

Committee Members	Michael Buckland (Chair), John 'Scott' Brownless (Director)
	Eleanor Jones (Director of Debates), Rebecca Barrett, Michael Coutts, Naomi Hart, Paul Karp, Catherine Marks, Daniel Swain, Nina Ubaldi
USU Staff	Bryce Williams (Committee Secretary), Zinah Tam (Committee Secretary)
Visitors	Dominic Bowes, Melissa Brooks, Duncan Campbell, Alice Hudson, Chris Parkin, Rhys Pogonoski
No#	Details
	The Chair opened the meeting at 5.38pm.
	1. Apologies And Leaves Of Absence
DC 024/10	Resolved that apologies be accepted from Louise Anthony, Julia Baine, Courtney Tight, Patrick Bateman and Alistair Cowie.
	Eleanor Jones / Michael Coutts
	2. Minutes Of The Meeting Held 11 March 2010
	Melissa Brooks commented that the previous minutes' characterisation of her opinions on the ADS in relation to affirmative action requirements was somewhat misleading. However, Ms. Brooks concluded that the result was inconsequential and did not require amendment.
	Rebecca Barrett requested that the reference to Julia Baine's report be amended from 'spoke to his report' to 'spoke to her report'.
DC 025/10	Resolved that the amended minutes of the previous meeting held 11 March 2010 be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.
	Nina Ubaldi / Daniel Swain
	3. Business Arising From The Minutes
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	There was no business arising from the Minutes.
	4. General Business
	4.1 Report of the Director of Debates
	Eleanor Jones spoke to her report.
	Ms. Jones reiterated her congratulations to the whole contingent, especially Dom Bowes. Ms. Jones expressed her particular gratitude for the work of Louise Anthony and Paul Karp.



Ms. Jones added that Adelaide is to host 'Easters' next year, and that the T4 DCAs have been released (Steve Hind, Christian Price, Amit Golder). The CAs have not yet been released.

Ms. Jones, commenting on her report, suggested that stricter mentor requirements should be pursued, especially in relation to volunteer mentors. Volunteer mentors should be given opportunities to co-mentor.

Ms. Jones highlighted that Easters Training should be the responsibility of the Development Officers.

In relation to the Debates Dinner, Ms. Jones, on behalf of Louise Anthony, asked the committee if there were any preliminary problems with the proposed date (Thursday, 21st October).

Ms. Jones suggested that the Sydney Open Champs Dinner referenced in her report could be funded by a slight increase in registration fees.

Naomi Hart asked if the removal of points for non-compliance with points requirements was automatic, or if it involved an assessment process.

Ms. Jones said that certain individuals who had clearly not completed the requirements would not get the points. The requirement for coaching 'on one other occasion' would not be strictly enforced in this instance.

Ms. Hart expressed her appreciation of the seminar conducted by Daniel Wodak, as he had been given no notice or instruction.

Ms. Jones acknowledged the need for greater instruction.

Melissa Brooks suggested that there should be two points-levels (10 and 20 points) for the mentor scheme, to encourage those who could not make the full commitment to participate.

Daniel Swain noted that there had been sufficient interest with the 20 point commitment so far.

Ms. Jones agreed that it was a good suggestion, but required a regulatory change.

#### DC 026/10 Resolved that the Report of the Director of Debates be accepted.

#### Michael Coutts / Naomi Hart

4.2 Report of the Honorary Treasurer of Debates

The Honorary Treasurer did not attend the meeting.

Eleanor Jones said that there was a surplus in April, which would be carried over into future months.

#### 4.3 Report of the Intervarsity Directors



#### **Easters**

Paul Karp reiterated his congratulations and thanks to Tim, Eleanor, Mel, Daniel and the convenors of the tournament. Mr. Karp applauded the dept of the Sydney contingent, who could always fill teams despite significant turnover and changes.

