**NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ASSOCIATION**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**Thursday, November 8, 2018: 11:00AM-12:15PM**

**Hilton, Topaz – Second Level**

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes (Spring 2018)**
3. **Reports**
   1. Executive Council (20 minutes)
      1. President—Jeannie Hunt, Northwest College
      2. Vice President—David Worth, Rice University
      3. Executive Secretary—Kyle Cheesewright, The College of Idaho
      4. Treasurer—Shannon LaBove, Rice University
   2. Committees
      1. Finance Committee
      2. Nomination Committee
      3. Publications Committee
      4. Championship Tournament Committee
         1. Tournament Administration Subcommittee
         2. Rules and Standards Subcommittee
         3. Host & Site Development Subcommittee
         4. Topic Selection Subcommittee
         5. Research & Assessment Subcommittee
      5. Professional Development Committee
      6. Outreach Committee
   3. Tournament Director—Michael K. Middleton
   4. Other Reports – ???
4. **Consent Items**
   1. Numbering Errors & Accidental Omissions in the Bylaws
5. **Action Items**
   1. Constitution Proposal: Changing How NPDA Conducts Business
   2. Constitution Proposal: Voting On Organizational Business and in Elections
   3. Constitution Proposal: Makeup of the Executive Council
   4. Bylaw Proposal: Publishing a List of Voting Members
   5. Constitution Proposal: Voting Privileges for Institutional Membership
6. **Discussion Items**
   1. Bylaw Proposal: Ensuring Competitive Integrity and Pre-Prepared Materials
   2. Bylaw Proposal: Making Title IX a Biennial Requirement
7. **Adjournment**

Section One: Consent Items

**BYLAW PROPOSAL: Numbering Errors & Accidental Omissions in the Bylaws**

***Rationale—***there are several numbering errors, as well as sections of the bylaws that appear to have disappeared over the years. This proposal works to correct these errors. As such, I am not going to chronicle the current language—only to document the clerical alterations I have made the Bylaws. All of these changes have currently been made, but if this is subject to objection, they can easily be reverted.

1. Fix Lettering of Bylaw “III. Season Sweepstakes Awards”
   1. Rationale: During regular updating of the Bylaws in pursuit of legislation passed in the Business meetings, I discovered that Bylaw “III. Season Sweepstakes Awards” began its lettering based on the lettering of Bylaw “I. Membership Dues & Requirements.” Additionally, the final bylaw was lettered correctly based on the objective numbers of items in the list, but incorrectly alphabetically, resulting to two section “M”s.
   2. Start the lettering of Bylaw “III. Season Sweepstakes Awards” at A, rather than D, and adjust all sections of Bylaw “III.” to reflect the correct lettering.
2. Bylaw VII: Rules of Debating and Judging back into the Bylaws
   1. Rationale: In Spring 2018, “A Proposal to Standardize Flex Time” was passed by the membership—but it was not directed toward a currently existing Bylaw. At the same time, the current Bylaw’s suggest that Bylaw VII is “Rules of Debating and Judging”
   2. Add Bylaw “VII. Rules of Debating and Judging.”
   3. Standardize Bylaw Numbering with the rest of the Bylaws
      1. Level 1: Capital Roman Numerals [VII. Rules of Debating and Judging]
      2. Level 2: Capital Letters [A, B, C . . .]
      3. Level 3: Numbers [1, 2, 3 . . .]
      4. Level 4: Lowercase Letters [a, b, c . . .]
      5. Level 5: Lowercase Roman Numerals [i, ii, iii . . .]
      6. Level 6: Numbers in Parenthesis[(1), (2), (3) . . .]
   4. Shift Bylaws down 1 Number:
      1. “VII. Sexual Harassment and Violence Policy” becomes “VIII”
      2. “VIII. NPDA All-American Award” becomes “IX”
      3. “IX. National Tournament Operation Procedure” becomes “X.”
3. Standardizing Langauge in Bylaw III(N)2
   1. Removed the word “cumulative” and added “in each division” to the bylaw passed in the Spring 2018 Business meeting to make the Bylaw consistent with III(N)2[a].

