Macquarie University Debating Society

*Executive Meeting 1 Minutes*

30 October 2012, 7.45pm – The Ranch

Present: Anna Kosmynina (president), Nicola Amys (secretary), Mark Slaven (treasurer), Nandini Bajaj, Stephanie Fehon, Ryan Thalari, Lachlan Umbers, Nigel Khine, Tim Osborn

Non-Voting: Luke Verduci

Agenda

1. Approving and finalising the prospectus
2. Schools
   1. Appointing a senior schools' day convener, setting a date
   2. Public speaking day
3. Externals
   1. Worlds
      1. Finalising worlds subsidies
      2. The adj spot
   2. Next year
      1. Appointing a registrations officer
      2. Setting Easters selections procedures
4. End of year
   1. BBQ
   2. Social
   3. Presentation Night
5. Reimbursements
6. Letter of advice *(if provided)*
7. Discussion on SAF
8. Competitions and GLP *(Nigel)*
9. Training-training day *(Lachlan)*

**Approving Prospectus**

*Mark: I propose that we send out the prospectus*

*Luke seconds*

*Passed unanimously*

**Schools**

Anna: any constraints on when we hold it?

Mark: close to semester as possible but orientation will restrict room availability. Tuesday would be good. Hold training day on the Monday.

Lachlan: Have it as early as you can

Mark: possibly the week before. Recommend extending it to every year group.

Anna: are we happy to have senior schools day and training day two weeks prior to uni goes back?

*Anna: I propose that we have senior schools day and a training day two weeks prior o when uni goes back.*

*Mark seconds*

*Passes unanimously*

Luke: how are we going with electronic mail out

Mark: we will do it later

Anna: do we want to co-convene?

Mark: I disagree; one person usually ends up doing all the work

Steph: how about we have one CA and one convenor?

Mark: for training day, just need one person to organise and deal with rego

Anna: I am away until mid Feb

Nandini: I’ll do it

Mark: person who convenes doesn’t have to speak

Anna: don’t worry if you don’t have experience in your portfolio- we will all help each other out!

Public speaking day

Anna: Shall we have public speaking day in the Easter break?

Mark: I wanted to hold it at beginning of the year

Lachlan: public speaking kicks off term 2 and 3

Anna: schools won’t send kids to three days

Mark: I envisage we will get different crowds

**Externals**

Worlds

Mark: most people have gotten back to me whether they are qualified for subsidies. Noel has not met all subsidy criteria. We should waive policy for her

Luke: we should reintegrate policy and pass exception for Noel

Anna: policy is not binding. Need to go one way or the other

*Mark: I propose that everyone going to worlds gets full subsidy*

*Nandini seconds*

*6 votes (majority in pool)*

*3 abstentions due to conflict*

The adj spot

Mark: Corinne has given up adj spot. Gave people to 6pm today to have it- no one has come forward. We can contact Berlin and give it back- not keen on this as we lose n-1, can give to Jacqui from ANU, or Dan has friend in Indonesia who did not get places at Worlds who would like spot

Anna: in any scenario we don’t meet n-1. Need to consider if we can sell it on.

Lachlan: was discussed at a council in the past, there is an answer out there

Steph: lean towards Jacqui, good for domestic interests and foster friendly relations

Lachlan: favour disadvantaged in principle

Ryan: what is ANU’s position?

Mark: one team, one adj

Anna: not a matter of who is most deserving, but which offer was made first

Mark: need to talk to Berlin

Lachlan: agree ANU got unfair deal, but other uni got nothing

Nicola: better to help out friend in need than someone we don’t know

Steph: have duty to other Australian interests

Anna: in our interests to do so. Berlin is probably in best position to decide though

Mark: I am keen for onselling as I am convinced we will forfeit 400 euros if we give spot back. Should wait and see what they say and come back to it

Lachlan: key to find out whether onselling will create n-1 problems.

Mark: unconstitutional to send non Mac student to Worlds. Conflicts at another point though so we can decide which aspect of the constitution to follow

Registrations officer

Mark: Ryan should be registration officer

Anna: only duty to find external trials selectors

Mark: different interpretation- externals officer assumed to be registration officer. Rego officer must be appointed by exec.

