Minutes of the **Northwest Forensics Conference meeting on September 7, 2024** at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho

Attendance:
Brooke Adamson & Dennis Waller, NNU; Julia Bennett, CWI; Alex Brehm, Lower Columbia; Mark Galaviz, Weber State; Joe Gantt, Lewis & Clark; Manda Hicks BSU; Mike Ingram, Whitworth; Una Kimokeo-Goes, College of Idaho; Jackson Miller, Linfield; Brent Northup, Carroll; Andy Orr & Kalyee Tegan, CSI; Mark Porrovecchio, Oregon State.

Virtual attendance: Dan Broyles & Jennifer Conner, Pacific; Marcy Halpin, Lewis-Clark State; Griffen Hehmeyer, UW; Joel Iverson, U of Montana; Kyle Sessions, Willamette; Brian Sung PLU.

Mike started the meeting at 9:18 am.

Community: Introduction of elected officers:

President: Mike Ingram, Whitworth University
At large: Jackson Miller, Linfield University
Community College: Julia Bennett, College of Western Idaho

Introduction of selected officers:

Executive Secretary: Joe Gannt, Lewis & Clark College
BP: Brent Northup, Carroll College
IPDA: Brooke Adamson, Northwest Nazarene University
NST: Kyle Barber, Bellevue College
NPDA: Baker Weilert, Whitman College
CARD: Trond Jacobsen, Oregon

Calendars: See Excel document for agreed upon schedule

- Carroll: A BP teaching tournament online with schools from across the country and world.
- College of Southern Idaho: 3 IE rounds, 6 IPDA rounds, 4 BP rounds, no elims.
- Lewis & Clark: First designated with 2 IE rounds, 5 IPDA rounds and a workshop.
- Pacific: Clark & Rae Peters Invitational. IE on Saturday and IPDA on Sunday with an extra ten minutes between IPDA flight A + B, for judges to have time to finish their flight A ballots.

- Linfield: Second designated with 3 IE rounds, 5 debate rounds and a workshop.
- OSU: Online tournament and fall qualifier for NST.
- Seattle: Friday online and Sat/Sun in person. BP only.
- LCC: Third designated with 3 IE rounds, 5 debate rounds and no workshop.
- NNU: IE one day and IPDA the other, perhaps Readers Theatre on Friday evening.
- Bellevue: NST spring qualifier on a Friday.
- Seattle/UW: IE/IPDA tournament the Saturday and Sunday following Bellevue. First day at Seattle U and second day at UW.
- College of Idaho: Might host a BP tournament the same weekend as NST/Seattle/UW, or following weekend of March 7-8.
- Mention of national tournament dates.

<u>Community:</u>
Topic 1: Quick reflection on Trigger Warnings used at designateds last year. Here is a reminder of the categories:

1 CSS Consensual Sexual Situations
2 NSS Nonconsensual Sexual Situations
3 VA Violence and abuse
4 VG Violence/gore
5 P Profanity excessive and or graphic
6 SSH Suicide/self-harm
7 HS Hate Speech
8 NCW No Content Warning

Joe noted 1/3 competitors went back to label their categories after entering the tournament. Only two judges/coaches utilized it. This year Joe is working with SpeechWire to create a screen that says “did you enter categories for speech competitors?” as a secondary catch. Affirmation for designated tournaments to use this tool going forward.

Topic 2: Items from the 2024 NFC survey

Subpoint A: Discussion on the standardization of IE patterns. Motion to update the 2014 Aspirational Patterns in the bylaws to become the 2024 Aspirational patterns like this:
A: Extemp, Per, ADS, DI, POE, POI
B: Imp, Inform, CA, Duo, Prose
Motion moved by Dan, seconded by Una. Unanimous approval. Mike will update the bylaws.

Subpoint B: Discussion regarding online designated tournaments. Key points included:

- Some desire for an online designated. Strong belief the first and last designated should always be in person.
- Affirmation that Linfield must not be compelled to always be the online designated.
- Discussion affirmed the current plan for three in person designateds in 2024-25.
- Affirmation to move to four designateds in 2025-26 with two in the fall and two in the spring. Either the second or third designated would be held online. Affirmation for this idea to create cost savings, flexibility on weekends, allowing more programs to "host" a designated.
- Working plan to create a NFC coach meeting during the 3rd designated at Lower Columbia in 2025 to continue discussing this plan for next year.
- Discussion of desire to see more tournament options in Boise area. Brooke will host a tournament this year and Manda may now have the capacity to host a tournament at BSU outside of spring break.