Mr. Karp noted that the 3 debates requirement was clear and that giving no points to mentors who did not fulfil the requirement was an appropriate solution. Mr. Karp noted his support for Melissa Brooks' two-points level suggestion, and said that points could play a role in allocating mentors to particular teams.

#### <u>Australs</u>

Mr. Karp said that he completed Australs pre-registration on 1 April, getting the maximum number of teams possible (3 teams, 10 adjudicators, 3 on wait-list). Mr. Karp noted that this was the same situation as last year, and that hopefully other teams may drop out and a fourth team may compete. Mr. Karp said that payment for registration was required by the end of the month.

#### DC 027/10 Resolved that the Report of the Intervarsity Directors be accepted.

#### Eleanor Jones / Daniel Swain

4.4 Report of the Women's Directors

Catherine Marks spoke to her report.

Ms. Marks expressed her preference for a rescheduling of the Women's Social next year to avoid a clash with other Debating events.

Ms. Marks suggested that the Women's training day could be a Pro-Am event, and could be extended to women from other universities (especially Macquarie University).

Melissa Brooks suggested that the Women's social should be held before registration for Easters closes.

Naomi Hart said the scheduling of the social was largely dictated by the unfortunate timing of Easter this year.

#### DC 028/10 Resolved that the Report of the Women's Directors be accepted.

#### Paul Karp / Nina Ubaldi

#### 4.5 Report of the Communications Directors

# Daniel Swain said that the development of the website was progressing, as he had received an 'instance' of the website, where content could be overlaid on the basic design. Mr. Swain said that he would add content from the Debating Handbook. The next phase of website development would be

the addition of a member's section, including a forum. Mr. Swain expressed his gratitude to Louise Anthony for her assistance.

Dominic Bowes asked what the URL of the debating website would be.

Mr. Swain said that it would form part of the USU website.

Melissa Brooks suggested that Kishan would be a good contact, in relation to this matter.

Resolved that the Report of the Communications Directors be accepted.

Eleanor Jones / Michael Coutts

4.6 Report of the Union Competitions Directors

Daniel Swain reported that the Regionals went well and were well attended. He noted that he was open to feedback and that he knew of some bugs that needed to be fixed. For example, there were problems with the mechanism for finding CAs. In addition, novices would wait too late to express their intention to debate, and thus miss out on a team.

Mr. Swain said that the Sydney Open competition needed to be 'stepped up'. One way of improving the competition would be to hold a Champion's Dinner as well as offer billeting. He noted that the competition's facebook group was to be launched on the weekend.

Dominic Bowes asked if the competitions needed to be advertised earlier, especially for first year debaters. He also asked about the potential for the event to be Pro-Am focused.

Eleanor Jones noted that the tournament had been advertised for 3 weeks in Debaterbase.

Mr. Swain added that he had attempted to conduct a presentation about the tournament, but he had been evacuated from the Education building. He also emphasised the need for the tournament to be open as possible.

Ms. Jones agreed, saying that the Pro-Am requirement should not be mandated. Soft power, through points incentives, could be used to achieve this objective without the mandate. She also noted that the adjudication points structure had not been adjusted.

Melissa Brooks suggested that the fact that the old point systems applied should be advertised as an incentive. She asked whether the teams needed to be rejigged.

Mr. Swain said that the competition should be open to teams joining after the first round, as long as they accept a loss.

Ms. Jones noted an expression of interest from a UNSW team to join in the second round.

Ms. Brooks suggested that the Australs competition should be advertised to noices.

Naomi Hart commented that the Pro-Am requirement should not be mandated, and suggested that publicity wasn't a serious issue.

Ms. Brooks suggested that the new website, including the forum, could be used to help debaters find their own teams.

Mr. Swain asked the committee for their opinions on whether the tournament should be named after former debaters. He suggested 'Bowes Oreb Tournament' as a possibility.

Mr. Bowes added his support for the naming of the tournament after Bowes and Oreb.

Ms. Jones suggested that the meeting move in camera.

