Macquarie University Debating Society

*Executive Meeting 1 Minutes*

23 October 2012, 8pm – W5A 204

Present: Anna Kosmynina (president), Nicola Amys (secretary), Mark Slaven (treasurer), Stephanie Fehon, Lachlan Umbers, Nigel Khine, Ryan Thalari, Nandini Bajaj

Non- voting: Daniel Dummer

Absent: Benjamin Roe (IPP)

Agenda

* vision / goal-setting
* submitting portfolio preferences (everyone to consider these before they come)
* (talking about co-opting) Tim Osborn
* authorised rep paperwork (Mark,  please bring photocopies of your student ID)
* Next meeting
  + World’s subsidies
  + Senior school’s day, public speaking day.
  + Christmas social

Anna: ground rules – be respectful, stay on topic.

**Vision/goal setting**

Anna: let’s figure out what we want to change in the society and set some goals

Nicola: increased membership- sign ups and retention

Steph: more Mac Minis, international Mini would be good

Ryan: easy to access information- update MUDS website, use twitter more

Nicola: send out prospectus ASAP

Steph: more socials

Anna: they should be regular.

Mark: we can have a BBQ

Ryan: continuing training for mid-tier debaters

Nicola: greater focus on adjudicating

Lachlan: debating?

Mark: public speaking competition in conjunction with public speaking society for schools. Also a training day.

Anna: what about publications?

Steph: if we have enough people volunteering it would be worthwhile

Mark: tie a publication to training. Way of publishing training materials from internals. More merit for doing what Dan used to with Bruhaha

Anna: Luke’s Easters survival guide was good too

Dan: might not be a portfolio but something that someone decides to take on and get other non-exec members to contribute

Nigel: in terms of increasing membership, we should affiliate with GLP

Anna: camp!

Dan: GLP didn’t give us points for camp, but we still got a lot of sign ups from there. Keeping all SAF and other bodies on our side.

Nigel: Melbourne does lunch time debates. Something not Monday-centric would be good.

Mark: UNSW does Thursday internals

Anna: good way o train people who want to do more training... I am in favour of hack debates!

Nandini: we can talk to other societies and degrees to promote MUDS

Nicola: more intervarsity connections for diversity and friendships

Dan: we could have a checkpoint in the year to measure ourselves against our goals?

Anna: let’s be more specific!

Nandini: makes people feel included

Steph: BBQ at beginning pre-easters, post-easters party night, festival of dangerous ideas

Lachlan: be strategic, charge cost of attending social when register for easters = incentive

Nicola: Christmas event and presentation night. Aim for one every quarter. Monday night movies.

Lachlan: 6 months Australs and 6 months BP

Mark: actively attempt to encourage one team to go to every tournament/mini along east coast

Ryan: make sure we rotate people around at internals

Anna: can we do pro-am every second week?

Mark: what do people want to see from publications?

Anna: more than 1 would be good, but it is a lot of work

Steph: have big issue at the beginning, then shift to smaller later in the year

Mark: we could digitalise it and attach to updates

Ryan: it should be a portfolio, we need someone in charge

Anna: 3-4 per year

Ryan: we should aim for one public speaking training day

Nigel: what is our position with public speakers?

Anna: will talk about that later. Relationships- encourage a team to go to every mini.

Mark: we should go to other uni’s internals

Anna: we can look into hosting things with other societies, eg. CA. Also UNSW and Sydney did a Women’s training day together, or get someone to speak at our internals. Goal: hold an event with another society, have a speaker from another society at internals.

Re: communication. Website is being difficult. Need to call the domain. I am in the process of moving it to something else. It will be as easy as editing a blog.

Lachlan: could do it through iweb.

Ryan: can link twitter account with fb.

Anna: it is the secretary’s job to do fb.

Mark: other people can do other stuff

Mac Mini, use similar model to this year.

Lachlan: mini at beginning of year, intro to debating, easters training day, Mac mini, IR mini. Not pre-easters tournament so we should promote mac mini heavier before then

Dan: avoid clashes with other societies

Lachlan: a diversity of people should run them

Nigel: re school’s days. We could consider history debating

Anna: how do we increase sign ups? Should focus on means we use.

