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MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY  
DEBATING SOCIETY

**Executive Meeting 6 Minutes**

Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – 4:00 p.m. – 5:22 p.m., Library

**Present:** Nandini Bajaj (President), Ryan Thalari (Secretary), Anna Kosmynina (President Emeritus), Stephanie Fehon, Rochelle Amys.

**Non-Voting:** Mathew Duardo.

**Absent:** Jacob Rock (Treasurer), Lachlan McGrath (Vice-President), Nigel Khine, Dhanya Mani.

**Agenda**

<b>Where Have You Been (All My Life)? Absences and Apologies .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Weekend Update: Portfolio Updates.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MADness: Finalising details for Easters (including post-Easters social) .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MUDS Goes Global: Australs Trial Policy - Debaters and Adjudicators .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Like a first-year, on the Exec for the very first time: Constitutional Amendments .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Teach a MUDS how to BBQ...: BBQ fundraisers .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Is That All There Is? Other Business or Issues... ..</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Don't Stop 'Till You Get Enough: Tentative date for next Executive Meeting .....</b>	<b>12</b>



**muds**  
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DEBATING SOCIETY

## **Where Have You Been (All My Life)? Absences and Apologies**

Nandini: I have received 2 apologies from people unable to attend – Nigel and Dhanya.

They said they would email updates about their portfolios through, but I haven't received anything from either of them – problematic since they're our Finance Officers. Jacob and Lachlan are also not here.

In future, if you are unable to attend an Executive Meeting and can reasonably give notice about your absence, please do so.

Anna: Also, the Constitution says that if an Executive Member misses 3 meetings without sending apologies in advance, they're no longer an Executive Member (18.1 d).

## **Weekend Update: Portfolio Updates**

### **Marketing**

Steph: Not much to say on Marketing since that's mostly O-Week. T-shirts for Easters have been ordered. Rochelle can speak to that because she has created a mock-up for the design and placed the orders.

Rochelle: I contacted the person who made the MULS t-shirts. They will be grey, since navy t-shirts and black t-shirts would have been too expensive. We've already paid the deposit, and they'll hopefully be ready by Wednesday. We'll need someone to pick them up and bring them to Melbourne for Easters.

Steph: Some Exec members volunteered to bring the t-shirts in. Everyone will wear the t-shirts on the first day of debates.



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### Internals

Steph: The Training Days went well, and Internals have been running well.

Nandini: Yes, they've been running well, and we've had people going to Easters attend.

Ryan: We've had good attendance. On Monday we had 4 full Easters teams turn up.

### Matter File/Publications

Nandini: At the last Meeting, I said that anyone who doesn't send an article for the Matter File won't receive a copy of the whole Matter File. Not too late to submit though.

Steph: I haven't sent anything this time, but I have things which I can send to all teams.

Rochelle: Last year Dan created an Economics sheet since that was a weak area for MUDS teams at Easters. Do we have anything like that?

Nandini: Jacob has written about 5,000 words on Economics.

Anna: Nothing to report on POI. It will be sent out at the start of next semester.

### President

Nandini: No major issues. Please give notice if you can't attend Executive Meetings and ask for help if you're having trouble with your portfolios.

### Secretary

Ryan: I will send out notice of Australs Trials and the EGM after we approve a Trial Policy and decide which constitutional amendments will be voted on.



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## Camp

Ryan: Not much to report. We'll hopefully go public with the event at Easters (launching the Facebook page and giving a presentation at Easters).

## Socials

Rochelle: We're having a pre-Easters Social at Pancakes on the Rocks, although I'm not sure if they take reservations. We can probably move somewhere else if there are too many people. I think it's important to have some kind of MUDS-bonding before Easters. Are we having a MUDS dinner at Easters on first night?

Nandini: We can speak to that in the Easters Agenda Item (p. 5).

## Schools

Anna: We'll hold Intermediate School's Day maybe around July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Externals

Ryan: Applications for Worlds spots opens on April 16 – we should decide how many teams and adjudicators we should apply for.

**Ryan: "I would like to propose the motion that we apply for 3 teams and 2 adjudicators for Worlds."**

**Anna seconds.**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

Anna: Any update on the number of Australs teams we have?



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DEBATING SOCIETY

Ryan: No, still just 2 teams and 1 adjudicator. Will hopefully get more.

## Competitions

Anna: Jacob and I have agreed to host a one-day tournament. We have two possible dates in mind, both of which depend on whether other debating societies are running any events on those dates: Sunday May 25, or Sunday June 1.