## DC 030/10 Resolved that the meeting move *in camera* and all visitors be invited to remain.

Eleanor Jones / Daniel Swain

#### DC 031/10 Resolved that the meeting move out of camera.

#### Michael Coutts / Paul Karp

4.6 (cont'd)

Duncan Campbell asked whether there was an N-1 requirement.

Daniel Swain said that the competition has never had an N-1 requirement.

Mr. Campbell asked whether the N-1 requirement would be an issue for interstate teams.

Mr. Swain replied that interstate teams could send a judge and a team rather than having the teams rotate. However, breaking would not be allowed.

Paul Karp asked whether states should be allowed to break.

Eleanor Jones said that teams should be allowed to break on request, but this should not be advertised.

Melissa Brooks noted the problems with breaking and suggested that requests should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## DC 032/10 Resolved that the Report of the Union Competitions Directors be accepted.

Catherine Marks / Nina Ubaldi



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4.7 Report of the Schools' Programmes Directors

#### DC 033/10

## Resolved that no report is required from the School's Programmes Directors.

#### Michael Coutts / Paul Karp

#### 4.8 Report of the Social Director

Michael Coutts reported that social events were going well, and that the partnership with Nag's Head Hotel was beneficial, especially for large events.

Melissa Brooks noted, with approval, that Nag's was now an Access partner.

#### DC 034/10

Eleanor Jones said that in future, event coordinators should watch the administration of the bar tab, as there have been reports of overcharging, especially when the bar tab is maxed out.

Resolved that the Report of the Social Director be accepted.

#### Rebecca Barrett / Naomi Hart

#### 4.9 Report of the Development Officers

Michael Coutts emphasised the need for better briefs for seminars, but noted the later pullouts for expert seminars. He reported that Sriram Srikumar had been pursuing potential experts from the Sydney Institute, as well as approaching Nina Funnell.

#### DC 035/10

He said that he had approached staff from different faculties, but had not received many replies as yet.

Mr. Coutts expressed his support for the Pro-Am requirement, as it would help develop semi-pros.

Naomi Hart suggested that Mr. Coutts approach the Alumni foundations, as it has easy access to Alumni contact details, and relieves some the pressure on the Development Officers.

Eleanor Jones expressed her agreement, adding that it would be helpful as the topic areas had already been settled.

Daniel Swain noted that he had not enjoyed expert seminars, as they did not provide useful debating knowledge. He suggested that better information could be derived from former debaters.

Mr. Coutts said that a 50/50 split would be the best option, alternating between specifically briefed experts and former debaters.

Melissa Brooks noted the usefulness of experts in providing information

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about areas beyond general knowledge, for example the law of defamation She suggested that Nina Funnell would not be as useful as a result of her?4 specific agenda. She suggested Clifton Evers as an alternate contact.

Ms. Jones noted the utility provided by both types of seminars, but acknowledge that each had pitfalls. She suggested that in the seminar hour, half an hour could be dedicated to an expert, with the second half comprising a response from a former debater.

Dominic Bowes noted that experts were important in increasing the attractiveness of seminars and therefore their attendance.

Resolved that the Report of the Development Officers be accepted.

#### Rebecca Barrett / Catherine Marks

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	5. Other Business
DC 036/10	Resolved that the meeting move <i>in camera</i> and all visitors be invited to remain.
	Catherine Marks / Nina Ubaldi
DC 037/10	Resolved that Michael Buckland vacate the Chair for John 'Scott' Brownless.
	Catherine Marks / Nina Ubaldi
DC 038/10	Resolved that Michael Buckland resume the Chair.
	Paul Karp / Nina Ubaldi
DC 039/10	Resolved that the meeting be extended by fifteen minutes.
	Nina Ubaldi / Paul Karp

These minutes, having been reviewed and accepted by resolution of the Debates Committee as a true and correct record of the meeting:

Resolution Number:

DC 041/10

13/5/2010