



UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION

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UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION SECRETARIAT

The attached minutes have been accepted by The Debates Committee by resolution as a true and accurate record of the events of the meeting held on 21 August 2008.

Chair – Patrick Bateman

12.9.08
Date



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DEBATES COMMITTEE
HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2008
IN THE READING ROOM, HOLME BUILDING**

PRESENT

MEMBERS: Patrick Bateman, Chair
Douglas Thompson, Deputy Chair
Daniel Wodak, Director of Debates
Naomi Hart, Immediate Past Director of Debates
Melissa Brooks
Katherine Connolly
Ellen Ferrington Michaelis
Kishan Jasani
Giselle Kenny
Tim Mooney

VISITORS: Courtney Tight, Director
Julia Bowes
Stephanie D'Souza
Angela Evans
Julia Fetherston
Steve Hind
Eleanor Jones
Gerard McCarthy
Andrew Thomas

UNION STAFF: Alistair Cowie, Director Student Programmes
Khym Scott, Committee Secretary

The Chair declared the meeting open at 5:07pm.

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

DC 127/08 RESOLVED to accept apologies from Mr. Ruchir Punjabi, Ms. Alice Dixon, Mr. Andrew Garrett, Mr. Sam Greenland, Ms. Misa Han, Mr. James Johnston, Ms. Stephanie Paton, Ms. Sophie Stone and Mr. Patrick Wall.

Tim Mooney / Douglas Thompson

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Minutes of the meeting held 31 July 2008 were considered.

DC 128/08 RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held 31 July 2008 as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Melissa Brooks / Douglas Thompson

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

4.1 **Reports**

4.1.1 Director of Debates

The Director of Debates reported that a meeting had been held to discuss the most recent Schools Day, and that an apology and 50% refund had been issued to all schools. He informed the Committee of the decision to not hold another Schools Day this year, and that a process was being developed to determine its structure for next year, including the involvement of a member of staff and a smaller event.

The Director of Debates further reported that Mr. Craig Reucassel had been confirmed to host the VERGE Arts Festival debate on 9 September 2008.

[Ms. Stephanie D’Souza arrived at the meeting at 5:09pm.]

The Director of Debates added that the varying roles and procedures in the Committee should be specified, including what happens when the role is unfulfilled.

DC 129/08 RESOLVED to accept the Report of the Director of Debates.

Douglas Thompson / Melissa Brooks

4.1.2 Honorary Treasurer for Debates

There was nothing to report.

4.1.3 Interschool Director

Ms. Giselle Kenny reported that the nineteen CVs sent to Worlds were being considered and that she had been asked to provide a list of those adjudicators.

She noted that Mr. Patrick Wall was speaking to Mr. Ivan Ah Sam in regards to this.

Ms. Kenny noted that a convenor would be required to organise the trials on 4 and 5 October 2008.

[Mr. Kishan Jasani arrived at the meeting at 5:12pm.]

Ms. Kenny explained that the role of the convenor would involve organising contacts, scheduling, and accommodation, amongst other things.

[Ms. Katherine Connolly arrived at the meeting at 5:13pm.]

Ms. Ellen Ferrington Michaelis volunteered herself for the position.

Ms. Kenny tabled a document as a starting point for selectors.

[Mr. Daniel Wodak and Ms. Katherine Connolly departed from the meeting at 5:13pm.]

The Director Student Programmes asked for a clarification on the number of teams which could be sent.

Ms. Kenny advised that they were guaranteed three teams and n-1 adjudicators.

[Mr. Daniel Wodak and Ms. Katherine Connolly returned to the meeting at 5:14pm.]

Ms. Melissa Brooks identified a need to cross out those used for Australs, and suggested adding those suggested but not used last time.

DC 130/08 RESOLVED to move the discussion *in camera* and invite visitors to remain.

Melissa Brooks / Naomi Hart

DC 131/08 RESOLVED to invite Mr. Steve Hind to remain.

Melissa Brooks / Douglas Thompson

DC 132/08 RESOLVED to accept the lists of the selectors.

Giselle Kenny / Douglas Thompson

DC 133/08 RESOLVED to move the discussion *ex camera*.

Naomi Hart / Tim Mooney

DC 134/08 RESOLVED to accept the Report of the Intersociety Director.

Melissa Brooks / Douglas Thompson

4.1.4 Women's Directors

Ms. Melissa Brooks reported that Ms. Sophie Stone had requested to send fifteen teams.

