

Minutes NFC Meeting 2019 (v. Oct. 7)

NFC Meeting: Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, 8:30 a.m. breakfast, 9 a.m. adjourned at 12:47 p.m.
Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington

Headlines:

- 1. Thank you to Lauran Schaefer and to Whitman for hosting. Wonderful breakfast!**
2. Introductions of attendees, with number of years as coach:
3. Jackson Miller, Linfield, 20+; Brook Adamson, Northwest Nazarene, 22; Mike Ingram, Whitworth, 22; Dan Broyles, Pacific; Joe Gantt, Lewis & Clark, 17; Andy Orr, CSI, 3; Jacob Witt, Northwest University Seattle, 7; Lauran Schaefer, Whitman, 2; Baker Weilert, Whitman; Trond Jacobsen, Oregon; Travis Cram, Western Washington, 12; Korry Harvey, Western Washington, 19; Mark Porrovecchio, Oregon State, 14; Manda Hicks, Boise State, 9; Kyle Cheesewright, College of Idaho, 13; Brent Northup, Carroll, 31. And via Skype, Justin Eckstein, PLU.

4. Introduction of officers

President, Brent (to July 2020)

At Large: Mike Ingram, Whitworth (to May 2020)

Community College: Alex Brehm, Lower Columbia (to May 2020)

NIET: Joe Gantt, L&C

IPDA: Mark Porrovecchio, OSU

BP: TBD

Policy/Parli: TBD

5. Budget Report:

\$7980.64 Sept. 7, 2019

\$7751.84 Sept. 2017

\$7535 in Sept. 2016

\$7581.33 Fall 2015

\$4904.68 Fall 2012

\$3417.74 Fall 2005

\$1498.55, Sept. 2001

- 5. Calendar updates.** Latest calendar attached. Send updates to Brent. (406) 459 2371 or bnorthup@carroll.edu

6. Tournament reports:

Designateds:

Lewis & Clark, Oct. 11-13: Joe. Register on Speechwire. Same schemata as 2018.

Linfield, Nov. 8-10, Una, Jackson. Speechwire. IEs on Fri/Sat; Debate Sat/Sun. Riley is not available on Friday.

Pacific, January 24-26, Dan. Same schedule as usual. Fri IE. EdCom as special event.

The Super Bowl is Sunday, Feb. 2. No conflict this year.

7. Other regional tournament announcements

Whitworth IE, Presidential Campaign event, platform; Sat/Sun IE and IPDA.

8. Special reports dates to be added at meeting

CEDA: April 3-7, West Virginia.

BP – U.S.U. Nationals at University of Chicago. April 18-20.

NFA – April 16-21, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater.

NPDA – March 11-14, McKendree

NPTE – March 6-9, McKendree

Climb the Mountain Speech and Debate Foundation. Jim Hanson

NIET qualifier. Saturday, Feb. 22 or Saturday, Feb. 29?

NIET Nationals in Santa Ana, LA area. April 4-6.

PKD – Comprehensive Tournament, March 27-30

Oregon State Prison Tournament: Joe Gantt, Saturday, October 5. Four prison teams and 12 university teams compete. Fees support Toastmasters.

Western States Conference & Tournament – Feb. 22-24, Denver.

Interstate Oratory – April 24-25, Oklahoma City, Larry Schnoor.

Phi Rho Pi – April 6-11, New Mexico.

Seattle Urban Debate League, Portland Debate League

IFA: March 9-10, Tokyo.

Novice Nationals: ?

IPDA: Tennessee Tech, March 13-15.

NEW BUSINESS:

Preface: Website clean-up and updating.

Preface: Ongoing work on bylaw revision and Best Practices handbook

Preface: Committee on bylaw clean-up, Part II, in progress

1. **Bylaw clean up, Part I. Four BN** amendments to make bylaws consistent to practice. Brent. All passed unanimously. (Revised bylaws now posted on NFC website; amendments attached.)
2. Committees were updated and appointments confirmed.
 - Equity officer for NFC: Luran
 - Awards committee: Brent, Joe, Mike, Brooke
 - Bylaw revision includes Kyle (chair), Jacob, Jennifer, Andy, Brent. Committee to generate letters of support: Joe, Brent
 - Committee on equity to explore issues such as sanctioning judges and other issues raised at the meeting: Luran, Baker. (See minutes concerning Justin Eckstein agenda item.)
 - Committee for recruitment and outreach: Luran, Baker
 - Climate Action Working Group: Trond, chair; Andy Orr, CSI; Travis Cram, Western Washington; Luran Schaefer, Whitman; Baker Weilert, Whitman
3. **Bylaw clean up, Part II.** Kyle update. Committee on revision continued to new year.
4. Discussion of “**an experimental debate format** in the region this year at four tournaments.” Trond, Travis, Korry, Derek.