Steph: I am in favour of doing more posters, more often throughout semester. We can use memes!

Mark: we have so much printing for posters! Use up rest of year’s allowance and have posters ready to go

Dan: a week of PR, give people an experience. Hold events to build relationships.

Mark: talk to societies about organising debates with them. Providing marketing material at senior school’s day. We need a banner that stands up!

Lachlan: need to focus on post easters retention, not how many people to come to first internals.

Anna: the way we market ourselves . We should be more social and let people know about this! Diversify the way we talk about the society.

Ryan: should look into an ad on the giant screen

Mark: to summarise our goals- banner, posters, ad on screen, events with other societies, brand image, GLP involvement.

Steph: retention = socials and minis

Mark: pizza on Monday arvos are important. Open and friendly atmosphere before internals

Re MUSRA get close with reps and try to get onto SAF board

Anna: apply for all grants, include retrospective ones

Re training for second years- hack debates and rotate presenters at internals

Mark: I think separated internals is a good idea

Lachlan: series of competing goals, want inclusive training that is welcoming. Also need experienced people to debate with you. Clashes with interests of experienced debaters. Internals is usually new material. Lots of other opportunitiess and not much repetition... not sure where you are going?

Mark: important to have separate sessions before easters, eg leading a team and how to run a prep session.

Lachlan: yes, specific leadership skills required but can’ necessarily be taught. Should not pull out experienced debaters week after easters teams formed. I’m happy to set a high leadership burden.

Mark: make easters training day compulsory attendance

Lachlan: we nominally did that this year. What is the problem you are trying to address?

Mark: indivs who will be mentors next year probably don’t feel ready to run a team with novices. Foundational concepts are indeed important, but there are other areas that individuals can learn from

Lachlan: training more subtle. Need to be clever in way you run sessions, but should not split.

Anna: would rather people be at internals as a whole group. Segregation is bad!

Dan: put more experienced debaters in more training roles

Lachlan: if you are going to speak on the society’s behalf, you should not do so unless authorised.

*I propose that as a matter of general principle, exec members are not purported to speak on behalf of the debating society on ‘serious issues’ unless it is clearly within the purview of their portfolio, without the express consent of the exec.*

*Marks seconds*

*Passes unanimously.*

Nigel: worried we won’t have as good internals without Dan and Lachlan

Anna: we are planning to rotate presenters

Lachlan: include more people in Internals portfolio, ie someone younger

Nicola: adjing should be more regularly included in internals

Dan: link with other societies, run adjudicator training day with Sydney

Rotary should also be considered. Sensible to amalgamate it under school’s portfolio.

Anna: have a day or two to think about which portfolio you would like. Ben said he wanted to see a competition start up internally.

**Coopting Tim Osborn**

Mark: public speaking is a fledging organisation. We have a moral duty to encourage public speaking in our constitution. Public speaking society has great ability to keep going; keeping strong ties is a good thing to do. Member of their society is best way to achieve this. Coopting means that you need to fulfil a role that no one else can. No one in better position to take on role of public speaking than Tim. Other people have taken control, we should support them. Coop means no voting rights, good gesture. Good for recruitment.

Steph: good way to liase with exec. Tim is obvious member of exec. Does not need to come to every meeting

Lachlan: in our interests- 1. provides good recruiting ground for camp, public speaking and debating feed into each other very well. Diversity of experience keeps people involved. 2. More capacity to exercise influence makes sense.

Mark: we can also assist public speaking society in its running.

Lachlan: MUSRA prefers funding for events run by joint societies. We should not share responsibility of public speaking day though.

*Anna: I propose that we co-opt Tim Osborn in role of Public Speaking Liason*

*Marks Seconds*

*6 votes in favour*

*2 opposed*

**Any other business**

*Lachlan: I propose that I use $140 of society money to print matter file for worlds, and be reimbursed later on.*

*Ryan seconds*

*Passed unanimously*

ACTION ITEMS

Anna: finish website

Nicola, Anna, Mark: to allocate portfolios

Portfolios:

* Internals
* Schools
* Externals
* Publications
* Equity
* Socials
* Marketing
* Finances
* Competitions
* VP
* Camp
* Public speaking