

NFC Meeting 2004

September 11, 2004
At Linfield College

Meeting Minutes

Procedurals

1. Thank you to Linfield! Welcoming words from Dr. Vivian Bull of Linfield.

2. Introduction of coaches, attendance

Robert Trapp, Willamette; Derek Buescher, UPS; Sam Mathies, Pacific; Trischa Goodnow, OSU; Mercy Sekhai Novak, Northwest U; Jacki Harris, George Fox; Brian Everest, Clackamas; Kerrie Hughes, U of Portland; Mike Dugaw, Lower Columbia College; Steve Hunt, Lewis & Clark; Greg Young, Humboldt State University; Christi Siver, U of Washington/ Mary Lynn Veden, University of Washington; Dan Bloomingdale, PLU; Brooke Adamson, Northwest Nazarene; Chris Bragg, CSI; Tiffany Seeley-Case, CSI; Steve Woods, Western Washington; Brenda DeVore Marshall, Linfield; Jackson Miller, Linfield; Brent Northup, Carroll College.

3. Introduction of officers (new elections to be held in the next two weeks)

President (serving until May 2005) Brent Northup, Carroll
At Large Rep Derek Buescher, UPS (until May 2005)
Community College Rep Tiffany Seeley-Case, CSI (serving until May 2005)
NIET Rep Sam Mathies, Pacific (serving until May 2004)
NPDA Rep – Bill Sheffield (serving until May 2005)
Policy Rep ..Steve Hunt (has requested that an active policy coach replace him.)

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

Cash on hand, Sept. 9, 2004: \$1743.44

2003-2004 expenses (\$3180.12) :Trophies: \$1346; NFC secretarial help \$1070; presidential travel, \$507; Survival guide, \$257.12

2003-2004 revenue: Designated tournament fees of \$1183.50, \$1309.50 and \$1219.50.

Increase of assets from Fall 2003 to Fall 2004: \$561.10

Budget recommendation: Keep NFC fee at \$4.50 per student for 2004-2005.

5. **Calendar updates.** Calendar will be sent to schools. Tournaments in Korea and Finland/Estonia were announced. Contact Robert Trapp.

Trapp also announced that IDEA is offering funding for public debating. Events with 50 people and which involve topics approved by IDEA are eligible for \$250 funding for each such event.

Designated reports were made by PLU, Linfield and Pacific. Each tournament will offer all 11 NIET events, plus divisions of parliamentary debates. PLU plans to conclude individual events on Saturday, with debate concluding on Sunday. Linfield and Pacific also plan IE awards on Saturday with debate concluding Sunday. Western Washington announced it would apply to host a designated in 2006.

6. Directory updates. Will be sent for revision via e-mail, and then placed in the Survival Guide.

7. All Conference awards. Distributed by e-mail and at the meeting. Will be in Survival Guide.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

The discussion of the policy proposals was delayed by a lengthy discussion of proxy votes. Since the NFC has no policy on proxies, the group decided to formulate a policy before beginning consideration of the policy proposals. The suggestion was made that president Brent Northup establish a procedure for this meeting, and that the “long-term” policy commence next year. Northup ruled that proxy votes would be accepted this year only, reasoning that members, in good faith, had sent votes to the meeting.

The group then approved a proxy bylaw, 12-4, as follows:

NFC members must be present to vote at fall meetings unless financial hardship prevents the member from attending. In such hardship cases, the absent member must notify the president before the meeting of his/her intent to submit proxy votes. Proxy votes must be for or against specific proposals announced before the meeting. (In other words, “generic non-specific” proxies are not allowed.)

With proxies allowed at the 2004 meeting, consideration of the policy proposals began.

1. Prohibiting extempers from receiving assistance during prep time.

Those attending were mostly in agreement that extempers should work primarily alone, although some noted that assisting novices was understandable/forgivable. Discussion primarily focused on the difficulties of enforcing a “no assistance during prep” rule. Coaches agreed to make the extemp prep policy an “aspiration,” a strong preference of the NFC, but intentionally without an enforcement mechanism.

This aspiration was approved 17-0, with two abstentions.

The NFC aspires to encourage original work in extemporaneous speaking. The NFC encourages tournaments, when possible, to set aside a quiet preparation space for all extempers. The NFC encourages extemporaneous speakers not to consult with coaches or other contestants during the preparation of speeches.

2. Admission of Humboldt State & Utah State to the NFC

Coaches discussed possible criteria for expanding membership outside the five-state Northwest region. Coaches considered requiring a minimum number of years of NFC participation before allowing membership. The body decided not to place any restrictions on outside membership but rather to simply evaluate each request on its own merits – with a simple majority required for membership.

The following bylaw was passed:

Schools in neighboring states may apply for membership in the NFC. Membership will be granted at the fall meeting by majority vote, effective immediately after the vote.

The rules were suspended to allow consideration of two requests received this year.

The NFC voted 17-0 to admit Humboldt State to the NFC.

The NFC voted 16-0, with one abstention, to admit Utah State to the NFC.

