



muds
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
DEBATING SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE MEETING #4

Tuesday 12th April 2016 5.10pm-7.45pm Location: Macquarie University Campus

Present: Ryan Thalari (President), Sarah McCabe (Treasurer), Anneliese Cooper (Secretary), Alex Feolifoff, Andrew Fischer, Samantha Marshall, Mathew Duardo and Lachlan McGrath (President Emeritus)

Chair: Ryan Thalari

Minutes taken by: Anneliese Cooper

AGENDA:

- 1) Easters Recap
- 2) Australs
- 3) Competitions Update (Mac Fall)
- 4) Worlds Update (Team Allocations)
- 5) Finances
- 6) Refund Policy (Sarah)
- 7) Risk Assessment Forms
- 8) Exec Workshops
- 9) School's Days Update
- 10) Intersociety Debating (Sam)
- 11) Exec Workshops
- 12) Tab Data
- 13) Debating Camp and Adjudicating Training

Meeting commenced: 5.10pm

AGENDA ITEM ONE: EASTER RECAP

a) Equity debrief

Minutes suspended at 5.10pm

Minutes recommenced at 5.45pm

ACTION ITEM: Equity officers to draft a codified equity policy to add to the Constitution. The drafting will occur during semester break, will be reviewed by the Executive and then proposed at the 2016 AGM.

Ryan's recommendation: Positive/proactive equity as well as negative equity should be used at equity briefings for tournaments and minis. E.g. "do this" or "we encourage this type of behaviour" as well as "don't do this or that."

b) Mentoring

Ryan: It's important that we keep looking after MUDS members who are still developing but aren't brand new novices. It's also important that we don't pressure novices into attending/not attending major tournaments. Give them information about how attendance impacts their novice statuses etc. and let them make their own decisions.

c) Easters logistics

Anneliese: It's problematic that we did not know that Kelly was not going to Easters nor that she hadn't paid us, until the first day of the tournament. We need better transparency and we need to be more proactive about getting money off competitors.

Discussion was deferred to Agenda Item Six

ACTION ITEM: Marketing to update the website especially MUDS' email and contact details.

Alex Feolifoff arrived at meeting 5.40pm.

AGENDA ITEM TWO: AUSTRALS

a) Trials dates

Ryan: UNSW/UTS might hold trials on the 7th May
ANU – 13th May

USU – 14th/15th May
WSU – 14th May

We should therefore hold ours on either the 8th or 15th May.

Sarah: I don't want to hold it on the same day as Women's USU Training Day

Anneliese: I agree, it will cut out some potential Selectors for our trials

MOTION:

Ryan: I therefore propose that we hold Australs Debater Trials on the 15th May and Adjudicator Trials on the 16th May.

Seconded by: Sarah

In favour: 7 votes

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

b) Expressions of Interest

Ryan: I am concerned about our ability to fill 3 team and 2 adjudicator spots for Australs, especially since I have applied to go as an independent adjudicator. I think we should release Expression of Interest forms to see who is actually interested in coming to Australs. We can then decide earlier, how many teams/adjs we need.

We would obviously make it clear that this is just an EOI and doesn't preclude anyone from registering later nor does it make anyone obligated to attend or trial.

Sam: Why don't we just open trials registration early so that we can see how many people register?

Ryan: I think we can't open rego early because it would be good to advertise how many teams are available because people want to know whether or not they have a chance of getting in. Also, final payment is due May 4th and rego will close just before the trials date. We need to confirm before the final date because after that we can't get refunded for any spots which we don't want.

Anneliese: Additionally, we'd have to close registration before the 4th because most people don't register for trials until right before the deadline so realistically, it won't be a good indicator of interest.