Section Two: Action Items

**CONSTITUTION PROPOSAL—Changing How NPDA Conducts Business**

**Rationale—**there is a lack of clarity in the minutes from the Spring 2018 Business meeting regarding the precise language of this proposal, it’s manner of passage, and who was responsible for motions resulting in the passage of this amendment. Additionally, as a Constitutional Amendment, it was not distributed to the NPDA membership as mandated by the Constitution, based on a transition miscommunication between the previous and current Executive Secretary. As such, we are moving it back into the Action Item category for the Fall 2018 Business Meeting.

**Original Rationale—**NCA is incredibly expensive to attend. It is nearly impossible for schools with small budgets, and certainly unattainable for student run programs to have representation there. The Fall 2017 meeting had 8 schools in attendance. 8 schools should not be setting, or creating policy for an organization with over 100 members. The 2017 meeting has created a lot of heartburn especially among schools who may be at the margins of remaining a part of NPDA. Most organizations use a business meeting to get items up for consideration, then have a period for electronic ballots and mail ballots. For the same reason we do not hold elections at a business meeting of 8 people, we should not conduct business this way. This policy would make our By Law changes consistent with our Constitutional changes.

**CURRENT LANGUAGE**

Article IX. Amendments to the Constitution and By Laws

Section B: Amendments to the By-Laws

1. An amendment to the By-Laws may be initiated by any member school.

2. Amendments to the By-Laws must be submitted to the Executive Secretary no later than thirty days prior to a Business Meeting to be considered at that meeting. The Executive Secretary will communicate proposed amendments to the membership no later than fifteen days prior to the Business Meeting.

3. A majority of the schools represented and voting at the Business Meeting will be necessary for enactment of the amendments to the By-Laws.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

Article IX. Amendments to the Constitution and By Laws

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2. Amendments to the By-Laws must be submitted to the Executive Secretary no later than thirty days prior to a Business Meeting to be considered at that meeting. The Executive Secretary will communicate proposed amendments to the membership no later than fifteen days prior to the Business Meeting.

3. A majority of the schools represented and voting at the Business Meeting will be necessary for ~~enactment of the amendments to the By-Laws~~ *a proposed By-Law amendment to be sent to the membership. Action items adopted at the spring business meeting will have interim force until an electronic or mail ballot is collected.*

*4. Within ten days following the Business Meeting, the Executive Secretary will distribute by mail or electronic form a ballot containing all proposed By-Law amendments. Balloting on these will cease at midnight thirty days after the date of the Business Meeting.*

**CONSTITUTON PROPOSAL—Voting on Organizational Business and in Elections**

***Rationale***—There is concern among members that organizational business and elections should be dictated by those who are competing at tournaments throughout the season, and that non-members or affiliate members should not be effecting the outcome of elections and organizational business if they are not participating. The constitution already prevents affiliate members from having voting privileges. This fortification of the current bylaws will prevent gaming the system by those with a desire, or financial means to do so.

***CURRENT LANGUAGE***

Article III. Membership

Section A.

1. Regular Institutional Members pay annual dues and are eligible to participate in all functions of the organization.

***PROPOSED LANGUAGE***

Article III. Membership

Section A.

1. Regular Institutional Members pay annual dues and are eligible to participate in all functions of the organization. *In order to be eligible to vote in any organizational election, or vote on organizational business the member institution would need to have earned NPDA Sweepstakes points in either the previous academic competition year, or the current academic competition year. Any institution that does not meet this requirement is automatically considered an affiliate member until such time NPDA sweepstakes points are earned.*

**CONSTITUTION PROPOSAL—Makeup of the Executive Council**

Rationale—Currently the EC only has 4 officers and many parts of the constitution calls for 2/3 majority votes of the EC. Other issues the EC grapples with may require a majority vote of the EC. If 50% of the EC is controlled by one member institution there is certainly the possibility for them to control critical votes. Those votes should be dispersed among more of the membership than 1 institution. This would also eliminate even the appearance of impropriety. This is something that was likely never considered a possibility before. It seems highly unlikely this would occur in most organizations. Since the NPDA did not foresee this, it is time to correct this possible imbalance. Policies should not be written about people currently in office—this is no way is to implicate the fairness of David or Shannon. Quite the opposite given the effective date. But just because the community is comfortable with the possibility this time, it may not always be so. Given the current makeup of the EC it seems fair to allow these terms to run their natural course, hence the 2021 effective date.

