Macquarie University Debating Society

*Executive Meeting Minutes*

Monday August 5, 9am- The Green Room, Macquarie University

**Agenda:**

1. Money and finance
2. World’s subsidy
3. World’s subsidy policy
4. Schools update
5. Camp update
6. Women’s trial policy and dates
7. AGM
8. Mac Mini
9. Training Day
10. Policy recommendations for next year’s exec
11. Handover documents
12. Sponsorship
13. Miscellaneous
14. Money and Finance

Mark: if we keep same worlds subsidies as last year and none for camp or women’s, we would break even as long as we kept to 80%. We have hit 65% revenue of last year’s schools day so are $1500 less and overall $3,000 less than last year. This is not good. We should try and stay on top of individual who is buying food to try and save costs for things like schools day. We had 1/3 less attendance and 1/3 more food than last year. When we are not doing well financially we need to be really frugal with our spending. If we have a subsidy, we may hit deficit.

Ryan: in regards to Mark’s laptop. I was in no position to repay the cost of the laptop but I am now able to do that.

Steph: That is a really generous offer and it would be appropriate. That is a large incidental cost we incurred this year so is very helpful.

Anna: this is a messy issue

Mark: I think that it would be nice if Ryan can pay a bit of it back but not all of it. It was by no means entirely his fault.

Steph: I really do appreciate Ryan’s offer. I don’t like the idea of setting a precedent where people are not liable for their actions and expect society to pay.

Anna: I’m not sure that culpability depends on your financial status. I am in favour of partial payment.

Thing to take away is that we don’t have very much money.

Mark: Any money we spend now is being taken away from future executives.

Anna: do we want to set a world’s subsidy?

1. World’s Subsidy

Mark: rego cost look around $500, including bank transfers

Anna: I am tempted to be more conservative in our estimates but do not want to pay a deposit and not use it. It seems as though we have enough people to fill the five spots. We should take the three adj spots

Mark, I propose that we take the three adj spots and pay them all out in full

Steph seconds

All in favour, motion passes unanimously.

Nicola: how much did we subsidise worlds last year?

Steph: Even $100 pp is taking money away from next year’s exec. Then someone have to pay out of their own bank account

Nicola: we also have to balance this with giving people the opportunity to go this year, it is not necessarily fair for them to miss out on a subsidy.

Anna: worlds is a hard tournament to get to financially, but we should prioritise more novice-y/development tournaments to benefit the most for individuals and the society. Therefore we should have small or no subsidy for worlds.

Mark: I think that subsidies make a difference for worlds. Different incentive structures for going to worlds and easters. Worlds is a much bigger cost for individuals.

Anna: they achieve very different things.

Mark: you want to best people to go to worlds and therefore lowest barrier of entry

Anna: people get more out of going to easters than they do going to worlds

Steph: one of the problems is the financial barrier to make it to worlds. Australs or womens should not be as much of a priority- bigger cost as we send more people. Success at worlds very meaningful to society but is bigger cost than any other tournament. The difference of a few hundred dollars can make a huge difference. The only reason to sacrifice would be for the interest of society. We should usually subsidise, but not this time now.

Ryan: the subsidies were higher this year because of location. Next year tournaments will be closer so subsidies may not need to be as high

Nicola: principally unfair and inconsistent to change this year. Agree that financial barrier is huge and prevents best members from going

`Mark: last year the rego cost was $500 and subsidy was half. The cost of those subsidies was $2,000. If we increase easters by $50, registration cost becomes $120.

Nandini: women’s is only $250, no need to subsidise. We should incentivise as many people to go to worlds as possible.

Lachlan: subsidising easters is not as important as worlds because the cost is not a huge burden. Paying the extra $50 would not disincentivise going to easters because it is a small amount. Place recommendation of no subsidy for easters.

Anna: past subsidy amounts and proportions only relevant if we agree that reasoning is the same. Worlds is a much less attainable tournament financially but did want to prioritise easters because the benefit that the society gets from subsidising worlds is quite small. Society money should be distributed as widely as possible.

Mark: technically we are not taking money away from the next exec because they have the ability to override this subsidy decision. Easters is the most likely time that you are going to give money to people who do nothing else for the society. Unlikely to be hooked on debating based on $50 subsidy.

Nigel: I agree with Anna. We have no rights to a subsidy and don’t necessarily deserve it. We need new people to continue the society.

Steph: encouraging new people to sign up is important but so is doing well. Macquarie has ability to break teams, we should prioritise sending best teams. Not selfish to break because it is beneficial for all. Griffith is an example of where success at one tournament has had a huge positive impact. Should always subsidise easters.

Ryan: the more likely we are to break, the more likely we are to get teams in the future. People deserve the subsidy because people work for them as per subsidy

Mark: if people pay $400, will cost society $250. If pay $300, will cost society $750. If people pay $225, costs society $1,125.

Steph: we should not subsidise more than 50%

Nandini: what about individuals paying $250 for a registration fee.

Mark: if we subsidise $1000 overall, that is half of last year and less than the women’s subsidy for 2012.

*I would like to propose that we subsidise worlds so that registration costs $250 per person, is dependent on satisfying the subsidy criteria and approval of next exec*

*Ryan seconds*

*All in favour, motion passes unanimously.*

1. Worlds Subsidy Policy

Nandini: schools days should be more of a priority in terms of people fulfilling it. Fair to put more of an expectation on people to help out at schools.

Steph: subsidy not most effective way to incentivise people to help out at school’s day, already in there anyway.