The Immediate Past Director of Debates asked for clarification as to whether the dates of the Women's Tournament had been moved.

[Ms. Melissa Brooks departed from the meeting at 5:43pm.]

4.1.5 Communications Director

Mr. Kishan Jasani reported that using cameras to film seminars in Eastern Avenue was too difficult. He asked who he should speak to regarding the USUOnline website.

The Director Student Programmes advised him to speak with Ms. Rachael Chan.

[Ms. Melissa Brooks returned to the meeting at 5:44pm.]

Ms. Brooks reported that the Women's Tournament will be held on 10 September, with UNSW asking for payment by 15 September.

Mr. Jasani requested photographs of debating events for the website.

DC 135/08 RESOLVED to accept the Report of the Communications Director.

Naomi Hart / Melissa Brooks

4.1.6 Union Competitions Directors

[Mr. Douglas Thompson departed from the meeting at 5:48pm.]

Ms. Katherine Connolly reported on the most recent internal Sydney BP Novice Tournament, informing the Committee that twenty-eight teams participated and that it was reasonably successful. She expressed gratitude to Mr. Steve Hind and the Director of Debates, and suggested potentially reducing what constitutes a novice and pro.

[Mr. Douglas Thompson returned to the meeting at 5:49pm.]

Ms. Connolly suggested that a novice be redefined as someone not having broken at Australs or in their first year of study.

Ms. Julia Bowes further suggested limiting the definition for the purposes of the pro-am tournament.

The Director of Debates advised that there were not too many competitors at the pro-am tournament who had broken at Worlds in 2008. He added that this suggestion would split those higher from the general amateurs.

Mr. Hind suggested that the Committee consider further categories.

The Immediate Past Director of Debates agreed with this on principle but expressed concern that it may be difficult.

Ms. Julia Fetherston suggested implementing a flowchart system.

Ms. Bowes further identified a need to not make the definition of a novice more stringent in the BP tournament.

DC 136/08 **RESOLVED** to accept the Report of the Union Competitions Directors and to table all recommendations contained therein for the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

Recommendation 1: That for the purposes of the pro-am tournament, the definition of a novice or amateur should be (a) any debater in their first year of studies at the university of Sydney, or (b) any debater who has not debated at Worlds or in the Octo-Finals (or beyond) at Australs.

Daniel Wodak / Melissa Brooks

4.1.7 Schools' Programmes Directors

Ms. Ferrington Michaelis reported that the schools spoken to in person had been very understanding.

The Director of Debates noted that Mr. Ah Sam was compiling a report.

Ms. Ferrington Michaelis advised that a curriculum needed to be organised to affect continuity.

DC 137/08 **RESOLVED** to accept the Report of the Schools' Programme Directors.

Tim Mooney / Melissa Brooks

DC 138/08 **RESOLVED** to accept the Report of the Women's Director.

Tim Mooney / Douglas Thompson

4.1.8 Social Directors

The Director of Debates reported on behalf of Mr. Andrew Garrett.

The Director of Debates reported that the trivia night went well, and that Mr. Hamish White was an excellent MC. He suggested to the Committee that Mr. White be rewarded with points and asked how many would be appropriate. He

noted that the only problem which occurred was the degree of rudeness encountered from those asked to move furniture at the end of the event.

DC 139/08 RESOLVED to accept the Report of the Social Directors and all recommendations contained therein.

Recommendation 1: That Mr. Hamish White receive twenty-five points for his work as MC of the Trivia Night.

Katherine Connolly / Douglas Thompson

4.1.9 Development Officer

There was nothing to report.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair reminded the Committee that applications for 2009 Committee positions were currently open and would close 1 September 2008.

The Chair advertised the SPAC Leadership Forum to be held on Wednesday.

The Chair advertised the Intercol debating on tonight at St Paul's College, followed by drinks at Hermann's Bar, noting that Ms. Fetherston, Ms. Bowes and Mr. Hind were debating.

DC 140/08 RESOLVED to thank Ms. Naomi Hart for speaking at the Women's Leadership Forum.

Tim Mooney / Ellen Ferrington Michaelis

DC 141/08 RESOLVED to thank Ms. Naomi Oreb, Ms. Katherine Connolly and Ms. Naomi Hart for convening and Chief Adjudicating the Novice Tournament.

Acclamation

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 5:00pm on Thursday 18 September in The Reading Room, Holme Building.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

With no other business to be attended to the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:04pm.