



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 Thursday 11 March 2010.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Buckland', written over a horizontal line.

Chair – Michael Buckland

15/04/10
Date



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DEBATES COMMITTEE
HELD AT 1:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2010
IN THE READING ROOM, HOLME BUILDING**

PRESENT

- MEMBERS:** Michael Buckland, Chair
John 'Scott' Brownless, Director
Eleanor Jones, Director of Debates
Rebecca Barrett
Catherine Marks
Julia Baine
Alice Hudson
Nina Ubaldi
Sriram Srikumar
Tim Mooney
Paul Karp
Naomi Hart
Sriram Srikumar
Daniel Swain
- VISITORS:** Melissa Brooks, Director
Duncan Campbell
- UNION STAFF:** Michael Teoh, Committee Secretary

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1:08pm

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

DC 014/10 **RESOLVED** that apologies be accepted from Louise Anthony, Michael Coutts and that late arrival be granted to John 'Scott' Brownless.

Daniel Swain / Paul Karp

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

DC 015/10 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held 11 February 2010 be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Eleanor Jones / Daniel Swain

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 spoke to her report.

Naomi Hart inquired as to when the Easters trials would take place.

The Director of Debates said that trials would take place the coming Monday from 9am to 6pm.

Naomi Hart asked whether selectors were allowed to attend classes during this time.

Melissa Brooks said that an ad-hoc arrangement could take place to allow selectors to attend class, but stated that at least one woman should be in attendance at all times.

DC 016/10 RESOLVED that the Report of the Director of Debates be accepted.

Naomi Hart / Julia Baine

4.1.2 Honorary Treasurer for Debates

The Honorary Treasurer did not attend the meeting.

The Director of Debates reported that the \$300 surplus garnered from O-Week was put towards food and a bar tab at the Welcome Social and Exhibition Debate.

4.1.3 Intervarsity Directors

The Director of Debates notified the Committee that the deposit for the Easter's tournament had been sent.

Duncan Campbell informed the Committee that ten teams and twelve adjudicators were guaranteed to be involved in the Easter's tournament. He added that it was likely that twelve teams and many more adjudicators would be entered into the tournament.

DC 017/10 RESOLVED that the Report of the Intervarsity Directors be accepted.

Sriram Srikumar / Rebecca Barrett

4.1.4 Women's Directors

Naomi Hart spoke to her report.

Steven Hind said that a certain level of sympathy should be shown to the Australian Defence Force Academy Debating Society (ADS) with respect to Easters affirmative action requirements. He explained that only 22% of

Australian Defence Force Academy students were female, and of them, a proportion of them were not allowed to leave their base due to medical and discipline issues. As a result, it was difficult for the ADS to adhere to affirmative action requirements.

The Chair opened the floor to discuss how the Director of Debates may vote on the change in affirmative action requirements.

Melissa Brooks said that the ADS was spoken of highly amongst debating circles and as such some form of leniency should be granted to them.

The Director of Debates agreed, but wondered if an exemption or a standing exemption would be more applicable.

The Chair said that any change to the affirmative action requirements should be ADS specific, as theirs was a relatively unique case.

DC 018/10 **RESOLVED** that the Report of the Women's Directors be accepted.

Tim Mooney / Paul Karp

4.1.5 Communications Directors

Daniel Swain lamented that information and material for flyers and the Debating handbook were not submitted to him on time for publication.

Daniel Swain informed the Committee that Daniel Richardson deserved thanks and gratitude for the pro bono formatting and design of the flyers and handbook.

Daniel Swain reiterated that all materials and contributions for the Yearbook must be submitted by the deadline.

DC 019/10 **RESOLVED** that the Report of the Communications Directors be accepted.

Catherine Marks / Eleanor Jones

4.1.6 Union Competitions Directors

Julia Baine spoke to her report.

Julia Baine added that the provision of gluten free food at Regionals was a difficult prospect as it was substantially more expensive than providing pide.

Julia Baine said that there had only been six confirmed adjudicator registrations for Grand Slam. She reminded the Committee that individuals not attending Australs or Worlds could attend Grand Slam.

DC 020/10 **RESOLVED** that the Report of the Union Competitions Directors be accepted.

Tim Mooney / Catherine Marks

4.1.7 Schools' Programmes Directors

Rebecca Barrett spoke to her report.

DC 021/10 **RESOLVED** that the Report of the Schools' Programmes Directors be accepted.

Sriram Srikumar / Eleanor Jones

4.1.8 Social Director

Michael Coutts did not attend the meeting.

The Director of Debates asked Committee their thoughts regarding increasing the bar tab at the Nag's Head Hotel.

Steven Hind thought that increasing the bar tab was unnecessary as individuals have traditionally bought their own drinks.

4.1.9 Development Officers

Sriram Srikumar said that the seminar for the Regionals on 10 March would be split into two for logistical reasons. He explained that there were a high number of people attending these seminars which meant that there were several undeveloped debaters wanting to garner knowledge from the seminars.

DC 022/10 **RESOLVED** that the Report of the Development Officers be accepted.

Paul Karp / Daniel Swain

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair opened the floor and asked Committee members their thoughts regarding the current time of meeting.

The Director of Debates explained that many members had class at 2pm. In the event that the Committee had a substantial issue to discuss, this would involve many members missing class, or having to depart the meeting.

DC 023/10 **RESOLVED** that pending approval, the meeting time of the Debates Committee be changed from 1:00pm to 5:30pm.

Eleanor Jones / Rebecca Barrett

6. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 1:00 on Thursday 15 April 2010 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 2:02pm.