1. Schools update

Anna: this school’s day was importat because it highlighted some testing areas in the society. We had 60 teams register, 10 pulled out within 24 hours of the day. The number of adjudicators only JUST allowed us to scrape through. We heavily relied on other adjudicators from other societies. Unfair to put ourselves in this position. We had Adela running the tab, only experiences people running presentations were Dana and Maddie who won’t be here next time. My reccomendations:

1. Be more realistic in numbers of adjudicators we can expect. Turn away teams where it comes to the point where we won’t have enough adjudicators
2. Training for covening and other tasks such as tabbing and presenting. Planning how we can introduce members to those key roles.

Would like to sincerely thank Nandini for her awesome work.

Steph: if schools days don’t run effectively it is a problem with the processes involved and inadequate training, not the person convening. Convenors need to pass on knowledge

Mark: I put a lot of work and effort into schools days for two years. We will never have enough adjs. We just need to bring in people and come to a reasonable decision based on past experience. I accept a bit of responsibility that I haven’t yet completed the handover document. A lot of institutional memory has been lost. Have not handed over tabbing which we should have given to a Macquarie student. I am happy to teach people how to tab or integrate this into an internal competition where I can teach people over time. In contract we did add in that we can still charge schools full amount if they cancelled within 24 hours.

Nandini: thank you for everyone who helped out. I accept full responsibility for any mess ups, it was my fault. I want an overhaul for schools. It is not feasible to do things the same way. I did not give clear enough instructions to food officer.

Action item: Nandini to discuss schools with Anna and Mark

Anna: I am not entirely sure that it is fair or reflects well on the society if we continually put ourselves in situations where we heavily depend on others.

1. Camp Update

Ryan: 32 people registered, 15 external, 17 Macquarie. 1 for public speaking. Less than 3 or 4 people means stream will not be offered.

Lachlan: need to publicise more

Anna: in terms of mentor registration, the form is in the general registration. I emailed past delegates about mentoring but will remind past mentors as well. Sarah has offered to come along and adjudicate. Currently focusing on getting spots filled up and getting people to pay.

Lachlan: how many people do we need to pay before we break even?

Anna: we booked 40, we need 36 to break even.

Steph: would be better to keep mentor and attendee form separate. I was unaware of how to register as a mentor

1. Women’s Trial Policy and Dates

Mark: do not want an external selector for women’s- can’t afford and do not have enough time. Can incorporate it into worlds trials. I dislike this as it acts as a disincentive for triallers as it may be intimidating. Other option is to have trials on a Monday night and have male selectors. We could set the date for the Monday after camp, 4pm and 6pm. Third debate if need be.

Steph: Ryan, it is in your purview to find selectors.

*Mark: I propose that trials will be held on Monday August 26 at the discretion of Ryan.*

*Anna seconds*

*All in favour, motion passes unanimously.*

Anna: even though we can send as many teams as we like, we can’t send odd numbers of debaters.

Mark: same policy as last year with pre-arranged teams. Have two hours to find a teammate from the pool of debaters. Rankings will be published.

*Anna: I propose that we accept that policy*

*Nandini seconds*

*All in favour, motion passes*

1. AGM

Anna: Has to be in October on a weekday, traditionally on a Monday. Need to give lots of notice.

Mark: first day we can run it is October 7.

Jacob: that is a public holiday

Mark: October 14?

*Anna I propose that we hold the AGM on Monday October 14 at 6pm in a level 3 room*

*Nicola seconds*

*All in favour, motion passes*

Action item: Nicola to find registrations officer

1. Mac Mini

Nigel: want to hold it end of week 10, weekend of October 19 and 20. I want to make this as profitable as possible. Also want to hold training day before that and get GLP onto it so people can earn points.

Action item: Nigel and Steph to discuss about training

Nigel: Anna is CA. 5 prelim rounds and final over two days. Potential to break for semis

Mark: I think we should try and get Bisset or Elle to CA to encourage other institutions to attend. Anna can be DCA.

Anna: get the event up and running ASAP, next two weeks

Action item: Nigel to set up event page

1. Training Day

Steph: can organise an IR training day sometime in October, maybe the public holiday. Content will be markedly different to camp.

Action item: Steph talk to Anna/Ryan/Lachlan about training and camp plans. Nigel as well.

1. Policy recommendations for next year’s exec

Mark: I typed up a document with recommendations. Have a read.

Anna: if anyone has changes they should be made before the AGM

Action item: Mark to put up on googledocs and share with everyone

Mark: I also plan on creating a MUDS dropbox

1. Handover documents

Anna: collection of things we have learnt from our portfolio, include procedural things, mistakes you’ve made, things you have learnt, etc. Important to produce a physical document where people can amend and add to. Good tool for considering how you would train people face to face. It would be great if everyone could do it.

Action item: everyone to write handover document for early October. Submit by midnight September 30.

Mark: exec should approve everyone’s handover documents before the AGM

1. Sponsorship

Anna: problem has been in effort required to construct prospectus and cold-call companies

Mark and nigel decided that 2012 year was not worth pursuing.

Mark: prospectus should be sent out before AGM and then new officer calls.

Nicola: we need to think out a sponsorship arrangement with Speak Out Education

Action item: Steph, Nigel and Lachlan to cold call once prospectus is updated.

Action item: Anna and Nicola to talk about speak out sponsorship

Anna has a list of contacts

1. Miscellaneous

* Demo Debate during a lecture- People are generally keen
* All communication should be done via email and not facebook