Proposal attached, called Cascadia Debate. Travis explained (with Trond and Korry contributing) that the intention is to provide a new format - not designed to replace NPDA but to provide a new option.

Although I saw the new format as an extension/revision of parli, Travis offers a more nuanced explanation in a note after the meeting:

“Saying it is like parli is misleading because the event has none of the hallmarks of a parliamentary format (solely extemporaneous speaking, small preparation windows, and no prepared materials). The format is most akin to policy debate in that materials can be researched and pre-prepared. Printed and electronic materials are allowed in the round like in policy or NFA-LD. Quoted material for debates must come from a common article packet that is collectively sourced every topic cycle by the programs involved in the format. The goal is to incentivize direct research while keeping the amount of ground to cover manageable for modern day college students.”

Korry, Travis and Trond explained the advantages including building research skills and providing students without extensive debate experience with a format that welcomes them and allows them to learn and grow, partly thanks to research resources pooled from participating schools.

Serious discussion (debate coaches debating debate) followed featuring concerns and questions. Questions were asked about why we need a new format when we have so many already? Manda asked about the rationale for this format, rather than other formats? Luran noted she will have a large parli entry this year expressed concerns about the new format, especially since she will have

large numbers of entries in NPDA. Lauran offered theoretical objections to the format concerning research and enforcement. Baker of Whitman also offered constructive criticism.

Lauran also observed that we should not assume parli is dying. She said that new parli programs are emerging nationally. Lauran is part of an outreach program in NPDA (with Adam Testerman and Amanda Ozaki) and there is a revitalizing of mentoring in NPDA - all aimed at building new parli programs and supporting the ones that exist. "The mentoring committee predates the new debate proposal," she added.

In a note sent to the NFC after the meeting, Trond added that "that Gonzaga and UW-Tacoma and Lane are all in on the experiment. Steve at Alaska has expressed interest. My alumni are lining up behind it. It is an experiment, but I think it is reaching critical mass."

Kyle observed that parli had declined for various reasons, beyond the structural design of the format. Travis reiterated the benefits of the new format, and encouraged open minds on improving debate. Other voices also encouraged an open mind, and a testing of the format.

Brent observed that both Travis and Lauran were partners in revitalizing collegiate debate, and suggested they work together for the worthy cause. Brent observed the irony that allies in promoting debate were arguing about their differences even though there is more that unites them than divides them.

They all have a shared commitment to promoting debate.

The NFC gathering took no formal action on this proposal and neither endorsed nor opposed the new format. In the end Linfield and Pacific tournaments offered to test the format and get reaction. Other tournaments will also test the format at their tournaments, including Oregon and UPS. The new debate format will be offered at a different time in the tournament schedule than parli to allow programs to participate in both, if they wish. Thus, not pulling teams away from either format, but allowing teams to participate in both and evaluate the new format. That compromise left the door open for future discussion after students and coaches have a chance to experience and test this form of debate for one year.

The NFC took no official position on the new format, since tournament hosts have the freedom to add events – and two hosts agreed to add this debate format. The NFC will continue the discussion at the Fall Meeting at PLU on Saturday, September 12 after the first year.

(To ensure accurate minutes, I invited Trond and Lauran and Travis and Mike to review the minutes, and they've helped clarify these minutes to fairly reflect the meeting and their own contributions. See appendix to minutes from Travis and Trond, introducing format – and the Cascadia attachment.)

5. Proposal for: "**Climate Action Working Group** tasked with researching and recommending best practices for tournament hosts and programs in terms of mitigating our carbon footprints and contributing to ongoing civic dialogue about preserving our planet." Trond.

Trond proposed a working group to explore realistic options to reduce the carbon footprint at forensics tournaments and in forensics programs. The goal is to produce a Best Practices booklet which suggests realistic options for increasing environmental stewardship in the forensics community. The NFC members received the proposal warmly and a committee, "a climate working group," was formed: Trond, chair; Andy Orr, CSI; Travis Cram, Western Washington;

Lauran Schaefer, Whitman; Baker Weilert, Whitman. Others are welcome to contact Trond to contribute ideas and serve this good cause.

