

MCFA Feb 2015 meeting

Saturday, February 21, 2015
12:10 PM

These minutes will be emailed to you TODAY

Schools Present:

- St. Olaf
- Bethany Lutheran
- CSB / SJU
- SWMnSU
- Concordia
- Carleton
- Univ. of MN
- Bethel
- Gustavus Adolphus
- South Central College
- MSU - Mankato
- St. Cloud

Persons Present: Raffi Triggiano (St. Olaf), Jon Loging (BLU), Christi Siber (CSB/SJU), Mark Fokken (SWMNSU), Adam Knowlton (Concordia), Joe Kennedy (Concordia), Brian Klosa* (SCC), Tanner Sunderman (Univ. of MN), Alex Everhart (St. Olaf), Bayley Flint (St. Olaf), Josh You (Carleton), Ben White (Carleton), Emily Gresbrick (Univ. of MN), Jessica Samens (Bethel), Kris Kracht (GAC), Ben Walker (SWMNSU), Michael Dreher (Bethel), Jim Dimock (MSU-Mankato), Megan Orcholski (Concordia), Scott Wells (St. Cloud State Univ.)

Update from hosts:

- Tomorrow's breakfast is complimentary
- Tomorrow's lunch is complimentary
- Banquet is in the Conference Center (through this building and that building and then around the corner)
- No banquet speaker this year
- Finals postings will be in Charter Hall 201 (Lecture Hall).
 - o This is also awards space
 - o At all other times, this is a "hang out" room

At banquet, we recognize seniors, anyone else leaving, first-year competitors and coaches

Brian will not be here Sunday due to death in the family.

Brian thanks people for the nice emails they sent in regard to the end of the SCC program.

The State Committee for next year:

Brian Klosa (still chair)

Ben Walker (ex-officio host)

Joe Kennedy (host school)

Nominated: **John Loging (Bethany Lutheran)**

Cadi Kadlecek (GAC)

Tanner Sunderman (U of MN)

Leah White (MN State - Mankato)

(tie between Leah & Cadi) - next

Bids for 2016 host:

Concordia College (coffee, 3 BWWs, judging pool)

No one else wants it. This worries Joe.

This is the weekend of Feb 20th.

Budget update:

- We are fine
- Once Brian is back from IL, he will have exact numbers
- Balance from last year: \$470
- This year will possibly lead to \$800 - \$900 extra

"We have to be careful that this meeting just doesn't maintain SQ. There are some issues in this state, but there are very smart people in this room, and we need to have honest discussions about things that are uncomfortable." ~Brian Klosa

We have some budget concerns, event concerns, hosting concerns - SQ just doesn't cut it anymore.

DISCUSSION now follows

ISSUE: **Trophies and awards** at this tournament; they are beautiful and \$1,800.

In the past, the Exec. Secretary's school / program ran things through their budget. This cannot continue to happen.

The current vendor for trophies does not like to receive money after the fact.

But what if we had to cancel the State tournament? How would we pay for the trophies?

We used to have a \$500 budget reserve.

Mark checked into an alternate vendor; it was still over \$1500.

In addition, writing a check to the Exec. Sec. requires a W-9 for tax purposes

Related:

Should MCFA become a 501(c) ?

Consensus is "yes."

This does open up to alumni

Ben: Is the state tournament too expensive for our teams?

Lower fees, less extravagant trophies?

Kris: The state tournament is unique; it's not just "another tournament where a bunch of MN schools get together."

Joe: What can we do to let administrators know this is important

Note: It's about \$90 / event for the trophies

Kris: Do we look at censorship

Michael: We need a treasurer who is separate and distinct from the secretary.

Megan: It IS special, but there are some things we can do

Jessica: We can set a \$ amount limit for trophies....

The Committee needs to come up with Treasurer position (and possibly other Amendments), email them before the banquet, and call for a vote tomorrow at lunch.

Ben: A community meal IS important; there's nothing that says we have to, but the concept of sharing a meeting together is important.

Megan: Could we do banquet with awards?

Ben: There is an anxiety over placement

Adam: Could we move the senior send-off so that it's not during competition

Ben: I question that as well

Ben: Note, all these things (banquet, senior send-off, schedule)

Ben: It is disheartening that there was only 6 entries, but if we are going to vote on things...it is okay to say that we are going to try to do it.

Megan: Joe is frustrated that this is the only place that it shows up.

Jessica: We need to have more tournaments that support it.

Jim: We have many students that have an eye towards legs and nationals. I would like to make a proposal that does LD debate. It would bring in schools, it would bring in people who are not competing in it.

