

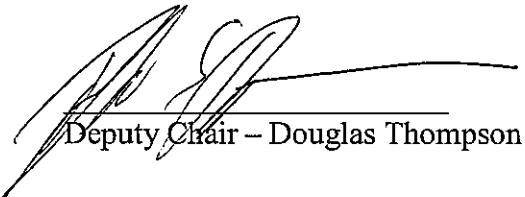
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION

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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 16 October 2008.


Deputy Chair – Douglas Thompson

6/11/08
Date



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DEBATES COMMITTEE
HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2008
IN THE READING ROOM, HOLME BUILDING**

PRESENT

MEMBERS: Ruchir Punjabi, President (*ex officio*)
Patrick Bateman, Chair
Douglas Thompson, Deputy Chair
Daniel Wodak, Director of Debates
Katherine Connolly
Ellen Ferrington Michaelis
Andrew Garrett
Sam Greenland
Kishan Jasani
James Johnston
Giselle Kenny
Stephanie Paton
Sophie Stone
Patrick Wall

VISITORS: Courtney Tight, Director
Rebecca Barrett
Stephanie D'Souza
Alice Hudson
Jacques McElhone
Sriram Srikumar
Andrew Thomas

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

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed those new Members of the Committee in attendance, and advised the change of date of the Incoming Committee meeting to 4 November 2008.

DC 157/08 **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Ms. Alice Dixon, Ms. Naomi Hart, Mr. Tim Mooney and Ms. Angela Evans, to grant early departure from Mr. Sam Greenland, Mr. James Johnston, Mr. Giselle Kenny and Ms. Sophie Stone, and to grant late arrival from Mr. Ruchir Punjabi and Mr. David Mann.

Patrick Wall / Sam Greenland

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Ms. Stephanie Paton observed that on Page 5 of the minutes of the previous meeting held 18 September 2008 she was noted as stating that *no adjudicators were needed* and advised that it should read *many adjudicators were needed*.

DC 158/08 **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held 18 September 2008 as a true and accurate record of proceedings pending the specified amendment.

Giselle Kenny / Sam Greenland

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

4.1 Amendments to Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedures

4.1.1 Communications Director

The Director of Debates spoke to the motion. He stated that the rationale of the motion included that some responsibilities were either unclear or too few, and as a result those Office Bearers may not function as well as they could. He added that those applying for the positions should also be aware of the exact requirements.

The Director of Debates remarked that the largest amendment to note was regarding the Communications Director, as it was not currently functioning as a portfolio.

DC 159/08 **RESOLVED** to amend the Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedures at section 2.5.6 and re-number any subsequent points as necessary.

2.5.6 The Communications Director for Debates shall be responsible for:

- (a) ~~Compiling and maintaining electronic or other mailing lists including the 'Debatebase'~~ **Organising and disseminating information on the Debates program for the USU website.**
- (b) Sending out information regarding USU Debates Committee activities **to campus media (such as The Bull & Honi Soit), debating websites (such as www.debating.ie) and professional media (such as the Sydney Morning Herald & ABC Radio).**

- (c) ~~Publicising the information regarding the USU Debating programme in conjunction with USU staff in USU publications including The Bull and USU website~~ **Co-ordinating the publication of Debates Handbook.**
- (d) **Co-ordinating the publication of a Debates Yearbook, including the results of all Sydney contingents in tournaments across the year.**

Daniel Wodak / Patrick Wall
[Carried unanimously]

4.1.2 Honorary Treasurer for Debates

The Director of Debates spoke to the motion, outlining that the main change was to provide a larger role for the Honorary Treasurer in on-campus tournaments.

DC 160/08 RESOLVED to amend the Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedures at section 2.5.7 (b) and re-number any subsequent points as necessary.

- 2.5.7 The Honorary Treasurer for Debates shall be responsible for:
- (a) Assisting the USU in the financial management of the Debating programme.
 - (b) **Assisting all on-campus tournament convenors in drafting budgets for tournaments, and in managing finances across the tournament.**

Daniel Wodak / Patrick Wall
[Carried unanimously]

4.1.3 Union Competitions Director

The Director of Debates spoke to the motion.

DC 161/08 RESOLVED to amend the Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedures at section 2.5.8 (b) and re-number any subsequent points as necessary.

- 2.5.8 The Union Competition Director shall be responsible for:
- (a) Organising on-campus Debating Competitions unless a tournament convenor or organising party has been appointed.
 - (b) **Organising Regionals Debating.**
 - (c) Where appropriate assist the Intervarsity Director.