**ACTION ITEM: ANNA AND JACOB to formalise the event (MUDS one-day tournament) and finalise the date.**

## Equity

Ryan: Dhanya and I will prepare an Equity Briefing and present that to the MUDS contingent at the beginning of Easters.

**ACTION ITEM: RYAN AND DHANYA to prepare a contingent Equity Briefing for Easters.**

Anna: Could we request that people not to drink during equity briefing? It will help create the sense that Equity should be taken seriously.

**Recommendation for the Equity Officers, the Executive Members and Easters Mentors to encourage people not to drink during the Equity Briefing at Easters.**

## **MADness: Finalising details for Easters (including post-Easters social)**

Nandini: T-shirts have been ordered and a pre-Easters Social has been organised, which is good. What about a post-Easters Social?



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DEBATING SOCIETY

Ryan: Could we hold it at the end of the one-day tournament we hold?

Nandini: We don't want to hold it too late otherwise we'll lose the momentum of Easters.

Steph: What about the Saturday after Easters?

Nandini: That's the same weekend as Sydney Open.

Anna: It's ultimately up to the discretion of the Socials Officers.

**ACTION ITEM: LACHLAN AND ROCHELLE to organise a Post-Easters Social.**

Nandini: Is there anything else we want to discuss about Easters?

Rochelle: Are we having a contingent dinner on the first night?

Steph: We can find somewhere cheap to have dinner together before the social.

Rochelle: Maybe have the Equity Briefing, then some sort of game to get to know each other (maybe Cards Against Humanity?), followed by a contingent dinner and the social?

Nandini: That's up to the Socials Officers to determine.

Ryan: They should also consult with the Equity Officers to help get an idea of timing.

Rochelle: Do we know whether there are specific themes for the socials?

Steph: The theme for the social after the first day of debates is "hipster".

Nandini: People will be wearing their MUDS t-shirts on first-day.

Steph: We can tell people to bring something with them on the first day of debates to change into for the social.

### **MUDS Goes Global: Australs Trial Policy - Debaters and Adjudicators**

Anna: I've made some changes to the Policy, but they're mostly semantic. I know Dhanya had some ideas about changing the trial policy for Worlds trials.



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DEBATING SOCIETY

Nandini: Isn't the policy just for Australs trials?

Steph: We can just pass a policy for Australs trials now, and let Dhanya speak to her ideas about the Worlds trials policy at a later date when we're discussing Worlds trials.

Anna: What are people's thoughts on the Australs Trial Policy? We should discuss whether we want to allow people to do two debates, and how to contact triallers with the trial results.

Steph: I think we should allow people the opportunity to opt-in to doing two debates. If a trialler does two debates and there's a big discrepancy in their performance between their two debates, we can trust the discretion of the external Selector who is usually highly experienced to be able to make a fair judgement about how that trialler should rank.

In terms of how triallers should be contacted with the results, that's a bit more difficult to determine since sometimes people may be busy after trials (e.g. long shifts at work) and so may not be able to check their phones regularly. We could try sending Facebook messages to triallers, and use the "seen" function in the messages to determine if a trialler has seen the message or not.

Ryan: I agree that we should allow people to choose to do two debates if they wish – a single trial debate isn't always a completely accurate portrayal of someone's ability, and so the more debates we can have (within reason), the more likely we are to get an indication of that person's average performance.

With contacting triallers with the results, I'd be happy with using a "barrage" of communication methods – a text message, an email and a Facebook message.





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DEBATING SOCIETY

Anna: How do we determine the timeframe triallers have to respond? Within two hours of the message being sent, or within two hours of receiving the message?

Steph: Within two hours of acknowledging receipt of the message, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Anna: What if they acknowledge receipt of the message, but don't respond to it? The current policy isn't explicit about what happens in that case.

Ryan: We should specify that we would move on to the next-highest ranked person.

Steph: If we move on to next person and get them to form a team because the first person didn't respond, but find out later that the first person didn't respond due to extenuating circumstances, then the wording of this version of the policy implies that the team created by the next person would be considered void and we would start the team formation process again with the first person.

**Anna: "I would like to propose the motion that we approve this updated version of the Australs Trial Policy for this year (2014)."**

**Nandini seconds.**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

## **Like a first-year, on the Exec for the very first time: Constitutional**

### **Amendments**

Nandini: I'm in favour of co-opting a first-year member onto the Executive, as co-option is an easier option than holding an EGM. I like the idea of having a first-year representative because it will help with numbers on the Executive which will help





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DEBATING SOCIETY

with efficiency. Having it as a first-year position will be a good way to keep first-year members engaged, as the position will be something to work toward.

