

Minutes

Regular NFC Coaches' Meeting
Friday, Sept. 8, 2006 Educational Goals Conference
Saturday, Sept. 9, 2006 Regular meeting

The 2006 NFC fall gathering consisted in two separate meetings. On Friday, coaches gathered for a discussion of the educational goals of the Northwest Forensics Conference. Robert Withycombe of Whitman served as moderator of the six-hour conversation. That discussion began with the sharing of position papers from all participating programs. Each paper described the educational goals of their program as well as offering suggestions on how the NFC might better serve those goals.

The Friday discussion generated policy options which were presented at the regular NFC meeting, held Saturday.

The Friday meeting was not a traditional business meeting. Thus, no policy proposals were offered. But the proposals suggested at the close of the Saturday business meeting do provide insight into the nature of the Friday educational conference.

Minutes of the Saturday business meeting

1. Thank you to Boise State and Marty for hosting. I recall Marty being a key proponent of our Friday educational conference, and we thank him for that.

2. Attendance.

Attending only the Friday's educational goals conference:

Robert Withycombe, Whitman, moderator;

Attending both the Friday's educational goals conference and the regular Saturday meeting:

Derek Buescher, UPS; Robert Trapp, Willamette; Melissa Franke, PLU; Steve Johnson, Alaska; Steve Hunt Lewis & Clark; Mike Dugaw, Lower Columbia; Greg Young, Humboldt State; Tom Worthen, Utah State; Marty Most, Boise State; Tiffany Seeley-Case, College of Southern Idaho; Mack Sermon, Albertson; Sam Mathies, Pacific; Jackson Miller, Linfield; Christi Siver U of Washington; Mary Lynn Veden, University of Washington; Lucas Roebuck, George Fox; Paul Hood University of Oregon; Steve Woods, Western Washington University; Brent Northup, Carroll College.

Attending only the Saturday regular NFC meeting:

Tabitha Miller, Albertson; Kelly Brennan, Clackamas College; Brian Everest, Clackamas; Dave Kosloski, Clark; Brooke Adamson, Northwest Nazarene; Nicole McMillin, Northwest Nazarene; Gary Gillespie, Northwest College, Seattle.

Not in attendance this year:

Lane CC; Seattle U; Seattle Pacific; U of Portland; Portland State; Rocky Mountain; Oregon State; WSU-Vancouver; Reed; Spokane Falls; BYU Idaho; Columbia Basin; Eastern Washington U; Gonzaga; Whitman; Lewis-Clark State; Northwest Christian; U of Montana; Utah Valley State.

3. Introduction of officers

President (serving until May 2007) Brent Northup, Carroll
At Large Rep Jackson Miller, (until May 2007)
Community College Rep Tiffany Seeley-Case (serving until May 2007)
NIET Rep Sam Mathies, Pacific (serving until May 2007)
NPDA Rep – who is our new Northwest Rep?
Policy Rep Derek Buescher, UPS

4. Budget Report

Cash on hand: August 31, 2006: \$2060.63 (WWU unpaid)

Cash on hand, Sept. 9, 2005: \$3417.74
Cash on hand, Sept. 9, 2004: \$1743.44
Cash on hand, August 25, 2003: \$1182.34
Cash on hand, August 31, 2002: \$1221.20
Cash on hand, August 31, 2001: \$1498.55

Budget discussion: Approved paying Robert Withycombe (moderator from Whitman) expenses to meeting, plus a gift certificate to be sent later; approved paying Brent Northup plane ticket to the meeting; approved forming an outreach committee, chaired by Christi Siver of the U of Washington, to investigate a relationship with IDEA that might create NFC reserve funds to support under-funded programs.

5. Calendar updates.

Calendar corrections. Latest draft of calendar enclosed.

Tournament reports:

Christi Siver of the UofW volunteered to start and maintain an NFC Web site where we can post a current calendar, invites to tournaments and other useful information. Stay tuned.

Designateds:

Lewis & Clark reminds coaches of hotel deals to the L&C tournament; act now. L&C allows novices one event per pattern; juniors two; seniors three.

Linfield announced it will have a Worlds Parli division and is open to workshops, perhaps a Worlds workshop, on Friday morning before the tournament begins.

Pacific distributed a copy of their invite to the January Designated. The Pacific tournament will offer three divisions of parli debate and all 11 NIET events.

Other tournaments:

Reed, Sept. 22,23, will have topic areas.

CSI invites all to attend in Idaho on Sept. 22, 23.

