Macquarie University Debating Society

*Executive Meeting 5 Minutes*

Monday May 27, 2013 – 4pm, Ubar

Present: Anna Kosmynina (President), Nicola Amys (Secretary), Mark Slaven (Treasurer), Steph Fehon, Nigel Khine

Absent: Nandini Bajaj, Lachlan McGrath

Agenda

1. MUDS evaluation
2. Autumn Training Day
3. Treasurer’s Report
4. Australs Subsidy
5. Womens Subsidy
6. Camp Update and Subsidy
7. Worlds Trials Date
8. Exec Talk

Next meeting

- Policy recommendations for next year

- Schools update

**MUDS Evaluation**

Anna: sent out an evaluation for MUDS generally, and about Easters. Collection of questions about internals, opinions on society, experience on Easters, improvement. Mostly really positive. A few people who felt that they didn’t learn stuff during internals, a few people felt unwelcome (same people, so maybe didn’t come often). Got 13 responses. Some said feedback after debates wasn’t useful. Most people felt included at Easters. Mentors rated as very good. People who were unhappy did not elaborate.

Nigel: where do we go from here?

Steph: majority of people had positive experience. We can do another survey later in the year with greater specificity on internals. Easy to incorporate specific feedback.

Anna: we’ve had a substantial drop in numbers. Would like to address this

Mark: don’t have anything to work towards. Only 3 Australs teams. Haven’t promoted ADAM as much

Steph: drop in numbers occurred before Australs team decision. Chose to send 3 teams because we didn’t have enough debaters registered.

Anna: if we push events harder that might lead to more people, but I don’t know if this is the only explanation. There are other things we can do

Mark: haven’t had same uptake in novices

Anna: want to turn the discussion into what we should do

Ryan: facebook events for internals like UNSW

Ryan Action Item: create fb events for internals, S2

Anna: have a think about how we can each address numbers retention from our own portfolios.

**Autumn Training Day**

Steph: we needed more notice for it on facebook. Could have advertised it heavily and boosted numbers

Ryan: do we just want to have 4 straight rounds, without grand final?

Steph: might be a good idea

Mark: I agree

Steph: would you like me to help cater, if I can make it?

Nigel: yes!

**Treasurer’s Report**

Mark: I don’t have the figures as to how much Malaysia has cost us for the remaining 11 000 ringets. Estimated $5,700 for Australs in total without people paying us back. May blow out to $6,100.

Current budget state: in the bank we have $6,500 minus australs. I have $2,800 in my current possession that needs to be banked.

Income still coming in: $420 from schools, $350 from worlds (Lachlan and Noelle), $3,300 from Australs, $800 easters.

Expenditure: Australs, paid Jenny $684 yesterday, laptop ($1250). Already paid.

Assets $11, 725 but liabilities at $7,600.

Current account balance is $4,100. This is down $7,000 where we started but have not had intermediate or junior schools day.

Don’t have that much money. This is not particularly unhealthy as it is one of the low points for the year. If we don’t have to borrow then last year’s savings were a success.

Budget

Easters 20%

Australs 30%

Womens 7%

Worlds 15%

Camp 15%

Misc 13%

If we spend as much as we spent last year:

Last year $17300 - $2600 from anon donor = $14, 700

This year as percentage of last year’s budget:

Worlds, roughly the same 17%. Easters 38%. Australs 17.5%. Misc 10%

Have about $2,800 left using last year’s calculation. Using this year’s calculation (80%) is $1000. As a percentage 21% last year and 10% this year.

This does not include laptop payment. Anything else comes out of savings which is $11,000.

Two choices: austerity or spend outside means and undo befits of last year’s austerity

My recommendations: change australs subsidy to $350. Do not subsidise womens as it is not in Sydney and will cost little for than a mini. Camp subsidy capped at $1000 and no subsidy for other institutions.

Anna: Thanks Mark! We will discuss each recommendation individually.

**Australs Subsidy**

Anna: I am under the impression that it is unconstitutional to overturn motions. Also unfair to impose extra burden after people have committed and we are relying on them not to drop out.

Mark: we decided subsidy thinking it was going to cost less. Difference in exchange rates.

Steph: we shouldn’t change it, shouldn’t have set it that high though.

Nicola: if we have advertised it and people’s attendance relies upon it, it is unfair to change it.

**Women’s Subsidy**

Steph: do not know how many people we are sending or how much it will cost

Anna: we never know how many people we are sending

Mark: people also don’t have to stay in accommodation

Nicola: we should not judge cost based on this, do not want to promote that people should not have accommodation. Not the spirit of the tournament.

*Generally agreed that we will not subsidise womens.*

**Camp**

Anna: not expecting sponsorship from the uni, only in-kind sponsorship. All details going up on social media over the next week. Cost is $155 per person (mainly for accommodation). Cannot lower it unless we get financial sponsorship. Last year we had $2800 worth of funding that we don’t have this year.

Mark: Mac students should pay 120/130 and other students 170/180. I am happy to give $500 as a safety net for subsidy costs. Have we thought about public speaking?

Ryan: We will discuss with their society

Anna: Lachlan said that we should place an emphasis on facilitating external people to come to camp to increase reach and reputation.

Steph: I think it is a good suggestion. We can focus on marketing but should not favour them funding wise.

Nicola: can facilitate external support while subsidising for Macquarie students

Mark: should charge $130/$180 per person. Can I request that I do treasury for camp?

Anna: yes

**Worlds Trials**

Anna: need to set a date

Ryan: better to have it after ANU spring as people will have more practice

Steph: priority is to train people up after they have teams.

Anna: trials before gives people 4 debates on Monday nights.

Mark: also camp and some minis.

Ryan: second lot of team allocations September 9.

Anna: we should wait until after team allocations as we might get a second team.

Mark: should do weekend before ANU spring

Ryan: UNSW IV might be then.

Nicola: UNSW IV is August 16-18

*Ryan: I propose that we have World’s trials on Sunday September 1*

*Steph: seconds*

*All in favour. Motion passes unanimously*

Ryan: I propose that we hold adj trials on Monday September 9

Nicola: this should be a tentative date, may not know how many teams and who is debating with who.

Steph: yep, we can changer later if need be

**Exec Talk**

Anna: we have let ourselves down on this term as exec. I know I have let myself down in what I expected to achieve and I know other portfolios haven’t kept up with everything. I think it might be because people are really busy, but when we put our hand up to be on the exec they had an idea of how much work was involved. Everyone needs to remind themselves that we agreed to do this though. Second reason might be because sometimes people get caught up in really day to day things and it becomes hard to start new initiatives and pick up on portfolio tasks. I am going to re-email everyone their goals as I feel we need reminding. We haven’t done terribly but we have let ourselves slip. I would like to go out better than the midyear slump has served us so far.