**MUDS Executive Meeting**

**Date: Tuesday 09/05/2017**

**Executive members present**: Anneliese Cooper (AC), Sarah McCabe (SM), Ryan Thalari (RT), Mounisha Mondeddu (MM) and Mathew Duardo (MD) (present over the phone). (Recorded in order of arrival)

**Executive members absen**t: Georgia Chahoud (GC), Samantha Marshall(SMarshall), Lachlan McGrath (LM)

**Executive members who arrive after the meeting has commenced:** Henry Forsaith-Breese (HF)

**Sarah McCabe taking minutes**

**Meeting Opens: 6:32PM**

**Key**

**Green = Agenda Item**

**Red = Motion**

**Blue = Action Item**

**Agenda Item 1: Australs Trials**

AC: What are the with trials concerns?

RT: Typically we run debate trials then adjudicator trials to account for the preference for debating over adjudicating. However, this may be problematic for this year. For example, I have been told (name retracted) anonymous X wants to go as an adjudicator first, this could raise issues. This is a consideration for future trials. For example, Western Sydney does both trials on the same day in order to account for people that would preference adjudicating over debating.

MM: This happened at Easters as well. Some people want to preference adjudicating over debating.

SM: It’s worth noting that Australs trial run differently as well. Whoever ranks first in debater trials is able to preference teammates. People are also allowed to veto etc.

MM: We could just not announce debate teams, then once all trials are done, we organise teams and adjudicator spots together.

RT: Some debaters do want to chose teams. What if their attendance is contingent on what team they get into? For example, whether or not that team is seen as “competitive”?

AC: We can’t provide for that choice unfortunately.

SM: We should acknowledge that this is also a smaller group of people. Historically it is true most people prefer debating, and it is still true this year, despite the increase.

AC: We can do this year by year, peoples choices change. We should think about this.

**HF Arrives 6:40PM**

**MD phone reception drops out 6:40**

**MD re-enters at 6:41PM**

AC: (Henry is briefed on the previous discussion) We are discussing members who would preference adjudicating.

SM: This year there is an increased demand for preferencing adjudicating over debating.

RT: Also I should point out, this is not the first time this has happened. Individuals may also care about team competitiveness, and if not competitive enough, pick debating.

SM: Casual collusion is likely to happen anyway. We have no way to enforce this: In other words, people will make educated guesses about who is likely to trial and how teams will be formed.

**MD phone reception drops out 6:43, exits meeting.**

**AC: Motion to delay the release of debater trial result for a week, until adjudicator trials have been held. Debaters will not know the outcome of trials until both trials have been completed.**

**SM Seconds the motion.**

**4 in favour (HF, MM, AC, SM)**

**RT abstains. Abstention is noted.**

**ACTION ITEM: Externals portfolio (AC, GC and MM) will adjust the form to include an option for individuals to preference adjudicating over debating.**

**Agenda Item 2: Subsidy Amount for Australs Tournament**

AC: We can make the following payments at this stage; the Curson Hall ball deposit, our first 50% Worlds deposit and our final 50% Australs payments. However we cannot afford to make the second half of the Worlds payment, the other 50%, at this stage. I am concerned that we need to clearly communicate that we need full SRC funding to make payments. We also need to clarify that we have asked for less than what we need. In other words, I think we have unclearly communicated to the SRC how much funding we need, when we definitely should be asking for full funding where possible.

Further, what do we do about subsidies? Last year the individual registration cost was $770 per person. We subsidized that cost to $430.

SM: We were only able to do subsidise to $430 because we received additional funding. Originally, the amount we charged was higher. However, we voted to lower the cost for individuals if we received funding. When we did, we passed those savings onto our members.

AC: This year the individual registration is set at $760 per person. We are sending more people this year. Provided we get out funding we can try and subsidise to $500.

SM: I think it will be cheaper overall this year for our members: Flights from Sydney to Brisbane are generally cheaper than Sydney to Perth.

RT: We should let people know who have already registered to trial the subsidy price ASAP so they can pull out and reconsider if they need to.

AC: Agreed. We can do this in the same email: We will inform people know about delaying debater trials, and the proposed subsidy cost.

MM: Most people have expressed they are happy to pay whatever, and are just happy to attend.

SM: The subsidy will necessarily be less than last year. We are sending nearly triple the amount of people from last year.

**AC: Move motion for the Australs tournament 2017 to be subsidised to the amount of $500 per person.**

**RT seconds the motion.**

**The motion passes unanimously**

**Agenda Item 3: General Updates**

AC: I had a meeting with our Client Liaison Officer (Ellen) and the head of Campus Engagement (Melroy). They flagged that they may not support endorsing the debating society attending Worlds because of the location (Mexico) because they are worried it is high-risk.

To follow-up on this initial concern, the university has indicated that we may possibly access travel insurance for individuals in our society through the university. There will be conditions attached to this. This would involve meeting with the contingent to brief us about safety. For example, travel tips, what areas are safe, how to avoid potential risks etc. We just need to contact them by September or apply and organise this option.