Subpoint C: Discussion on the number of IE and debate rounds, length of tournament days and weekends. Key points included:

- Identification of competing values in making tournament schedules, reasons for two or three IE rounds, reasons for debate elims or gold/silver/bronze elims.
- Discussion on needs for lunch/rest for students to be at their best, desire to have rounds for leaning and competition.
- General affirmation for BP and IPDA tournaments using five prelims instead of six prelims. Varying views about the number of IE rounds.
- Conclusion: Each designated will be free to make their own decision. Joe will offer two IE rounds and experiment with a novice workshop.

Jackson will offer three IE rounds and a workshop. Alex will offer three IE rounds and no workshop.

Subpoint D: Discussion on the workshop idea:

- In the 1990s Linfield offered seminars in protected time slots (like during times tab was preparing breaks in the pre computer days) on topics of interest to the community. This idea surfaced in the survey. It is another way to teach and serve students.
- Discussion on when such workshops would occur during tournaments. Joe will schedule one toward the end of competition and Jackson will schedule one at the beginning of the tournament (partly due to room constraints on his campus).
- Discussion on potential topics and uses of the time. Some thought moving this online during a non-travel weekend could be helpful.
- Discussion on who might actually attend.
- Conclusion: Joe and Jackson will experiment with them this year. Please contact them directly with any suggestions or to volunteer to lead or help lead one!

Subpoint E: Defining our novice, junior and senior categories consistently:

- Mike reviewed the bylaws that define each of the three divisions in both IE and debate. References *Section IV Designated tournaments, Subpoint E Debate Requirements, Little ii. Divisions* and *Section IV Designated tournaments, Subpoint G Chris Bragg Aspiration on Divisions for NFC tournaments: IE and Section IV Designated tournaments, Subpoint G Chris Bragg Aspiration on Divisions for NFC tournaments: Parliamentary debate*
- Manda asked if we had true novices under these definitions and about 2/3 of the room said they did.
- Affirmation that students might be in different categories. A student could be a senior interper and novice debate, or junior limited prep and senior platform.
- Jackson asked about a student in one form of debate migrating to another. Do we treat debate as a monolith or by genres as we do with IE? Discussion followed. General consensus was treat debate as genres but we ought not place such students in novice. An open BP debater could become a junior IPDA debater but not a novice IPDA debater, for example.

- Discussion encouraged everyone to follow these definitions in student placement. Alex illustrated a fine point on trust with our own students – if we say "you will be in novice" and your students report on fellow novices with four years of high school experience – that is a problem of lost trust with coaches and in our community. So let's all be good citizens.
- Joe asked about the calculations for the Orv Iverson award recognizing our top novice/junior competitors. When they enter a collapsed division and end up competing with seniors our bylaws prevent those points from being added to their Iverson point total. This harms competitors who through no fault of their own get collapsed into an open division.
- Motion: If competitors in novice/junior division are collapsed into senior division as part of a collapsed event, those points shall count toward the Orv Iverson award. Joe moved, Julia seconded. Mark G thirded. Motion passes unanimous. Mike will update the Bylaws.

Subpoint F: Talk with each other. If we have feedback about judges, talk directly with tournament hosts and the hiring/sponsoring schools. Let us foster a great climate of communicating about judges, both in praise and concern.

Subpoint G: Community. Brent noted that we are still fractured and divided over different forms of debate and approaches to the activity, using BP as an illustration. The designated tournaments are where we see each other for support, fellowship and good competition. Manda noted the NFC is stronger than some other forensics communities she knows. Andy expressed love and support for the community and getting to see colleagues at tournaments. Mike encouraged all to attend and support our regional tournaments.

Subpoint H: Teaching load. Marcy asked about teaching loads. Manda has some information on this topic related to an article she is writing to apply the Boyer model of scholarship to forensics coaching. Julie said the Association for Theatre in Higher Education had some similar materials. Jackson thought teaching five classes a term was not sustainable.

Subpoint I: Next meeting? Mike asked for ideas on ways to use this meeting next year to serve our professional development, programs and the activity.

- Alex wondered how we can engage other schools not currently fielding teams to do so. Manda suggested making arguments about recruiting, generating credit hours, degree completion and how debaters compare quite favorably to their peers.
- Una wondered about mentoring and how to support our new/newer coaches.
- Jackson noted the survey indicated most programs were in good shape, but if the current DOF left would the schools replace them?
- Andy asked folks in the room connected to leadership of national organizations – are there other ways to recognize programs besides competitive success at tournaments? Any type of community service awards or other things like that? Should there be a NFC service award? Brent wondered about recognizing good sportsmanship from students on other teams who are good community citizens.

Expression of thanks to Brooke for hosting and to Alex for helping with the technology. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Notes taken by Mike Ingram