



Executive Meeting 10 Minutes

Thursday 11 September, 2014 – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Location: Macquarie University Library

Present: Nandini Bajaj (President), Ryan Thalari (Secretary), Jacob Rock (Treasurer),
Stephanie Fehon.

Non-Voting: Alex Feofiloff

Absent: Lachlan McGrath (Vice President), Dhanya Mani, Rochelle Amys, Himmi Cheruvu
(Non-Voting: Honorary Member).

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If I Ain't Got You: Apologies and Absences

Nandini: People should provide a definite confirmation on whether or not they're attending Executive Meetings. I'm not sure where Rochelle is. I've received apologies from Himmi, and Dhanya said she's busy.

MUDS Revue: Camp and MacFest Recap and Review

MacFest

Nandini: The location of our MacFest stall wasn't ideal, so we should take more initiative in getting a Stall which is more centrally located. Having food at the Stall can be helpful in getting people to approach the Stall, but if we don't have a strategic location then people will just take the food and leave. I'm not sure how to make our MacFest presence bigger.

Steph: I think the issue is that not many people really attend MacFest in the first place, and it's harder to market debating then because there aren't many specific events to market besides Camp and Mac Mini.

Ryan: We couldn't really market Camp because we had exceeded capacity before MacFest, and we don't usually have dates for Mac Mini by then.
I think the Welcome-Back Social was a good idea for engaging our existing members.

Nandini: I think we should aim for something cheaper with the social.



Ryan: It was only \$25 per person, so it wasn't a huge barrier for attendance considering how much was included in that price, and the Society's not really in a strong financial position to fund weekly socials.

MacFest/Camp

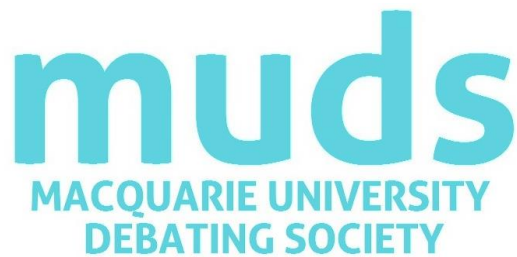
Ryan: Camp ran really well this year. We had good attendance, both internally and externally, and the schedule fit a lot into the program without overloading the delegates with information. The feedback we received was mostly positive. Things Lachlan and I agreed we need to consider for the future: We're looking into cheaper venues and having stricter payment deadlines and cancellation dates after which refunds won't be offered. We also need to consider experience level of the delegates when setting topics – last year topics were too simple, this year they weren't as accessible for as many delegates.

Steph: Maybe consider a late-payment fee as well.

Jacob: If you're going to impose a late fee, make sure you have alternate payment arrangements in case some people can't pay on time.

All the MUDS Ladies: Women's Adjudicator Spot

Ryan: We've paid in full for 2 teams and, in accordance to the N/2 adjudicator rule, 1 adjudicator spot. We've filled both teams (Macquarie A is Sarah McCabe and Himmi Cheruvu, Macquarie B is Siobhan McCarthy and Angelene Norman), but have been unable to find an adjudicator.



After talking to the head of AIDA, the representatives from the University of Sydney said that we would need to on-sell the spot as we do not meet the requirements for an N/2 exemption.

I've talked to UNSW, UOW and Griffith who all said no. I'm still waiting to hear back from ANU, UTS and Adelaide, although I've been informed by someone else from ANU that it's unlikely they'd be able to fill the spot for us. I also talked to UWS who said that even if they could find someone (which they couldn't guarantee), they would have difficulty in purchasing the spot from us, and would likely only consider it if we on-sold the spot to them at less than full price.

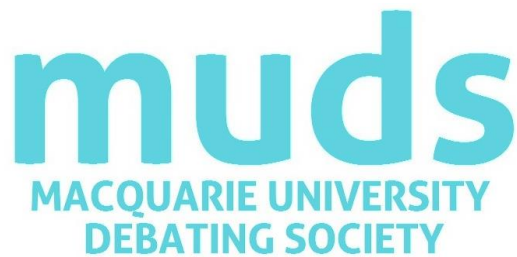
Steph: It's important to remember that we agreed to hold trials and have rankings because we need to make sure we send adjudicators. It's a bad standard to just say "we'll violate N/2, won't break any teams and only send debaters to the tournament" – we need to contribute to the ability of tournament to run with adjudicators.

When we do set policies which have a contingency of how to proceed if we can't meet our adjudicator requirements, the Executive needs to follow through with that.

If we can't find an adjudicator, we will need to break up Mac B. It's unfair to the top-ranked team if no one who committed a weekend to debating decided they can't commit to adjudicate.

Kickin' It Junior School: Junior School's Day Update

Nandini: We're having difficulties with organising this because our mid-semester break (when we normally hold this tournament) lines up with school holidays. The date



that we've set (9 December) is during school holidays, and so only a limited number of schools are available. We can't hold it earlier because of university exams.