Justin Eckstein, via Skype, asked to add an agenda item to discuss the issue of concerning equity in the forensics community, and what options tournament hosts have to deal with issues. Eckstein suggested “the need for a process or procedure to sanction coaches/judges/hired guns from participating at our tournaments. Right now, we only way of dealing with this on an ad hoc basis and would like to codify something more systemic.”

One issue was a discussion as to whether a tournament could decline to accept a judge? Or prevent a judge from judging or ask them to leave? Many legal issues were mentioned, including the fact that the host school ultimately must be the one making equity decisions on their own campus. It was not clear what jurisdiction the NFC has over some issues, yet there was agreement that hosts have the right to ensure equity at tournaments they host. No action was taken to change policy, but Lauran Schaefer was appointed to be the equity chair of the NFC and pledged to head a second parallel committee specifically charged with exploring the issues discussed. No specific names or tournaments were mentioned in the discussion, although issues did arise at tournaments that prompted the need for an NFC discussion of these matters.

6. **Procedures for special NFC election.** Brent discussed his plans to step down as NFC president after 21 years. He will invite nominations in October (Call for nominations on Oct. 23; end Nov 8) and hold an election in November (Start vote Nov. 11, end Nov. 30.) Brent will then spend December to June mentoring the new president and passing on a Best Practices booklet for the president's job. Brent then said he would be president emeritus for life, always available to assist in any and all ways – or not at all, at the wish of the NFC members. He's not leaving coaching or teaching just yet, just lightening his life a touch. Joe Gantt has offered to serve as NFC secretary (not currently an office, but specifically authorized in the bylaws), handling data entry for sweepstakes and NFC awards. He will serve at the pleasure of the new president. Attached is a description of the division of duties between president and secretary. Lauran suggested that the NFC add a treasurer as a new and separate office, and that could be proposed at the fall 2020 meeting at PLU. Brent is writing a Best Practices Booklet that outlines current duties and awards procedures for the NFC. That will be shared with the new officers. Trond thanked Brent for his years of service and many people hugged Brent afterwards. Tears flowed later. Brent thanked everyone for the privilege of serving good people who are pouring their hearts and souls into forensics education for their students.
7. **Thank you so much, from Brent.**

Minutes by Brent. Published Oct. 7, 2019. (Reviewed by a small committee of volunteers, to ensure accuracy.) Report errors to Brent who will apologize profusely and fix them quickly.

Attachments:

Description of new debate format to be tested at Linfield and Pacific.

Description of proposed division of duties between NFC president and NFC secretary.

Description of bylaw clean up (attachment dated July 12).

Current NFC calendar

Full bylaws as amended at Fall 2019 meeting are posted on NFC website.

In progress: NFC directory, being moved online.

Appendix to minutes:

Note from Travis Tram about “experiment with new debate format.”

Hi everyone,

I hope the new term and season is treating everyone well. Korry and I at WWU, alongside Trond at Oregon and Derek at UPS, have been working on developing an experiment with a new debate format that we plan on conducting during this upcoming year. A major motivator for us is the rapid decline in NPDA participation in the region. Brent's 2017 survey documented a drop from ~211 students to ~95 between 2012 and 2017, and the region averaged 34 students last year (an 84% drop since 2012!).

We're hoping to discuss our experiment at the NFC meeting, and have received some requests to circulate some details ahead of time so folks can have a better sense of what we are pursuing. To that end, I've worked up a preliminary document that contains some aspirations, explanations, and some first drafts. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with questions, concerns, or criticisms. It truly is an experiment and the more wisdom and perspective at the table, the better for all of us! Travis Cram, WWU.

Note from Trond:

WWU, UPS, and Oregon will be inviting others to consider participating in an experimental debate format in the region this year at four tournaments. We believe a new format may better meet our educational aspirations. This year, however, WWU and UO will continue to participate in NPDA and UPS will participate in BP.

Your colleagues request time to share our thinking and an embryonic proposal - sufficient to be worth talking about, protean enough for others to influence and shape (indeed, that is what we seek). Trond, UO

SEE ATTACHMENT on CASCADIA DEBATES..