UPS invites all to parli tournament on Oct. 28 & 29.

Western States in Seattle Feb. 16-18 at Crowne Plaza Hotel – two blocks from the Western States conference hotel. The room rate is \$129 per room. Co-hosted by Whitman and UPS.

Robert Trapp says Colorado College will take place. (new CC DOF is Chris Shaw 719 389 6339)
Hatfield will offer Worlds division.

Steve Johnson encourages tournaments to offer a Worlds Division

A U.S. worlds-style BP championship tournament will be held at Claremont on March 30-April 2.

7. All Conference awards. Distributed by e-mail. Will be in Survival Guide.

8. Special reports:

Organizational Reports

CEDA, Derek. NW did well last year.

NDT, Derek. NW did well last year.

Worlds @ UBC: Gary Gillespie. In Vancouver. Must stay at hotel. (www.ubcworlds2007.com)

NFA – Jackson Miller. At Berry College, Georgia, April 19-23.

NPDA – Brent Northup. At Colorado College on March 22-25.

NPDA Journal – Trischa Goodnow. Send articles.

NIET, Sam Mathies. District tournament at Willamette, Feb. 25.

PKD - Marty Most encourages schools to join; nationals at Central Michigan March 7-10.

DSRTKA – no report

Western States Conference: Jackson Miller. Tournament two blocks from conference.

Western States Tournament: Derek encourages entries. The tournament will offer three divisions of parli, all 11 NIET events – and will consider offering a Worlds division.

Interstate Oratory – Jackson Miller. Location uncertain as of this time.

Phi Rho Pi – Kelly Brennan. Houston, April 9-14.

NPTE – Derek. At Wyoming. March 17,18. Additional entries now allowed. Modified qual system

Northwest Community College Championships – at Clark on April 27.
Seattle Urban Debate League, Derek. Going strong.
Portland Debate League. Going strong. Meets on Oct. 24, Nov 21, Feb. 13.
IFA: Prague last year; Buenos Aires this year, March 9-17
Cascade Conference at Western Wash, May 18-19; student papers by mid April.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Overview of new business:

New committees formed & new services offered:

- Awards committee, chaired by Mack Sermon
- Membership and Support committee, chaired by Jackson Miller
- Recruitment and Outreach committee, chaired by Shannon Valdivia
- NFC/IDEA liaison, M.L. Veden – to investigate a new relationship
- Tournament Structure Committee, chaired by Derek Buescher
- NFC Web site will be created and maintained by Christi Siver

New policies:

Junior division collapse rule changed. If 11 or fewer are entered in junior, the division will be collapsed. Novice and senior are collapsed if 8 or fewer, a continuation of the current bylaw.

Next year's meeting:

Meetings will be at Mt. Hood, Portland area, on Friday, Sept. 7 and Saturday, Sept. 8.

Friday meeting, beginning at 1 p.m., will be chaired by Mack Sermon, and will be a continuation of “educational goals” discussion. Current goals committee members will be retained: Derek, Brent, Christi. Committee members will support Mack in crafting an agenda for Friday. A moderator, selected by Mack, will guide the discussion on Friday. Brenda DeVore Marshall was mentioned as a possible choice. Michael Ingram, David Frank and Dennis Waller might be other possibilities. I’m sure more names will be suggested.

Among likely agenda items: committee-inspired reports on “awards” and “tournament structure”, with possible continuation/conclusion of discussion of “judges” and of “division placement”, topics of high interest/intensity this year.

Towards that end I would like to appoint a “judges committee” to crystallize the differences and commonalities that arose in our Saturday discussion of “judges”. I would be pleased if Tiffany would chair this committee, with support from Derek, Shannon, Melissa and Brent. Let me know. This is just an ad hoc committee to help generate direction for continuation of the good discussion for next fall.

Saturday meeting will likely feature committee reports from membership and support, from recruitment and outreach, from the NFC/IDEA liaison, and from the Web site guru. We may also consider policy proposals generated from the Friday discussion, likely to be crafted at a Friday night “coach seminar.” ☺

Detailed account of the policy proposals presented and discussed at the 2006 NFC meeting:

Policy proposals drafted by Derek Buescher, chair of the Friday conference.