Ryan: I am willing

Mark: I will run Worlds for rest of this year

*Mark: I propose that Ryan will be registration officer*

*Lachlan seconds*

*Passed unanimously*

Easters Selection procedures

Lachlan: need to propose now, would usually have spoken to externals officer before though

Want to re-do system from last year. Only change is to run trials as they actually ran

Anna: what is the difference?

Lachlan: were going to have external person on selection panel, but Dom and I did it. This is better- more useful information, more time to discuss. Requirements for experienced people to be eligible for selection include contributing to matter file and attending training day.

Mark: not going to support trials on a Monday. Need to commit to matter file before you trial

Lachlan: i am familiar with putting together matter files. Don’t believe that all people will do it. Its value is not for prep but for promoting cultural change of mentoring and info sharing. Useful to force mentors to actively consider all topic areas.

Ryan: if mentors can’t commit to writing short article, can we trust them to lead novices?

Lachlan: sympathetic to the concern but tried enforcing it before

Steph: not a massive burden considering we all do things relevant to one topic

Lachlan: having tried these things in the past I am sceptical that people will participate

Anna: have submission of matter file due with registration

Lachlan: see document for questions. Need to choose two internal selectors, open applications up for that, vote by anonymous ballot.

Anna: will we publish applications the mentors submitted?

Lachlan: always room for controversy as people internal to society will be making judgements. May be good idea to publish applications

Steph: necessary to have them available in event that someone complains

Lachlan: huge disparity between applications

Anna: Steph’s idea is a good one

*Lachlan: I propose that we accept easters trials document*

*Ryan seconds*

*Passes unanimously*

*Lachlan: I propose that easters subsidy for experienced person is contingent upon writing a document for the matter file that will be decided by easters selectors*

*Luke seconds*

*7 in favour*

*Ryan opposes*

**End of Year**

BBQ

Mark: booked BBQ for next Monday between 4.30pm and 6pm

I will buy sausages and BBQ food, would like to be reimbursed

*Mark: I propose that I am reimbursed for the food I buy up to $100*

*Nicola seconds*

*Passes unanimously*

Social

Nicola: I will be organising a Christmas party

Nigel: we could have a house party

Anna: it would be a bit cliquey

Luke: a sit down dinner would be good

Nicola: I am thinking of having it at La Cita where we can have a bar tab and get all you can eat sit down dinner for $30 per person

Mark: a bar tab of $25 per person would be about $750 for 30 people

Nicola: The date I am looking at is Nov 29. People will pay ticket prices and society subsidises bar tab.

*Mark: I propose that we subsidise the annual dinner at $25 per person*

*Nandini seconds*

*Passes unanimously*

Presentation Night

Lachlan: Presentation night is a good idea where we can have a public debate for parents and go out to dinner afterwards. Give out serious awards.

Mark: broadly support it, but not practical

Lachlan: make it a world’s send off with 3 worlds teams and two other speakers or could be pro-am.

Anna: need to set date, decide format of debate and pick organiser

Lachlan: Monday night most sensible. 3 December?

Mark: I nominate Lachlan to organise it

Lachlan: don’t want to choose novices though

*Anna: I propose we hold presentation night on Monday 3 December*

*Lachlan seconds*

*Passes unanimously*

*Anna: I propose that Lachlan organises*

*Mark seconds*

*Passes unanimously*

Lachlan: do we approve of giving awards, such as most improved novice, best novice, most improved experienced person, most improved adj, and thank Dom?

All agree.

Mark: we should provide nominations to Lachlan

Nicola: it’s not that contentious

Anna: people can submit nomination to Lachlan and Dan and leave it up to their discretion

*Anna: I propose that nominations for awards are sent to Dan and Lachlan with statement of awesomeness and they will have discretion*

*Ryan seconds*

*Passes unanimously*

Anna: how should teams be formed?

Lachlan: Dan should be in it – his idea, also his last opportunity to debate in the society. I think the best idea is pro-am (with first years). This allows novices to feel special. It might be lower quality though. Who should choose the first years?

Mark: Lachlan and I could choose, circulate list?

Steph: I trust you guys.

Lachlan: ideally communal but won’t have meeting before then.

Mark: contact me if interested.

Lachlan: topic?

Anna: make it watchable, accessible to the public.

Nigel: can i help organise?

