

Spring 2024 NCFA Business Meeting

May 4, 2024 10:30 AM Skyline College

I. IN ATTENDANCE (Roll Call)

Ryan Guy (MJC), Josh Hamzehee (SRJC), Jared Anderson (Sacramento State University), Tina Lim (San Jose State University), Kim Yee (San Jose State University), Lindsey Ayotte (Skyline), Steve Roberston (Contra Costa), Alan Fishman, Shannan Troxel-Andreas (Butte), Doug Mungin (Solano), Jason Ames (Chabot) Kelsey Paiz (Chabot), Toney (San Joaquin Delta College), Tiffany Upton (San Joaquin Delta College), Alexis Litzky (San Francisco State University), Nathan Steele (CCSF), Annie Koruga (Berkeley), Andrew Morgan (Diablo Valley College), Joey Barrows (San Joaquin Delta College), Angela Ohland (Butte), Sue Peterson (CSU Chico), Robert Hawkins (DVC), Orion Steele (San Francisco State University), Andrea Brown (St. Mary's), Claire Willard (Las Positas)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[Copy of Winter 2024 Minutes.](#) Ryan Guy moved to approve. Alexis Litzky seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Schedule of agenda approved.

IV. REPORTS

- A. **Secretary (T. Shimp):** No report.
- B. **Treasurer (R. Guy):** A full report will occur at the Coaches Conference.
Currently, calculations show NCFA has \$13,519 although it may be subject to change before the final report. There were some unanticipated costs at NCFA Champs. Discussion ensued about facilities costs and the costs of trophies. Sue Peterson shared that Chico has some leftover awards that could be re-plated for future NCFA Champs.
- C. **Vice President (P. Sharp):** No report.
- D. **President (J. Toney):** Judging coverage may be an issue that affects next year. It may be desirable to provide food for students at tournaments. These issues will be discussions for the Fall Business Meeting.

- E. Webmaster (R. Guy):** Facebook is becoming a less viable way to communicate. NCFA has a listserv. People should cross-post if they are going to use Facebook. Additionally, CA has a Discord server now that includes NCFA and PSCFA.
- F. Commissioner Report (S. Farias)**
- NPDA, NPTE, and NFA dates are set. Steve (Commissioner) will send them to Taure (Secretary) so they can be posted on the NCFA website.
 - Has been having discussions with Chad Meadows about when to hold the Grand Prix.
 - Has heard some comments that others are not eager to return to IPDA Nationals. There is some conversation about introducing IPDA at NFA, although it seems unlikely. The two options for national IPDA competition are currently IPDA Nationals and Pi Kappa Delta.
 - Ryan Guy asked if there are ways to have our IPDA tournaments included in their season-long sweepstakes calculations. Steve offered to work with Phil on this.
 - Jared asked if Steve knows about dates for States and Phi Rho Pi. The 2025 CCCFA tournament is March 12-16. The 2025 Phi Rho Pi tournament is April 7th - 12.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tournament Schedule

- **NCFA Champs:** At the Fall meeting, Jeff will propose 3-4 options with the goal of setting all details by the end of the Fall meeting. Sue Peterson pointed out that the organization previously drafted out several NCFA Champs schedule options based on room availability. These can be revisited to help this process. Nathan S. expressed a desire for a “championship” feel to the tournament. Things like location and budget are important variables. Ryan G. suggested that we could use a uniform “Bid Sheet” that asks potential hosts to consider location, food, etc. beforehand. Jason A. expressed that a bid sheet does exist. Depending on the bid, NCFA could determine whether the organization needs to provide food or if it is readily available.
- **SRJC Tournament Bid:**
 - a) Josh H. explained that SRJC put in a tournament bid for an I.E. swing in October. Proposed dates include October 12-13, but this is flexible. Josh reported that there would be Reader’s Theater workshops and some experimental events. Schools in SoCal and out-of-state expressed more interest in a swing.
 - b) Discussion ensued: Jeff encouraged Josh to work with Steve (as the Commissioner) to coordinate optimal scheduling. Jeff mentioned that a December tournament could be beneficial. Josh responded that this does not work for SRJC based on their own travel schedule. Phil expressed concern that a new tournament would compete with BLCC, which is always the second full weekend in October (in 2024, that will also be October 12-13). Phil