Steph: It's better to have a School's Day with lower attendance than to not have one at all.

Nandini: Next semester we hope to split the Training Days so we have a half-day for Year 7 and 8 and a full day for Year 9 and 10, which will include a demonstration debate.

Steph: Half-days are easier because it's a lower barrier for schools to attend.

Nandini: With the demonstration debate, we can hold a debriefing session afterward.

Steph: We need to ensure there are enough experienced debaters to help so we can provide a high quality demonstration debate since the schools are paying to see it. We need to make up for the loss of revenue from the smaller Junior School's Day. The concern with holding full-day training days is that other institutions already offer this, and so if a viable product already exists, then it's unlikely that schools will commit to multiple full-day training days.

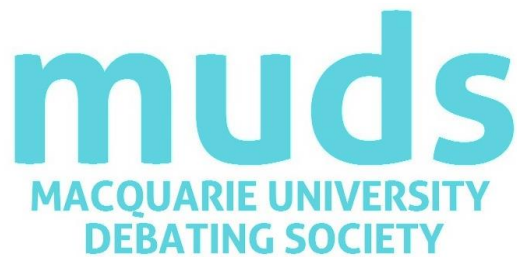
Jacob: Half-day events are also cheaper to run since we won't have to cater a full-days' worth of food.

Ryan: It would also be easier to get people to volunteer to help with half-day events since they're easier to commit to.

Steph: We can look into holding a Public Speaking School's Day as well.

Ryan: If we're running half-days, maybe we can bundle a half-day debating day and half-day public speaking day into one full-day workshop?

Steph: We should aim to diversify our events as much as possible because we need to attract more interest. Not many people may be interested in both debating and



public speaking, and so we could end up with lower attendance if we combine both training days.

iOS 8: Mac Mini Update

Nandini: We've booked rooms for Mac Mini. Only a small number of people have registered so far, but we anticipate more registrations after other institutions have held their Worlds trials.

Steph: What's the plan with food and catering?

Jacob: We're going to have a buffet-style lunch.

Nandini: We wanted to hold a BBQ, but we decided not to because University staff need to be available on the day for us to be allowed to use the BBQs and we couldn't guarantee that availability.

Steph: We could just get Subway sandwiches. It would be convenient, which is important because we need people to be free to help with running things on the day. A buffet can be relatively easy to set up – slice some vegetables using a mandolin and have large batches of pasta, which are a relatively easy way to cater for large numbers of people.

Nandini: Lachlan is looking into possible venues for socials. I think having things similar to what we've had in the past can be good – the Chelsea hotel, the Ranch, Gourmet Pizza Kitchen in Chatswood. It's hard to find many locations in Chatswood because a lot of restaurants in that area are too small for the number of people we hope will attend.



Ryan: I kept hearing a lot of negative reviews about the food we had at the Championship Dinner at last year's tournament.

Nandini: I don't think people will mind the quality of food as much if we just provide lots of wine.

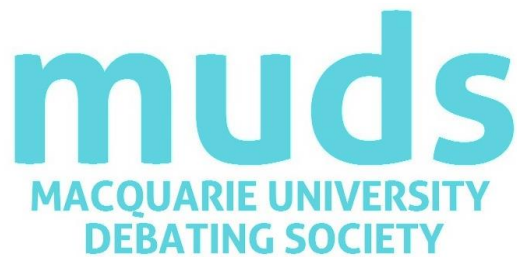
Ryan: The feedback I've received during/after most tournaments I've been to this year that have tried that approach has been overwhelmingly the same – that tournaments should spend less money on alcohol and more money on providing good quality food. There have been tournaments where there was so much alcohol available that people were given bottles of wine and cases of cider to take home, and even then people were still complaining about the quality of the food.

If we're going to go to the Chelsea hotel for one of the socials, why don't we look into having Championship Dinner there? We did that for one of the tournaments we held a couple of years ago, and the food was good.

Steph: We should make sure that wherever we hold the Championship Dinner, that there's a bar tab. GPK cost \$23 per person which included corkage, and that was the bulk of our expenditure for the tournament.

Nandini: We also need to have multiple people organising and handling food.

Steph: It would be easier to spread food responsibilities in providing food around, e.g. one person handles morning tea on Saturday and someone else handles it on Sunday. We should also put someone else in charge of logistics, i.e. organising the food, setting up everything.



Food Responsibilities for Mac Mini

Saturday	Sunday
Morning Tea: Steph	Morning Tea: TBC
Lunch: Nandini	Lunch: Jacob (Buffet/Subway)
Afternoon Tea: Nandini	Afternoon Tea: Nandini

You've Got (E)Mail: New Email Accounts

Nandini: Jacob has subscribed to a new Gmail server (@mqdebating.com). We'll pass the details to the new (2015) Executive.