Daniel Wodak / Patrick Wall
[Carried unanimously]

4.1.4 Social Director

The Director of Debates spoke to the motion.

DC 162/08 RESOLVED to amend the Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedures at section 2.5.10 (a) and re-number any subsequent points as necessary.

- 2.5.10 The Social Director for Debates shall be responsible for:
- (a) Organising social events on behalf of the Debates Committee, **including post-Regionals drinks and post-Tournament socials.**

- (b) Organising the Chancellor's Debating Dinner in conjunction with the USU Foundation

Daniel Wodak / Patrick Wall

[Carried unanimously]

4.1.5 Schools' Programmes Director

The Director of Debates spoke to the motion.

DC 163/08 RESOLVED to amend the Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedures at section 2.5.11 and re-number any subsequent points as necessary.

- 2.5.11 The Schools' Programmes Director for Debates shall be responsible for:
 - (a) Organising USU's Schools' Debating Day
 - (b) Assisting the USU Debates Officer with developing the USU's involvement in Schools' debating.

Daniel Wodak / Patrick Wall

[Carried unanimously]

4.1.6 Development Officer

The Director of Debates spoke to the motion.

DC 164/08 RESOLVED to amend the Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedures at section 2.5.12 and re-number any subsequent points as necessary.

- 2.5.12 The Development Officer shall be responsible for:
 - (a) The formulation and implementation of policies to promote the participation of novice debaters.
 - (b) ~~Organising training sessions on behalf of the Debates Committee~~
Organising and managing the Regionals Seminars program.
 - (c) **Organising and managing the Easters coaching program.**
 - (d) **Co-ordinating with Competitions Directors promote adjudicating and pro-am debating at Regionals, and to assist in co-ordinating development-focussed on-campus tournaments,**

Daniel Wodak / Patrick Wall

[Carried unanimously]

4.1.7 Replacing Office Bearers

The Director of Debates spoke to motion.

The Deputy Chair proposed an amendment to the motion that Officer Bearers be removed by a two-thirds, rather than a simple, majority vote.

[Ms. Stephanie D'Souza arrived at the meeting at 5:11pm.]

DC 165/08 RESOLVED to amend the Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedures at section 2.5.13 and re-number any subsequent points as necessary.

2.5.13 Replacing Office Bearers

- (a) The Debates Committee may remove an Officer Bearer (2.5.5 – 2.5.12) from his or her position by a vote with two-thirds majority, if that Office Bearer is unwilling or unable to fulfil the minimum requirements of their position.
- (b) The removal of an Office Bearer does not impact upon whether they will remain a member of the Debates Committee.
- (c) Where an Officer Bearer is removed from his or her position, the Debates Committee may appoint one or more of its current members to fill that position, pursuant to 2.5.2.

Daniel Wodak / Patrick Wall

[Carried unanimously]

4.1.8 Women's Intersivity Debating Championship

The Director of Debates spoke to the motion, outlining that it was to enforce stricter novice requirements for the Women's Tournament. He stated that the rationale was in an effort to balance the objectives of winning and of development. He noted that the skills transfer and network of retention of young women had been problematic in the past.

Ms. Paton opposed the motion, remarking that the proposed amendments would not do enough towards development as it excluded women in first year who had broken at Australs to be considered a pro, and at present the amendments would only expand the number of pro women by two. She put that the definitions should be expanded further.

Mr. Sam Greenland agreed in part, adding that first years both who would and would not become pros would neither develop if they did not have BP debating experience.

Ms. Katherine Connolly stated her belief that development was necessary, but that a focus should also be on those in second and third years.

Ms. Stephanie D'Souza added that development should not only be exclusive to those not broken at Australs.

Mr. Greenland proposed an amendment to the motion that 'Women who have debated at Worlds or in the Octo-Finals at Australs should be considered 'pros'' be amended to 'Women who have debated at Worlds or **broken** at Australs should be considered 'pros''.

The Director of Debates clarified that the distinction of novice development was not focused on 'bad' debaters but those who were inexperienced, and was about teaching a new format.

[Mr. James Johnston arrived at the meeting at 5:17pm.]

[Mr. Andrew Garrett arrived at the meeting at 5:18pm.]

[Mr. Kishan Jasani arrived at the meeting at 5:20pm.]

Ms. Paton expressed concern that those who were already excluded from pro-am tournaments were now excluded from novice tournaments.

Mr. Greenland clarified that it was not necessary to debate with a better debater to develop.

The Director of Debates pointed out that Worlds trials were still a lottery.