**CURRENT LANGUAGE**

Article IV: Officers -- Elected

Section A: Election

1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice President, an Executive Secretary, a Treasurer, and a National Student Representative. The President, Vice President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected on staggered, two-year terms with the offices of President and Vice-President running concurrently and with the offices of Executive Secretary and Treasurer running concurrently. The National Student Representative shall be elected for a one-year term. These officers shall constitute the Executive Council.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

Article IV: Officers -- Elected

Section A: Election

1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice President, an Executive Secretary, a Treasurer, and a National Student Representative. The President, Vice President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected on staggered, two-year terms with the offices of President and Vice-President running concurrently and with the offices of Executive Secretary and Treasurer running concurrently. The National Student Representative shall be elected for a one-year term. These officers shall constitute the Executive Council. *No institutional member school should occupy more than one officers position during any one year (effective date: Conclusion of the NPDA Championship Tournament, Spring 2021).*

**BYLAW PROPOSAL—Publishing a list of voting members**

***Rationale***—To maintain transparency and keep temperature of the health of the organization it is in the best interest of the membership to know who is engaged and voting. This would allow members to reach out to schools and find out what can be done to help them become active and vote. Many schools indicated this last election, after the fact, they were unaware of the election or unaware of how to vote. Publishing the list will also ensure that every member school knows their vote was received and recorded. There is currently no mechanism allowing this verification. It would also ensure that voting members are indeed full participating members of NPDA and not affiliate or non-members. Transparency good.

***CURRENT LANGUAGE***

I. Membership Dues & Requirements

A. Annual dues in the National Parliamentary Debate Association for the year September 1 to August 31 will be $50 for regular membership, $20 for affiliate membership (affiliate membership applies to schools that did not enter teams in any NPDA sanctioned or national competition during the previous year), and $10 for individual membership.

***PROPOSED LANGUAGE***

I. Membership Dues & Requirements

A. Annual dues in the National Parliamentary Debate Association for the year September 1 to August 31 will be $50 for regular membership, $20 for affiliate membership (affiliate membership applies to schools that did not enter teams in any NPDA sanctioned or national competition during the previous year), and $10 for individual membership. *A complete list of each member school voting on organizational business, both during business meetings and mailed/electronic voting, and voting during elections, will be published at the same time results are published. Individual votes will not be published, but rather a list of those schools voting.*

**CONSTITUTION PROPOSAL—Voting Privileges for Institutional Membership**

***Rationale***—Parliamentary debate is a predominantly White, able-bodied, and/or Male population. The majority of present and past director of forensics/debate in the NPDA are White, able-bodied, and/or male. The majority of present and past assistant and graduate coaches in parliamentary debate are White, able-bodied, and/or male. Until its most recent election the past majority of the NPDA’s officers are White, able-bodied, and/or Male. NPDA has continued to see declining participation of women and/or persons of color, particularly at the varsity level, deep out rounds of national tournaments, and coaching staffs of universities. Some parliamentary debaters and coaches have expressed a desire for a more diverse and inclusive environment through a myriad of avenues in the last decade including but not limited to, walkouts, collective community based documentation of discrimination, organizations and awards targeted at inclusivity, online discussions in social media outlets (such as facebook, and net-benefits), and the authorship and defense of debate positions related to issues of diversity and inclusion in debate. NPDA has recently drafted policies pertaining to sexual harassment and assault in response to the treatment of women in the debate community, but has not made similar efforts to increase the participation of women. Additionally, research indicates that a diverse body of representatives begets a diverse constituency reflective of inclusive practices. To enforce the proposed policies, the NPDA board members should, in consultation with members, develop a procedure for enforcement of this amendment within a calendar year of the proposal passing.