Final point, we also spoke about the Grapeshot article that featured Macquarie University Debating Society without our consent. There were communication issues unfortunately over email. I feel the personal meeting was more productive then the email because the problem could be more easily understood e.g. I could shown them how our society was tagged in the Grapeshot post, and linked to the MUDS Facebook page, even though this action was not in any way endorsed by MUDS as a society. Grapeshot will not change the article. But we do have a few options to consider.

1. We write a 200 word response to Grapeshot.
2. We can comment on the existing article as Macquarie University Debating Society.

RT: We ideally present this as a response from MUDS as a whole society not personally from the President, AC.

AC: I would prefer this option also, rather than me speaking individually on behalf of MUDS under my name.

**Agenda Item 4: Schools Day**

AC: We have confirmed rooms. We have limited rooms for the primary schools day in Y3A. This location is not ideal, but it’s good that we have enough rooms now. We were initially concerned that e would not have enough rooms.

SM: We can put up signage to direct people, similar to debating tournaments at school. We can also have runners to direct people.

RT: Originally we couldn’t get any lecture theatres from the university, but now we have.

**Agenda Item 5: Website**

AC: Just a quick update. Our current domain for our website has expired, which is problematic. People still try to contact us through this medium. LM has been working on this, unfortunately he is not here to update us on the progress himself.

**ACTION ITEM: LACHLAN MCGRATH (LC) to complete website.**

**Agenda Item 6: Sponsorship**

SM: I am currently writing the prospectus. I have looked at the old prospectus from several years ago. It will need updating, but there is still value in looking at the old document. We can also update the biographies of past members.

AC: There are conditions on sponsorships, as they all sponsorships have to go through the university.

MM: Macquarie protects their advertising rights, for example, who can advertise on campus.

RT: It would be worth using the MUDS ball as a networking opportunity.

MM: Can we consider other fundraising activities?

HF: For example, a BBQ.

AC: Unfortunately, it’s a lot of effort for small reward.

RT: Past executives have failed when doing this e.g. not enough manpower for a Bunnings BBQ

AC: We could consider letting people pay for workshops? Still unlikely however.

**Agenda Item 7: Campus Wellbeing Update**

RT: We have emailed via MacSync asking about when a meeting would be possible after they contacted us (in order to speak to MUDS members about how the society is run, given they have asked to meet with us).

AC: Khris has said this won’t be possible on Friday, the say we have asked for. Let’s re-poll the executive and ask when they will be available.

**Agenda Item 8: Executive Members at Internals**

AC: We need more people staying for debates to work with teams. Our novices are not able to go with pros as frequently as we would like them to. We need to build up individuals.

RT: Sarah’s speech about attending Australs at internals on Monday was good for encouraging people to attend Australs.

AC: We have in the past (previous executives) not always been consistent in informing members about the difference between novices and pros and how this changes tournament attendance. We should express the difference between novices and pros.

SM: Agreed. We need to be transparent.

**Agenda Item 9: Mac Fall Tournament**

Mac Fall: RT and MD have agreed to the following fees:

$10 adjudicator

$25 for debaters

$5 late fee for all

**ACTION ITEM: (Competitions) Mac Fall should be removed off the TBC status**

AC: We need the Facebook event as soon as possible. People are asking about the event.

RT: Food looks good so far. I have enough toasters to toast 12 waffles at once.

**Agenda Item 10: POC Debaters Facebook Group**

RT: I am a member of the People of Colour (POC) debating group. I just wanted to update the executive on the type of issues that have been discussed. For example:

* Lack of POC on adjudicator cores
* Western centric topics, often limited examples based around Western states
* Correlations of SES status and race means POCS generally have less access to coaching
* There has been a suggestion for AIDA council to work on the creation of a POC officer similar to the existing Women’s officer.
* Attendance and performance are linked, so we should also try and get people to attend Worlds. Worlds is highly competitive and would be good for development.

AC: I agree this is helpful and should be considered. POC training is important. It is also important to acknowledge that many people don't’ attend worlds more than once or twice.

RT: Interestingly I am currently one of the most experienced POC adjudicators on the curcuit. We need to train more ideally.

HF: We have Ryan, we should use this to our advantage in training other POC judges.

RT: Agreed. It’s about development, and giving people opportunities to develop.

**Agenda Item 11: Adjudicator training workshop**

RT: T1 theatre and 5 classrooms are confirmed. I’m meeting with Dan (Daniel Dummer) to discuss logistics for the day.

The goals of the day include:

1. Adjudicator briefing
2. Adjudicator logistics e.g. panel dynamics
3. How to judge challenging debates e.g. squirrelling, speakers speaking for a very short time, retention of people, bias etc.
4. Potentially a demo debate
5. Q&A session comparative to an open forum e.g. Women’s forum. Issues like scoring, adjudicator feedback

We are planning to finish around 4 or 5.

**Agenda Item 12: Can we fund more Australs adjudicator spots?**

RT: This is difficult to balance. Considering who has trialled, we might need to swap out our third team for a couple of extra adjudicator spots.

SM: I don’t think we can realistically afford extra adjudicator spots even if we are offered them.

**ACTION ITEM: Externals to ask about organisers about the possibility of:**

1. **More adjudicator spots**
2. **Collapsing our third team to trade for adjudicator spots**

**Agenda Item 13: General Business**

AC: We are insured for MUDS ball. All university approved events have insurance.

**Meeting Closes : 8:08PM**