3. Use of Topic Areas at Designated Tournaments

Christi Siver of the University of Washington proposed that the NFC develop topic areas for parliamentary debate. Siver proposed that tournaments announce topic areas at least two weeks prior to the tournament. Lively discussion followed with disagreement on whether topic areas helped or hindered small programs and novices.

The motion failed with 8 voting for (three proxies), 12 against (1 proxy) and one abstaining.

4. Topic Criteria/Topic Committees for Designated Tournaments

Siver proposed setting criteria for selection of topic for parliamentary debate, including appointment of a topic committee to formulate the topics. The committee would include members representing the perspective of debaters, of educators and of the NFC.

The motion failed with 7 voting for (1 proxy), 10 against.

5. Central Announcement of Parliamentary Debate Topics

Siver proposed that tournaments use a system of “central announcement” for releasing topics to parliamentary debaters. Spirited debate followed.

The following bylaw passed, 15 to 6 with one abstention.

Parliamentary debate topics will be released at a central location – where competing teams can receive the topic simultaneously. Teams will have 20 minutes to prepare, including time needed to walk to the round.

6. Clarification of Role of Designated Tournament Director

Siver proposed that the role of a tournament director at a Designated tournament be clarified. Specifically, she suggested that tournament directors be prohibited from altering NFC/NIET/NPDA rules at designated tournaments. Discussion followed which focused on tying the hands of tournament directors who are given the discretion in the bylaws “to change administrative procedures to insure smooth and efficient operation.” Siver agreed to classify her proposal as an aspiration – strongly requesting that tournament directors announce any variations from NFC, NPDA and NIET rules before the tournament begins:

The following aspiration passed 16-0, with two abstentions.

NFC tournaments shall aspire to follow all NFC, NPDA and NIET rules, guidelines and aspirations. If a tournament desires an exception to an NFC rule, the tournament director should consult with the NFC executive committee before enacting the change.

If changes to NFC/NIET/NPDA rules at a Designated tournament are approved by the NFC board, those changes will be announced to all entered schools before the tournament commences.

7. The Larry Richardson Cup

Brent Northup proposed creating a Larry Richardson award for the best policy program in the region each year. Discussion followed in which everyone but Brent agreed that this was the wrong approach to a serious problem – the disappearance of policy debate at most Northwest tournaments. Northup withdrew the motion and promised to appoint a task force to study the issue.

Task Forces:

Northup led a discussion of “large issues” that merit reflection and study. Coaches proposed issues of concern.

Three task forces were formed to study such issues, and bring a report to the fall 2005 meeting.

Task force on the Mission of the NFC:

Chair: Jackson Miller, Linfield. Members: Chris Bragg, CSI; Mary Lynn Veden, UW; Steven Hunt, Lewis & Clark; Steven Wood, WWU.

Mission: to explore the all-encompassing question of the purpose of the NFC and of Designated tournaments with the hope of isolating questions and concerns that might be addressed by the group as a whole at the Fall 2005 meeting. The committee is asked to consult with the members as a whole while developing their own recommendations. A “state of the NFC” presentation would be welcome, but need not be a formal written report. The committee is encouraged to develop “areas of concern” which might lead to a discussion at the 2005 meeting. If possible, the committee is encouraged to share its findings with the NFC prior to the fall meeting so that members might be able to reflect on the findings prior the meeting.

Task force on debate

Chair: Derek Buescher. Members Christi Siver, Dan Bloomingdale, Trischa Goodnow, Tiffany Seeley-Case, Jim Hanson.

Mission:

The committee is asked to explore the state of debate in the NFC, with particular emphasis on the future of policy debate in the region. The committee is encouraged to isolate problems and concerns and to share them with the NFC prior to the fall 2005 meeting. The committee will lead a discussion at the Fall 2005 meeting about the future of debate in the NFC, with possible consideration of proposals.

Task force on judge acquisition at regional tournaments.

Chair: Brian Everest, Clackamas; member Kerrie Hughes, University of Portland.

Mission: to explore ways for regional tournaments to obtain more and better qualified judges, including the possible sharing of databases/lists of available judges from the Northwest region. The committee will present a report, with possible recommendations, at the Fall 2005 meeting.

Organizational Reports

CEDA, Derek. CEDA nationals will be held in San Francisco.

NDT, Derek. NDT nationals will be held at Gonzaga University.

NFA – Trischa. NFA nationals will be held at the University of Akron.

NPDA – Bill Sheffield. NPDA nationals will be held at Texas Tech.

NPDA Journal – Trischa Goodnow. The journal is forthcoming; articles welcome.

NIET, Sam Mathies. NIET nationals will be held at Kansas State University.

PKD - Marty Most. PKD nationals will be held in St. Louis.

Interstate Oratory – Trischa. Interstate Oratory will be held in Boston.

Phi Rho Pi – Kelly Brennan? Nationals will be held in Philadelphia.

NPTE – NPTE tournament will be held Century CC in Minnesota.

Northwest CC Championships – Shannon? Will be held at Mt. Hood.

Seattle Urban Debate League, Derek.

Portland Debate League

**The Fall 2004 meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m., later than promised.
Apologies.**

END

Minutes compiled by Brent Northup, NFC president.