Sarah: I don't see any harm in an EOI and it's a good way to get this info before the deadline

- Mat: We should also include a question about whether or not the individual is available to trial on the day or if they intend to trial via CV.
- Anneliese: I'm worried about the EOI being confusing for people. There are already a few steps to actually going to Australs and I don't want to complicate the process. We'd have to really, clearly explain that it is only an EOI.
- Ryan: What I want to consider is that after we make 100% of our payments to Australs and Worlds, we'll have a \$2.5K debt. If we dropped an Australs team, we wouldn't have to pay \$2.3K. Noting that we also have other debts e.g. Selectors for Australs, \$300 which MUDS owes me
- Mat: We also need cash to run Mac Fall and Schools Days
- Sam: I think we should be trying to raise money before we drop a team. That should be worst case scenario
- Alex: Let's wait until we get the EOI before making this decision
- Ryan: We need to advertise trials by the 4th May
- Mat: Why don't we open registration tonight
- Ryan: Because we need to wait until we the EOI happens and we know how many teams to advertise
- Anneliese: I don't understand why it's so important to advertise teams. Surely it's more detrimental if we say that we only have 2 or 3 teams because it makes people think they have no chance at getting in. Instead we should have personal conversations and encourage them to trial.
- Sarah: Yeah, I think we should just go ahead and advertise trials
- Alex: By opening rego we will kill two birds with one stone because we have an EOI and actual rego
- Anneliese: I'm in favour of using actual registration to gauge interest except that we would need to close rego before the 4th May and that's at least a week before trials
- Ryan: If we cut rego on May 3rd and trials on the 15th, that's too much of a gap so maybe we should move trials to Saturday the 7th (not the Sunday because that clashes with USU Training Day).
- Sarah: A week is not a significant amount of time to an individual. I don't think it will make much of a difference.

Anneliese: Agreed, I'm fine with closing early. Oh, except it could be problematic that we don't have an Internals before the rego closes because it's mid-semester break for two weeks and then ANZAC Day means that we don't have Internals in Week 7. We can't advertise Australs well.

Sam: Maybe we can hold Internals on Tuesday to make up for that day.

Mat: I think the solution is just to advertise registration heaps at the social and on social media

MOTION:

Ryan: I propose to cut off registration for Australs Trials on the 2nd May to give us time to notify WAustrals convenors of our team allocations.

Seconded by: Sarah

In favour: 8

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION ITEM: email Australs tonight to clarify the deadline

c) Subsidies

Ryan: Full rego is \$770. How much are we prepared to subsidise people?

Mat: I'd be happy to considerably subsidise registration considering that we are only sending 1 team and 1 adj to Worlds.

Sam: Do we have rego which is priced according to how far you have to travel? E.g. if you've come from overseas, they charged you less for rego than if you came from Australia. That's what they did for Women's 2015.

Ryan: I'm not sure. I don't think there is any precedent to do so and I haven't heard anything about that.

Discussion about subsidies was deferred to next Executive Meeting after finances are confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM THREE: COMPETITIONS UPDATE (Mac Fall)

Ryan: I think we should hold Mac Fall on either the 28th May or June 11th. These dates are on either side of UTS Open

Mat: We should definitely have it sooner rather than later because everyone gets exhausted from debating during this period.

Sam: We also need to be mindful of the exam period during this time. It will make it harder for MUDS members to organise it.

Mat: We need to host it before the university closes because during exams it will be hard to get rooms and outside of semester there are hardly any staff/security guards around to help us out and cafes/facilities are closed.

MOTION:

Ryan: I propose that we host Mac Fall on the 28th May

Seconded by: Samantha

In favour: 8

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Note:

Date for Mac Fall has now been changed to Sunday 29th May so as not to clash with Macquarie Uni's 'ZedTown' which would create issues for classroom availabilities. See 'Email Minutes on 13th April 2016'

AGENDA ITEM FOUR: WORLDS UPDATE

Ryan: As you all know, we missed the rego deadline. This situation has been resolved and we have now been allocated 1 team and 1 adjudicator.