Ryan: Make sure that before we transition to the new email server and respective email addresses that we update our contacts, e.g. our contact email for AIDA or for school's days.

Let's Have an Election: AGM Update

Nandini: I just want to get an idea of whether anyone plans on proposing a lot of constitutional amendments at the AGM?

Jacob: Ryan and I think we should reduce the number of days' notice we need to provide for the AGM.

Ryan: Even at least 30 days' notice sounds reasonable to me. If we provide too much notice of the AGM, it becomes a lot easier for people to forget about it until right before the AGM.

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MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
DEBATING SOCIETY

Lachlan has said that he wants to pass an amendment which mandates gender-neutral options for forms where people are required to indicate their gender.

Steph: We need to find a Returning Officer. It can't be anyone who is nor ever was a member of the Society.

ACTION ITEM: NANDINI to find a Returning Officer for the AGM.

Nandini: Do we want to hold a debate before the AGM?

General consensus not to hold a debate before the AGM.

Nandini: We need to make sure people follow standing orders during the AGM.

Recommendation for Nandini not to squirrel the AGM.

#MakeItRain: Reimbursements

Ryan: "I would like to propose the motion that the Society reimburses me \$339.90 for paying for the Australs External Selector, the tab for the social after Intermediate School's Day, and expenses from Camp."

Nandini seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Ryan: "I would like to propose the motion that the Society reimburses Lachlan \$305.77 for paying for pizza provided by the Society at the last Internals of Semester 1, the BBQ the Society held and expenses from Camp."

Stephanie seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.



ACTION ITEM: JACOB to follow up on receiving payment from Tim Jackson for Australs registration fees owed to the Society.

Nandini: Do we want to implement the MacPay system now, or wait for the new Executive to handle it?

Ryan: We should do it now. That way it's up and running for the new Executive, and it also means we can use the MacPay system in case there are any issues with mac Mini.

The MUDS Within: Internals (Recap and Review)

Nandini: Internals has been running well. We've had good attendance.

Ryan: I added this agenda item so we could discuss the Internal Competition because I've been receiving a lot of questions about it, and there are some concerns about it. There are concerns that turning Internals into a competition raises the stakes of every debate because there's more pressure to perform well. The other main issue is about teams – people often want to debate with different people each week, both for development and experience in practicing for different tournaments where people have different partners. If we are going to have an Internal Competition, I think we should at least allow individuals to be able to form their own teams every week so people have the option to change team mates if they want to.

Steph: I agree that we should just score people individually and allow more flexibility in letting people choose their own teams.

ACTION ITEM: NANDINI to provide more information about the Internal Competition, including information about team formations.



Party People: Next Social

Nandini: I think it would be nice to have a Women's-only social so our female members can bond. We probably can't have a pre-Women's social because we're not sending that many people to Women's this year, but it could be nice to have one at some point.

Ryan: I'm not sure why we need to have a Women's-only social – if a female doesn't attend a MUDS social, it's usually because they're busy, not because of the males in the Society.

I know we're having Mac Mini, but that's over a month away, so we should have a social soon to keep our members engaged – maybe a mid-semester or back-to-uni social. We should probably also look into planning the End-of-Year Social.

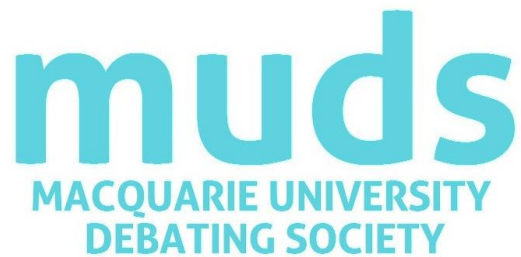
Steph: Typically the current Socials Officer(s) plan a list of possible venues and ideas, and after the AGM the new Socials Officers make the final arrangements.

ACTION ITEM: SOCIALS OFFICERS (LACHLAN AND ROCHELLE) to plan possible ideas and venues for the MUDS End-of-Year Social.

MUDS Award Season: Presentation Night

Nandini: This is typically envisioned as an end-of-year type of event. Not many parents attend though, and debating is less of a family thing and more something people share with their friends.

Ryan: We've only held this event once though, and so we shouldn't judge the future success of events based on one past experience. We've seen with events such as



Camp and MUDS tournaments that the first event is usually never the most successful event (in terms of attendance and interest). We should at least see if there is some interest or demand for this before we write it off.

Gimme More: Tentative Date for Next Executive Meeting

Nandini: We should hold our next Meeting in October – maybe just after Mac Mini?

Ryan: Mac Mini is just over a week before the AGM – people should try to keep that timeframe free for an Executive Meeting, especially so we can plan better work out things such as handovers.

ACTION ITEM: ENTIRE EXECUTIVE to begin preparing handover documents between now and the next Executive Meeting.

Meeting Concluded