Lachlan: yep. I can chair the judging panel

Mark: we’re judging the debate?

Anna: we need an MC but not a judge.

Mark: social policy is a good general area.

Anna: send it around to those who aren’t debating

Mark: We should have a dressy/business dress code

**Reimbursements**

*Anna to talk to Mark re receipts*

**Letter advice**

Anna: We’ve yet to receive one – postpone discussion.

**SAF:**

Mark: People have to pay an SAF and the uni needs to have advice from students to redistribute. The uni have set up a steering committee to determine the actual committee. There were reps from 10 big societies on campus. The uni’s been slow at adoping the model we provided them with. They’re keeping the steering committee on until next March to keep with their obligations. We’ve got an SAF board next year. There are 8 spots for societies, we will hopefully get a spot in Feb / March. Nominations open in early semester next year. I’ll know more after the meeting in December. I am the ‘rep’ for the debating society but I am not a debating society rep – I rep the uni.

Ryan: do we need someone to officially ‘be’ MUDS?

Mark: the 8 spots are reserved for major student organisations – 200+ members. There are 21 now. We got one but there’s only likely to be 8 next year. We’ll need to vote for someone next year. We want to be on it to have a voice in how the SAF will be spent. We should try.

**Competitions and GLP**

Nigel: want to improve membership. Been in contact with GLP to make more official relations with MUDS and GLP. Have similar purposes and goals, should take advantage of this. Can plan competitions and debates to fit criteria for experiential credit. Happy to start meetings and be put in points prospectus. Can tap into huge market of people, good for marketing. Can sponsor co-planned events if we become affiliated with them.

Lachlan: their newsletter is really powerful for marketing

Anna: where have you gotten so far?

Nigel: early days, need to email back in January. If we can have more debating ppl on GLP we can have louder voice for subsidising tournaments

**Training-Training Day**

Lachlan: makes sense to have measure over control of what presenters will say at internals. Presenting is complicated in catering for different markets. Good way to get coaching jobs to say you have been trained. More serious you make presentations, the better they will be. Can be held in December or Feb. Holing in December means people trained before ISDA season

Mark: do not want to hammer people with debating commitments in February

Lachlan: can make it as informal as we can. Dan, Steph and I will run it. Are there particular things that people would like us to cover? Do we want to invite people from other societies?

Steph: UWS , UTS and Wollongong would benefit. UNSW and USU should also be invited.

Anna: we should email Lachlan suggestions

Nicola: We could set the date as Monday 10 December?

Lachlan: Can hand out certificate at end of the day

**Other Business**

Public Speaking

Tim: how are we integrating public speaking society into public speaking day?

Steph: not sure how we will divide up responsibility, financial benefits good for society

Tim: happy for financial benefit to go to MUDS, will be good to have mentoring opportunities.

Mark: cant have it in April holidays- they sync up with uni

Anna: beginning of the year has most flexibility for the days

Steph: school attendance is the issue; they don’t want to pull kids out of school too often

Mark: beginning better as will be less of crossover with senior schools day- public speakers and debaters separate.

Anna: need to appoint someone

Mark: I will run it

*Anna: I propose that Mark will run Public Speaking day in February at his discretion*

*Ryan seconds*

*Passes unanimously*

Mark: am happy to involve people from public speaking society

Tim: we are a new society so being involved is good

Anna: Dom said he is happy to adj worlds debating day. Nigel, can you please get availabilities of all involved?

Anna: set up emails. If you had email last year, please unlink it. Any portfolio updates?

Mark: I wrote a new POI consisting of articles I like. Would like to finish it and send it out in newsletter this week. Not a brand new POI but a good test one.

ACTION ITEMS

* Mark: to contact Berlin re: world’s adj spot. Decide what we will do with it via email chain.
* Nicola: organise social, contact La Cita. Find out if BYO
* Lachlan: to organise presentation day
* Lachlan, Steph, Dan: to organise training training day
* Nigel to get availabilities of worlds members + Dom to have debating day, then open day up to other debaters. By end of week.
* Mark: organise public speaking day
* Everyone to contact portfolio member from last year for handover docs
* Everyone set up emails if you haven’t and unlink old emails
* Nicola: send out everyone’s numbers in an email
* Anna: talk to mark re receipts