Andrew Fischer left meeting at 6.45pm

AGENDA ITEM FIVE: FINANCES

Ryan: Best case scenario, once Student funding and outstanding Easters registration payments have been made, we have about \$6K in the MUDS account. We owe about \$5K for Worlds and Australs initial deposits which we can afford. The final Australs and Worlds payments will cost another \$5K. We will therefore be in about \$4.5K debt. If given another \$2000 of SRC funding we will be in \$2.5K debt. This also exclude Women's payments which will be due soon as well.

ACTION ITEM: Lachlan to tell Sarah how she can apply for SRC funding to help cover some of our debt.

- Mat: We can raise money by running either a camp for school kids or a chain of consecutive Schools Days. I estimate that we could get considerable (\$3000) profit.
- Anneliese: We're already doing that/can do that by running Schools Days, on campus with no cost other than food. It could work but it will take a lot of manpower.
- Mat: We also don't utilise primary aged children.

ACTION ITEM: Mat to bring a proposal forward for a student camp and present to Executive Committee.

Samantha left meeting at 7pm.

AGENDA ITEM SIX: REFUND POLICY (Sarah)

Sarah: I have written a refund policy. I know we can't propose it because I haven't circulated the draft for amendments yet so I will present the 3 key ideas, then I will email it to the Exec for reviewing and then we can vote next meeting.

The key ideas are:

- 1) People have to pay 7 days before the first day of the major tournament. If they do not pay by this date, the Executive has the ability to replace them with someone else or on-sell their spot. An individual may request an extension on the payment deadline if the request is made before the initial deadline
- 2) If an individual does not attend the tournament they may be reimbursed 50% of their payment unless a replacement is found or in extreme and unforeseen circumstances (e.g. family tragedy, an injury etc) where it will then be up to the discretion of the President, Secretary and Treasurer to refund the individual 100% of their payment.
- 3) If an individual is removed from a tournament (e.g. for equity reasons, disqualification etc) then no refund will be given.

- Mat: Why should we be refunding someone 50%?
- Lachlan: Refunding 50% stops people from holding out on their payment
- Sarah: If someone paid the registration fee and then weren't able to go to the tournament, they probably had a good reason for doing so.
- Mat: We need more people to vote about the repayments for better transparency and fairness. What about conflicts?

Sarah: The Big 3 tribunal are the most appropriate to vote about repayments because they are going to know the most about the Society's financial situation and it stops the Executive from being unclear about who is going to chase up the outstanding payment.

Lachlan: Having more people would just be really slow and bureaucratic

Alex: If there is a conflict they will be conflicted out.

Anneliese: For example, we would bring in the Vice President or another member of the Executive.

Further discussion deferred until after the Refund Policy has been circulated around the Executive via email. Motion to be proposed and voted on at the next Executive Meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Sarah to email policy to Executive members

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN: RISK ASSESSMENT FORMS

Ryan: I just wanted to flag that it is really important to submit Risk Assessment forms to StudentHQ whenever you are holding an event and to do so as early on as you can. We get into trouble if we don't.

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT: EXEC WORKSHOPS

Ryan: I think we should hold a workshop day where we build on skills like tabbing and using Google Drive for portfolio handovers. It's not great that only Jacob and I know how to tab a tournament. If we had more of us able to use skills like that, it would make Schools Days and Minis much easier. We could do an effective workshop in approx. 2 hours

Sarah: I think it's important that we stress that this is a compulsory thing for Executive members.

Anneliese: I agree but we should also open it up as an option to all MUDS members if they would like to attend.

Everyone: Agreed.

AGENDA ITEM NINE: SCHOOL'S DAY UPDATE

Anneliese: Earliest we can hold a Schools Day is the last week of July because that is when the university is on semester break and school term is still on. We can host SSD during this period. There is then another period of 5 available days in September and then between the 5th-16th of December. We can't host SSD during these times because Year 12 students have graduated.