1. Proposed “Larry Richardson Sweepstakes Cup” calculated with Open Division points only. **Failed.** Discussed, then failed by a vote of 7 for, 8 against and 1 abstaining. Referred to awards committee.
2. Awards committee will be chaired by Mack Sermon. No other current members. Report at Pacific or next fall. Investigate all types of awards including sweepstakes, all conference, divisions I, II and III, commemorative awards, novice awards, special “open division only” awards, Orv Iverson awards, the specific “hardware” of awards relative to program needs and tournament costs - and initiate appropriate discussions at Mt. Hood 2007 Fall meeting. Awards committee proposal **passed unanimously.**
3. Proposed NFC Web site. Christi Siver of U of W volunteers to start and to maintain. **Passes unanimously.**
4. Proposed “membership and support committee”. Chair: Jackson Miller, Linfield. Members: Steve Hunt, Shannon Valdivia, Lucas Roebuck. **Passes unanimously.**

The standing Membership and Support committee is charged with supporting both existing and new NFC programs and directors. The specifics include, but are not limited to, the following. The committee will develop a packet of information from which program directors may turn for information on working within their institutions to negotiate budgets, public relations, etc. The committee will maintain an active program of writing letters of programmatic and director support to chairs, deans, presidents, and boards and will avail itself to the needs of NFC members to solicit such support in times of crises and review. The committee will assist directors in developing guidelines for evaluation suitable to the particulars of their job description and institutional demands. The committee will submit an annual report, in writing, to the NFC president no later than August 20th of each year and reiterate the details of this report in written and verbal form at the annual NFC coaches meeting.

5. Proposed standing committee for recruitment and outreach. Charges: to help foster two-year students to transfer to four-year schools; to support new programs; help high schools discover NFC schools and their programs, possibly using our new Web site; provide resources to high schools and high school students for investigating speech and debate in the Northwest; Chair: Shannon Valdivia. Members: Kelly Brennan, Clackamas; M.L. Veden, U of W; Tabitha Miller, Alberston; Shelby Jo Long, Rocky. **Passed unanimously.** Report at fall meeting in Mt. Hood.
6. Proposed “aspiration” reaffirming commitment to fairness and accuracy in division placement. **Motion discussed, then withdrawn.**
7. Proposed ad hoc committee on “tournament structure” to study possible reform to tournament structure, investigating two-day versus three-day, special workshops, wellness, adding novice policy, add worlds style debate, add other debate formats. Develop topics for Friday discussion at Mt. Hood meeting in Fall 2007. Chair: Derek Buescher Members: Robert Trapp, Willamette; Paul Hood, U of Oregon; Steve Johnson, Alaska. Committee proposed - **passed unanimously.**
8. Proposal to change the junior division collapse rule. **Proposal passed, 13-6.**

Currently the rule requires that divisions be collapsed when there are fewer than nine contestants in any division. The new proposal changes the junior division collapse rule only – collapsing any time 11 or fewer contestants enter junior division.

Legislative specifics:

COLLAPSING DIVISIONS – OLD BYLAW

A division of an individual event will be collapsed if there are fewer than nine contestants entered in the division. Lower divisions will always be moved up.

The new proposal will read:

COLLAPSING DIVISIONS – NEW BYLAW

Novice and open division will be collapsed if there are fewer than 9 contestants entered in the division. Lower divisions will always be moved up.

Junior division will be collapsed if there are fewer than 12 contestants in the division.

(Clarification: If entries are 9 novice, 11 junior, 10 open – then the divisions will be collapsed to 9 novice and 21 open (because junior is below 12); if entries are 6 novice; 10 junior; 12 open – then collapse to 16 junior; 12 open (after the novice collapse there are 12 or more in junior.) If entries are 9 novice; 13 junior; 7 open – collapse to 9 novice, 20 open – because open is below 9.)

Proposal to change “division collapsing rules” passed . 13 for, 6 against.

9. Proposal to eliminate points for novice events. Tabled and moved to awards committee, chaired by Mack.

The meeting ended with a return to the “educational goals” format of Friday.

Coaches conducted a lengthy discussion of judging in the NFC. The topics included training of judges; qualification of judges; mutual preference judging; judge philosophy; judge disclosure; judge booklets; judge strikes. The discussion then meandered into the fundamental nature of debate (Parli/“parli-cy,” /BP-Worlds/policy). Who is responsible for the “style drift” in parli towards policy? Coaches? Judges? Students? Is such “drift” healthy or regrettable? Should judge selection be influenced by such matters or not?

Steven Johnson deftly and fairly led this honest lively discussion which revealed wide disparities in program philosophies towards these issues.

Meeting ended at 2 p.m.

The coaches agreed to resume in the fall, Friday, at Mt. Hood at 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 3.

Minutes compiled by Brent Northup