Anna: The Constitution allows for an election to be held at an EGM if there's a vacancy on the Executive – you don't need to propose a constitutional amendment to elect a first-year member to the Executive just to fill a vacancy.

Ryan: If the reason for holding an EGM and electing another Executive Member is just to fill a spot on the Executive, then I don't think we should restrict eligibility to run for the position just to first-year members, since there's the possibility that there may be an experienced member who's not already on the Executive that could have a greater capacity to assist the Society than a first-year.

Rochelle: I don't think we need to designate someone as a first-year representative for all first-year members to talk to if they have any ideas or problems since that should be a role that all Executive Members have.

Nandini: Co-option helps get around that issue and still helps to engage first-years.

Ryan: Giving voting rights to co-opted members has the potential for abuse. The effort of holding an EGM is worth it to safeguard against that potential for abuse.

Steph: Does that mean we shouldn't give co-opted members voting rights?

Ryan: I think that if we co-opt anyone onto the Executive, that we should do so as specified currently under the Constitution (Section 19) – co-opted members would not have voting rights at Executive Meetings.

Anna: I agree. If being able to vote at Executive Meetings is their only incentive to try and be active within the Society, then they probably won't be the best candidate.



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DEBATING SOCIETY

Nandini: OK, so should we then co-opt a first-year Society member onto the Executive, but hold an election open to all current financial members in order to determine who will be co-opted? That way it won't just be a matter of the Executive just choosing their favourite first-year Society member to co-opt.

Anna: I like the idea of giving the Society a voice in deciding.

**Stephanie: "I would like to propose the motion that we do not hold the EGM that was planned to be held on Monday May 5<sup>th</sup>."**

**Nandini seconds.**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

Anna: We should still give notice about the date the election will be held.

Mathew: I agree with the idea of meritocracy, that there may be a second-year member who could be more capable than a first-year member.

Anna: Do we want to restrict eligibility to run for a co-opted Executive position to first-year Society members?

Nandini: First-year members are generally harder to get to engage with the Society than more experienced members – this would help with that.

Rochelle: People with experience in the Society would do a better job.

Anna: You (Nandini, as President) can do what I did last year and have the position open to all current financial members, but strongly encourage first-year Society members to run for the position as well.

Steph: I agree that we should encourage first-year Society members to run for the position, but not restrict eligibility to run for the position to first-year members.



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DEBATING SOCIETY

***Motion to co-opt a current financial Society member to the Executive based on the outcome of an election to be held on Monday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6 p.m. at Macquarie University, North Ryde approved by acclamation.***

### **Teach a MUDS how to BBQ...: BBQ fundraisers**

Rochelle: I talked to Officeworks about holding a BBQ fundraiser at one of their facilities, but they said we need Liability Insurance and a full safety-check.

Nandini: We can talk to Student Groups about that. They shouldn't be too hard to write up. Nigel and Dhanya (the Finance Officers) aren't here and haven't emailed through their portfolio updates, so we can't really speak much to this agenda item.

Rochelle: Once we have the Liability Insurance and the full safety check, we can hold a BBQ fundraiser. They said they have plenty of dates they can book us in for.

**ACTION ITEM: AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES (NANDINI, RYAN AND JACOB) to talk to Student Groups about Liability Insurance, Full Safety-Checks and Insurance Waivers.**

Nandini: I would like for us to be able to hold a BBQ soon to help raise funds for MUDS.

### **Is That All There Is? Other Business or Issues**

Nandini: Does anyone have anything else they want to discuss before we wrap up?

Ryan: Will we be holding Internals during Week 13? That Monday's a Public Holiday.

Nandini: Probably not, since people will probably be busy or have plans. We could hold a social then?! Maybe as a send-off for our Australs contingent?



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Rochelle: Which date is that?

Nandini: Monday June 9.

**ACTION ITEM: LACHLAN AND ROCHELLE to plan a Social for Monday June 9.**

### **Don't Stop 'Till You Get Enough: Tentative date for next Executive**

#### **Meeting**

Nandini: Our next Executive Meeting should be after Easters, probably during the period between May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>.

***Date for next Executive Meeting to be determined by Doodle Poll, between May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>.***

*\*Rochelle takes selfie with everyone at the Meeting.\**

**Meeting Concluded**