We have nearly a week each time so we could host a chain of Schools Days but then I don't think teachers would be keen on attending same tournament several times a week because that is logistically quite difficult. But also, we get a huge amount of interest from a bunch of different schools and so we might have enough schools to do so anyway.

Mat: Maybe we should run a half day Junior Schools Training Day for half the day whilst we run an SSD competition. Then we only need 1 adj person per 15-20 kids

Anneliese: I don't think that would work with teachers wanting to leave early or having to wait around for the SSD to finish. We could model it off Western Sydney where they run a bunch of consecutive days and they do both training and a competition in the afternoon for lower SES schools.

Ryan: We could just run a longer Training Day and make it run the whole day. It doesn't really matter

Alex: I think teachers would be alright with not supervising their kids and letting them make their own way to and from the event.

Anneliese: I don't think so because they have duty of care over those kids during school hours. But it doesn't matter, we can run a full day of something.

AGENDA ITEM TEN: INTERSOCIETY DEBATING ON CAMPUS (Sam)

Ryan: Sam is keen to do some debates between other societies on campus.

ACTION ITEM: Sam to talk to Lachlan about other societies who might be interested in having some debates and to propose possible dates to host them.

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN: TAB DATA

Ryan: I have continued a database which has everyone in MUDS's speaking scores for both minis and major tournaments since 2011. I've also run gender analysis in regards to those tournaments.

Noteworthy points:

- Women typically score higher than men at Easters
 - Men typically score better than women at Australs
 - MUDS women generally out-tab MUDS men at Australs
 - Women who have competed at a high standard in major tournaments do not typically attend Women's as much
- o Running Tab:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1U0rpojVfVeZilRQfGYH5kEPipdeZbJbpAq-CusPcFhfE/edit?usp=docslist_api
 - o Gender Analyses:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uCoNSO30mbU0TWN4BSPmUu9gHl4ErVL6Wf-HuOCiYAI/edit?usp=docslist_api

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE: CAMP AND ADJUDICATOR TRAINING

Ryan: My main concerns about camps are mainly do we have a need for camp and do we have money to run it?

Sarah: I think we can run camp to a profit and it is a unique thing to our Society and very fun. It's valuable, we should do it.

Alex: I don't think there is a need for camp. At that point in the year there are a bunch of different societies running BP training and we can't compete with that.

Sarah: There is a bigger pool of people (novices) this year and therefore we do have that need. We can attend both the tournaments and camp e.g. go to USU BP, then camp, then UNSW IV. Also, not all the people who want to go to competitive tournaments will want to go to camp and vice versa. There isn't a lot of interest overlap. It's just a really casual and fun thing to do.

Ryan: In the period that camp is the most effective, we also get UNSW IV and there will be a lot of content overlap between the training we run at Internals and what we run at camp.

Anneliese: Well that's easily fixed, we'll just run different content.

Ryan: There will be heaps of burn out and we have no money. Last year camp was revenue neutral but it also relied on student group funding.

Mat: Revenue neutral means that we are probably better off using that \$2000 somewhere else

- Sarah: Camp is a unique thing that we do and I am still in favour of us trying to do it.
- Ryan: I suppose in terms of logistical support, we already have training packs and materials from last time. We just need a venue and money.
- Mat: Let's release an EOI for camp. We could easily just post it to the Australian Debating Facebook page and see how people respond.
- Sarah: I don't think we should advertise camp until we've figured out that it is actually a feasible thing.

ACTION ITEM: Camp portfolio to have a meeting and look at the cost/benefit of running camp. Can we afford it? Should we be using the money elsewhere?

- Ryan: The other thing to consider is that maybe instead of camp, we put our efforts into improving our adjudicator quality. Maybe we could run an adjudicator training day conference instead. We can reduce how much we favour debating training over adjudicator training and increase our adj quality.

We could use our camp portfolio to create an adjudicator subcommittee and they could organise the conference.

Meeting concluded: 7.45pm