***CURRENT LANGUAGE***

Article III: Membership

***PROPOSED LANGUAGE***

Article III: Membership

ADD:

*Section E: To be eligible for voting privileges, Regular Institutional Members should, provide proof that*

1. *they provide equitable scholarships, funding, and opportunities to members and graduate coaches of their team without regard to their race, sex, gender, creed, age, ability, or other consideration*
2. *they offer equitable scholarships, funding, and opportunities to potential debaters without regard to their race, sex, gender, creed, age, ability, or other consideration that are representative of the United States population*
3. *have a history of hiring more than White, able-bodied, and/or men as their assistant and graduate coaches.*

Section Three: Discussion Items

**BYLAW PROPOSAL—Ensuring Competitive Integrity and Pre-Prepared Materials**

Rationale – Both formats of parliamentary debate have seen an uptick of complaints/charges against teams of utilizing pre-prepared materials that violate the rules and norms of NPDA debate.  This proposal seeks to add a check against pre-prepared material usage, while also protecting teams that are unfairly targeted by charges of cheating.

**CURRENT LANGUAGE**

VII. Rules of Debating and Judging

E. After the debate

1. After the final rebuttal, the Speaker of the House will dismiss the teams, complete the ballot and return it to the ballot staff. The judge should not give oral comments before the ballot is completed and returned to the ballot staff.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

VII. Rules of Debating and Judging

E. After the debate

1. After the final rebuttal, *both teams will exchange all materials produced prior to and during the debate.  Those materials will be signed and/or initialed by one member of the opposing team in a way that does not make the material unreadable.*The Speaker of the House will dismiss the teams, complete the ballot*,* and return *the ballot* to the ballot staff. The judge should not give oral comments before the ballot is completed and returned to the ballot staff.

**BYLAW PROPOSAL: Making Title IX Training a Biennial Requirement**

**Rationale—**Several Directors have requested training be mandated by the NPDA on a bi-annual, as opposed to yearly basis; bringing NPDA policy into line with their institutional Title IX policies. The following proposal imagines one potential path to this goal.

**CURRENT LANGUAGE:**

Bylaw I. Membership Dues and Requirements

B. Each regular member of the NPDA must also provide documentation annually verifying that students, coaches, and judges representing their institution/program have participated in sexual harassment/violence awareness and prevention training. Typically, universities and colleges make such training available through their campus Title IX office, or its equivalent. If this is the case, documentation submitted by members should include a letter from that office on their campus providing a brief description of the training provided and a list of all individuals who received the described training. In the event such resources are not available to a particular member program, NPDA will furnish online training at no cost to the member program. In either case, documentation that such training has been completed shall be provided no later than one week prior to a school’s participation in an NPDA sanctioned tournament or September 30th, whichever comes first, of each competition season. In addition, all representatives of member programs must receive such training prior to being eligible for participation in the national tournament.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE:**

Bylaw I. Membership Dues and Requirements

B. Each regular member of the NPDA must also provide documentation ~~annually~~ biennially verifying that all students, coaches, and judges representing their institution/program have participated in sexual harassment/violence awareness and prevention training. Schools are responsible to provide immediate training and verification for any new students, coaches, or judges who join their programs as soon as possible, abiding by the requirements outlined below. Typically, universities and colleges make such training available through their campus Title IX office, or its equivalent. If this is the case, documentation submitted by members should include a letter from that office on their campus providing a brief description of the training provided and a list of all individuals who received the described training. In the event such resources are not available to a particular member program, NPDA will furnish online training at no cost to the member program. In either case, documentation that such training has been completed shall be provided no later than one week prior to a school’s participation in an NPDA sanctioned tournament or September 30th, whichever comes first~~, of each competition season~~. In addition, all representatives of member programs must receive such training prior to being eligible for participation in the national tournament.