pointed out that NCFA Bylaws say that—if possible—a tournament should not be hosted on an adjacent weekend. Phil also expressed a desire to share hosting duties with another program. Steve pointed out that each year schedules can vary, but it may be helpful to know GGO's dates, too. Alexis L. explained that this past year, GGO was a little bit later to allow more of an "on ramp" and two weeks between the NCFA Camp and the first tournament. This did seem to make for a more robust tournament (whereas participation was decreasing pre-COVID). However, SF is open to moving the date earlier again. Ryan G. and Doug M. also expressed that the date for the NCFA Camp is flexible. Shannan expressed support for moving the camp earlier. Having GGO at a later date allows novices to participate. Jeff expressed that SJDC has missed GGO in the past due to not having students who were ready. Jared expressed that there is not a "gap" in CSU Sacramento's Fall schedule other than right at the end of the semester (early in December). Tiffany expressed interest in the SRJC proposal, especially for the RT workshop. Annie K. explained that more nearby tournaments are beneficial for competitors at Berkeley, who cannot always afford travel and food. Josh explained that the tournament would be "BOGO" – if you come to one day, the other day is covered. Doug asked if the region is open to tournaments who don't offer all of the events. Jared answered that his debate-only tournament did not make, and it was necessary to offer all the other events. Sue suggested that this is a recurring conversation. Travel schedules are determined by coaches, who cannot travel every weekend. If people can host one-day tournaments, it may be more viable to have tournaments that don't offer all events (because teams would only be gone part of the weekend). If tournaments can bring in competition from out of the region, that can make them more appealing. Nathan shared support for Sue's comments and that coaches do need to have time off. Perhaps if tournaments did not last the entire weekend, it would be possible to schedule them on "back to back" weekends. Steve asked if he should communicate with other programs about possible schedules. Travel distance and start/end times factor into teams' decisions. Ryan expressed that the activity must be sustainable for current coaches and appealing for new coaches. He suggested that there should continue to be weekends off in between tournaments. Perhaps there's a way that NCFA sets tournament "weekends" and schools put in bids for those dates. Josh explained that hosting as a swing would allow teams to come for just one day (keeping the days to 9 and 7 hours). Shannan expressed that adhering to the

Constitution makes it difficult for other schools to host and offer tournaments. Steve explained that it can be difficult to coordinate new tournaments and date changes. Alexis explained that The Collective does not have ownership over the GGO dates if others want to host. Ryan explained that MJC needs to know dates now due to submitting van requests. Josh explained that the proposed dates are not firm – October 19-20 is an option. An informal poll was taken to see which teams would support an SRJC tournament on October 19-20 *and* would support a UNR tournament on the previous weekend. 8-9 schools raised their hands.

- c) Proposal: Jeff proposed that UNR keep their tournament and SRJC offers a tournament on October 19-20 for a one-year trial. Nathan Steele offered a friendly amendment that we should still discuss this further in the Fall. **Outcome:** the proposal passed.

- **Spring Fling 2025 Date Change Proposal:** Josh H. shared that Spring Fling happens the same day as ARTA. Discussion ensued, determining that this year was unique. Spring Fling will be offered the last weekend of April in the future. Jared expressed that the later date in Spring 2024 was nice because it gave a short break after NFA. Lindsey shared that this is Skyline's last time hosting the tournament and that the team will be on pause. **Outcome:** the Spring Fling schedule and host will be revisited at the Fall Business Meeting.

- B. **Fall Meeting Location & Date:** This was not discussed.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Jared is willing to host the NCFA Camp. He asked whether there is interest in extending the camp to two days. Andrea asked if there's a way for more experienced competitors to have a two-day camp while new students would spend one day. Doug thought this could work well for debaters, but that I.E.s may still be sufficient with one day.
- B. Phil shared that the NCFA region performed well this year. Programs do a lot to help students learn, improve their futures, and win awards at national competitions.
- C. Coaches took turns highlighting some of the region's successes.
- D. Steve explained that we need to have elections for Vice President. Ryan moved that we take nominations. Alexis seconded the motion. Jeff nominated Phil Sharp; Jason Ames seconded. Steve nominated Angela Ohland. Doug seconded. Angela accepted the nomination. Phil rejected the nomination. **Outcome:** Angela Ohland is appointed Vice President by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Taure Shimp (MJC)