DC 166/08 RESOLVED to amend the Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedures to insert items 5.9.2, 5.9.3 and 5.9.4 and re-number any subsequent points as necessary.

5.9 Women's Intervarsity

5.9.1 The Committee shall fund the registration of at least two teams for Women's Intervarsity each year.

5.9.2 Selections for Women's shall balance the goals of providing a highly competitive contingent and developing novice female debaters.

5.9.3 In balancing these goals, selectors shall pair debaters based on their experience. Women who have debated at Worlds or broken at Australs should be considered 'pros', and paired with novices.

5.9.4 Women in their first year of a university degree should always be considered novices.

Daniel Wodak / Giselle Kenny

[Katherine Connolly and Stephanie Paton voted against.]

[Mr. Ruchir Punjabi arrived at the meeting at 5:23pm.]

4.1.9 Worlds Debating Championship

The Director of Debates spoke to the motion, observing that it was an anomaly and applied wrongly. He advised that a debater could be a pro at Worlds even if they had not adjudicated.

DC 167/08 RESOLVED to amend the Debates Committee Guidelines and Procedures at section 5.8.6 and re-number any subsequent points as necessary.

5.8 Worlds

5.8.6 For the purposes of Worlds, a novice **debater** is a debater who has not debated at Worlds, **and a novice adjudicator is a debater who has not debated or adjudicated at Worlds.**

Daniel Wodak / Patrick Wall

[Carried unanimously]

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 Reports

5.1.1 Director of Debates

The Director of Debates reported that as of today funding had been secured for all twenty adjudicators and six debaters going to Worlds.

DC 168/08 RESOLVED to thank Mr. Alistair Cowie and Mr. Paul McJannett for securing funding for World adjudicators.

Acclamation

DC 169/08 RESOLVED to accept the Report of the Director of Debates.

Patrick Wall / Giselle Kenny

[Mr. Alistair Cowie arrived at the meeting at 5:26pm.]

5.1.2 Honorary Treasurer for Debates

Mr. Greenland thanked those Members in attendance for their support.

DC 170/08 RESOLVED to accept the Report of the Honorary Treasurer for Debates.

Douglas Thompson / Ellen Ferrington Michaelis

5.1.3 Intervarsity Director

Ms. Giselle Kenny reported that the Sydney Mini was going ahead, and that registrations were open. She advised that they were not currently looking at making Worlds adjudicators compulsorily adjudicate the tournament.

Mr. Patrick Wall reported that Mr. Danny Green had agreed to tab the tournament. He added that they were sending a contingent of thirty-one to Worlds, being the second largest contingent.

DC 171/08 RESOLVED to accept the Report of the Intervarsity Director.

Sam Greenland / Daniel Wodak

5.1.4 Women's Directors

Ms. Paton reported that Women's was very successful, and that out of the eight teams which broke that five were from Sydney, and of the ten best speakers that eight were from Sydney.

DC 172/08 RESOLVED to congratulate Ms. Katherine Connolly and Ms. Stephanie D'Souza.

Acclamation

DC 173/08 **RESOLVED** to congratulate Ms. Naomi Oreb.

Acclamation

DC 174/08 **RESOLVED** to accept the Report of the Women's Directors.

Daniel Wodak / Sam Greenland

5.1.5 Communications Director

Mr. Kishan Jasani reported that the website was ready and that he could upload it once funding from the USU was received. He noted that the structure was of a Wikipedia-style, and that whoever holds the code could edit it.

The Director Student Programmes asked whether it could be housed on the USU server.

The President advised that it could.

DC 175/08 **RESOLVED** to accept the Report of the Communications Director and to recommend that the USU invest in a Debates website with the matter to be referred to the I.T. Committee.

Daniel Wodak / Sam Greenland

5.1.6 Union Competitions Directors

Ms. Connolly reported that the pro-am tournament had been very successful.

5.1.7 Schools' Programmes Directors

Ms. Ellen Ferrington Michaelis had nothing to report.

5.1.8 Social Directors

Mr. Andrew Garrett reported that an end of year social event was being considered now that the Debates dinner had been moved, but advised that it would be dependent on the contingent, rather than the Committee.

5.1.9 Development Officer

The Director of Debates acknowledged that Ms. Kenny had stepped in to hold a seminar at the last minute.

DC 176/08 **RESOLVED** to thank Ms. Giselle Kenny.

Acclamation

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

7. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 5:00pm on Thursday 6 November in The Reading Room, Holme Building.

8. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

With no other business to be attended to the Chair declared the meeting closed at 5:35pm.