be held March 19-22 in Louisville. Contact Steve or Jim Hanson for information.
3. NDT, Glen Frappier. NDT held April 1-5, at Catholic U. in D.C.
4. NFA – April 15-19, University of Rhode Island.
5. NPDA - Gary Gillespie, April 8-10 at Cal State Northridge. Gary noted that many NPDA proposals will be offered at the Miami conventions and encouraged coaches who do not attend to send their proxy votes with those who do attend. Contact Gary for further information.
6. NPDA Journal – Ed Inch. Submit articles to Ed. Journal soon to appear.
7. NIET, Sam Mathies, to be held April 2-5 at Long Beach. A pre-national “IE swing” will be held at Long Beach State on January 23-25.
8. PKD – held in Middle Tennessee State University in Tennessee, Jan 23-25. National Collegiate Honorary Forensics Tournament. Contact Jeff Stoppenhagen of BSU for information. jstoppenhagen@mtnwb.com
9. NCA...Mack Sermon noted there is a panel at NCA in Miami Beach, November 19-23, concerning full service programs and encouraged interested people to attend.
10. DSRTKA – March 12-14, U of Alabama
11. Interstate Oratory – April 22-24, Glendale, Arizona. Schools wishing to enter should contact Larry Schnoor, lgene9535@aol.com
12. Phi Rho Pi – April 12-17, Moorpark College, California
13. NPTE at Berkeley on March 13-14. Contact Jim Hanson. 48 teams will be invited, up from 36 last year.
14. Northwest Community College Championships – April 29-30, Clackamas
15. Seattle Urban Debate League, Derek. The program, which supports “disenfranchised students” with debate opportunities, is strong, reports Derek. Programs are encouraged to support with money, if so inclined. Contact Derek.
16. Portland Debate League. Shannon Valdivia reports that the Portland league is alive and well.
17. Western States will be held February 13-15 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
18. Two Eastern European parli tournaments in Belarus and Lithuania will be held in January, with Robert Trapp assisting in the administration of those events. US schools encouraged to attend.
19. Other...
Dennis Waller is conducting a Rank & Tenure survey, and invited people to fill out forms and send them to him....

A discussion on college policies towards 15 passenger vans followed...some schools do not allow 15-passenger vans, others limit number of passengers and remove seats to

lower capacity; others have licensing processes for all drivers; others are using charter buses; others are limited number of hours a person can drive in one shift. Steve Hunt, Dennis Waller, Shannon Valdivia and others contributed ideas – and PLU suggested they have access to videos on training drivers of 15-passenger vans.

Brent Northup encouraged programs to request “letters of praise” from BN, which can be sent to presidents, deans, etc. about the success of programs.

20. The annual meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. after four hours and 20 minutes. Friendships were renewed and valued discussion was held on how to better serve schools, coaches and students.