Christi: There is relevancy for teams that do not see it.

Kris: We have run so many events that could be done in other events, we should do something that is truly experimental. I have never understood why we have experiments that attempt to "fix" our current events. What is the intention of the experimental event. Is it more schools? Is it furthering the activity? What is the purpose/intention of the event?

Students: Many of the people that we are recruiting people that are not interested in the grid of research. It is a bit questionable how many people would be interested in doing it.

Christi: LD is so much different than Parli, in that we would have an evidenced style of debate. LD allows for the community to establish the style of debate and culture.

Michael: LD is different than policy in that you can get away with moderate research. There are things that can be done like disclosure that reduces research burdens. Part of the problem with LD is that it doesn't have critical mass.

Ben: A couple issues with LD. 1) It is much harder to find the judges. 2) Where do we put LD into the schedule? Not saying that we can not do it.

Jim: One of the reasons why LD is strong, is that it balances the IE/Debate approach.

Jessica: LD has the most ability to benefit multiple schools. At least LD has the ability to be beneficial for schools that are pursuing materials later in the year.

Possible Experimental Events

- 1) LD
- 2) Extemp Interp
- 3) What about the two year cycle?
- 4) No event?

SUNDAY, part 2 of the meeting

Gustavus, SCSU, Mankato, St. Olaf, Carleton, U of Mn, Bethany Lutheran, SWMNSU, Concordia, Bethel

Amendment 6: Goal - to be able to make changes via electronic ballot AFTER . This amendment had an amendment to it (SWMNSU, seconded Concordia) whose goal was to allow the membership at the State tournament to determine deadlines for discussion of issues

So, discussions START at State and can be decided at State OR later on.

Jon: If we eliminate clause (a) in the two sections, then it is hypothetically possible to have changes made to the current state tournament, halfway through that tournament.

Motion: Remove the striking of subclause (a) in each clause of Article VI

Seconded by Scott

Vote: 1-4-2

Amendment amended to be worded:

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the member institutions, taken at the business meeting held in conjunction with the annual State Tournament OR by an electronic voting mechanism agreed upon at the State Tournament by a majority of the member institutions.

and

The By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the member institutions, taken at the business meeting held in conjunction with the annual State Tournament OR by an electronic voting mechanism agreed upon at the State Tournament by a majority of the member institutions.

Jon moves to take a vote, seconded by Krist&Scott simultaneously.

Unanimously approved

Alex E: What is rationale for removing the language, "represented....tournament?"

Answer: This doesn't fit with electronic voting.

Michael: We need to clarify the membership period (define it to begin at the beginning of the State tournament to the beginning of the next tournament)

1. Membership in the Minnesota Collegiate Forensics Association shall be defined as those schools which have student participation at the Minnesota state tournament with the membership year running from the beginning of one state tournament to the beginning of the next [\[JeK1\]](#) .

[\[JeK1\]](#) Proposed Amendment #7 (M. Dreher)

Jon votes to close discussion, Scott seconds.
Adam moves, Scott seconds to approve this.
Unanimous approval

Next issue - On the table are

- Parli procedures / clarification (debate)
 - Clarify how in-round conduct deviates from NPDA procedures (make the evidence usage and disclosure clear)
- Experimental event
- Creation and definition of a treasurer's position (see Amendment #3)
- Other various amendments
- Student Learning Objectives

Other issues to bring up now, so they can be discussed as we progress and voted upon

(Jon) can we change the time that the invite must go out to 5 weeks rather than 3 to take into account for special considerations

(Jon) as part of Exp. Event discussion, do we need to take out Reader's Theatre

(Kris) When is the appropriate time to do senior send-offs in relationship to the tournament?

(Scott) Should we change language in Constitution regarding "third weekend" so if weather is a problem, we can move the weekend without amending the Const?

(Kris) revisit the "4 per school" limit discussion

(Joe) perhaps we should offer \$ to in-state tourneys to defray awards for Experimental Events

(Emily) in Exp Event discussion, time frame should help

(Kris) \$ for IOA national convention? What is an amount for this?

(Alex E) See above about Parli

(Adam) # of prelim rounds in Const?

(Kris) IMP - different prompts

(Ben) Should MCFA have separate debate and IE tournaments?

Joe notes - we have server space; he'll email information

Joe proposes: All these issues, should they result in a vote, must be voted upon by the membership by one week after the CTAM convention.

5 - 3 - 1

Adam, Tanner, Alex E : make sure that student-run organizations maintain continuity.