



## ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

203 Silver Springs Way NW

Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2Y3

Phone: 403-479-6700

Email: [contact@albertadebate.com](mailto:contact@albertadebate.com)

Website: [www.albertadebate.com](http://www.albertadebate.com)

## 2019 Annual General Meeting

March 2 at 1:45 pm

Hosted at: Edmonton Islamic Academy

14525 127 ST, Edmonton, AB T6V 0B3

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to order: 1:45 pm

#### 2. Roll Call

- **Circulation of Attendance Sheet – Quorum Met**
- **Introduction of Board Members present:** Guillaume Laroche (President), Nathan Treloar (Treasurer), Vanessa Moerike (JH Debate Rep – Edmonton), Lennard Fink (Calgary Speech), Jason Hong (VP Debate), Linda Aschenbrenner (SH Debate Rep – Edmonton)

#### 3. Approval of agenda: Mover: Sylvia Hayward, Seconder: Darren Kiziak, Carried

##### 3.1. Approval of 2018 AGM minutes – Mover: Liz Pasek, Seconder: Shelsey Finch, Carried.

#### 4. Board of Directors Reports

##### a. President (Guillaume Laroche)

Great year for ADSA. Competitively, we are doing well.

**Speech:** On the speech side, 2/4 for the Worlds were from Alberta. Great Provincials for speech. Smooth and harmonious relations.

**Debate:** Successes within Alberta – CFIS hosted a brilliant JH Debate Nationals tournament. It is still being praised today. Three teams going to Oxford Cup in Oxford, England. Top speaker was from Alberta. Thanks to all for all the work you are doing.

**Organizational:** Thanks to Daria for building database and communications system. Looking into using the database for judges, alumni, etc. 1395 Students this year. 76 Schools. Great to see interest in the activities that are being presented. Twelve JH in Edmonton participated this year.

**Issues:** Finances – Challenging this year. Proposing changes, particularly with regard to team subsidies for National Events. There is a plan to get back on track. More national tournaments, they are larger, so more money is needed, which has caught up to us.



## ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

203 Silver Springs Way NW

Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2Y3

Phone: 403-479-6700

Email: [contact@albertadebate.com](mailto:contact@albertadebate.com)

Website: [www.albertadebate.com](http://www.albertadebate.com)

### b. VP Debate; VP Speech; VP Bilingual/French Debate reports

- **VP Debate (Jason Hong)** – Partnerships with UADS and UCDS have been incredibly helpful and responsible in their approach to hosting tournaments throughout the year. Commendation to the executives of those societies for being receptive. The cycle of debate schools that are joining and quitting every year is different every year, but we still have good numbers. Problem with having enough space at Regionals and Provincials. Hosts for tournaments have been difficult to find due to the numbers of students, and turnover of schools/coaches. Speech Nationals are in the first week of February, which caused some conflict with scheduling Regionals. (We want students to have access to both speech and debate) **Question: What is the policy of students registering with other schools?** There should no mixing of students from member schools. Smaller schools might have exception if they do not have enough students to form a team.
- **VP Speech (Jennifer Gordon) – Not in attendance. Calgary Speech Representative will speak to Speech.**
- **VP Bilingual (Lea Caplan)** - I would like to send my apologies to coaches, and all those in attendance for not being present today. This was my first year in the role of VP Bilingual at the ADSA, and I believe that I had several accomplishments. I have tried to improve the relationship and communication between bilingual coaches and the bilingual branch of the ADSA, by reaching out to coaches, and assisting them with their bilingual debate needs. This has included doing a lot of outreach and communicating with different schools, in order to encourage them to consider involving themselves in bilingual debate. I have helped coordinate SCIP interns in Calgary and in Edmonton. We had interns coaching at 3 schools in Edmonton, and interns in Calgary have been working on creating new resources and debate curriculums for the ADSA website, volunteering at events, and attending occasional debate practices. I have also helped develop a relationship between the ADSA and the AJEFA (a non-profit francophone legal association in Alberta). So far, this has involved presenting a debate workshop on their behalf in Red Deer, and giving a debate briefing and helping judge a debate competition in Edmonton. The Calgary SCIP interns and I have also been working on developing an 8-week bilingual curriculum, for beginner bilingual debaters and coaches. We expect this to be finished by the end of April. My goal for the 2019-2020 debate season is to once again, focus on outreach and growing our bilingual debate program in Calgary,



## ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

203 Silver Springs Way NW

Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2Y3

Phone: 403-479-6700

Email: [contact@albertadebate.com](mailto:contact@albertadebate.com)

Website: [www.albertadebate.com](http://www.albertadebate.com)

Edmonton, and perhaps even across the province. I would also like to have a really strong debater recruiting campaign in Fall of 2019.

As always, I would love to hear any feedback, comments or suggestions from coaches. My email address is on the ADSA's website "About ADSA" page.

Guillaume added: Two new Francophone schools have joined ADSA.

### c. Regional and Alumni representatives' reports.

- **Calgary Speech (Lennard Fink)** – This year, there are 216 students in speech, 338 in both speech and debate. Eight speech tournaments in Calgary this year and we advanced to the Nationals. Two students are going to Worlds. Four categories: Impromptu Speaking, Persuasive Speaking, Parliamentary Debate, Worlds next year is in Shanghai. Alberta is able to send 14 students to JH Speech Nationals. Worlds is April 7 – 11. Great year.
- **Edmonton SH Debate (Linda Aschenbrenner)** – Good year. Eight schools went to Regionals and eight schools are at Provincials. Starting forays into BP Debate.
- **Calgary SH Debate (Ramona Boyle)** – Very successful year. Challenges with scheduling. Central Memorial hosted Regionals as a collaborative effort (coaches from other schools helping out) and the tournament was seamless. We would like to hold similar tournaments. Would like to see tournaments scheduled in advance, so that there are no conflicts with Speech tournaments. Hosting Regionals during Family Day weekend was good because of the collaborative effort.
- **Calgary JH Debate (Julie Chrapko)** – Continues to be busy. Twelve tournaments this year. Hosted JH Nationals. The Family Day Regionals date was not as successful due to family trips, etc. A lot of new coaches in JH Debate in need of mentorship and support. How do we provide this support? Looking into this. Excellent JH Debaters went to Nationals last year and did well. There are 30+ JH schools in Calgary Debate. A lot of learning as well.
- **Northern Alumni Representative (Hania Aamer)** – JH Debate has grown a lot in Edmonton with a lot of alumni helping out. Looking for more speech alumni to assist with coaching Speech.

Guillaume thanked the Alumni reps for putting the research packages together.



## ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

203 Silver Springs Way NW

Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2Y3

Phone: 403-479-6700

Email: [contact@albertadebate.com](mailto:contact@albertadebate.com)

Website: [www.albertadebate.com](http://www.albertadebate.com)

- **Edmonton JH Debate (Vanessa Moerike)** – Twelve schools. Five tournaments, which is great considering the new coaches involved. Space was an issue, but we made it through. A lot of students had the opportunity to participate in debate. Thank you to the JH coaches for running tournaments collaboratively!
- **Southern Alumni Rep (Bryan Ma)** – Not in attendance.
- **Edmonton Speech (Fiona Williams)** – Not in attendance.

### 5. Treasurer's Report, Annual Financial Report & Budget for 2019-2020

- Financial Report from Accountant:** 2019 is the 2018 fiscal year, and 2018 is the 2017 fiscal year. Discussed report and broke down financials. \$26,000 total assets. \$12,000 was the net revenue. Explained Revenue and Expenses (see attached report) Ellen Tian asked about registrations decreasing from last fiscal year? Casino funding changed and had to be stretched further this year. A lot of money on hotels Provincials two years ago and we realized that this is not going to work. We have spent a lot of money on registrations/travel for National events and it is no longer sustainable.
- Budget** – Faced a hurdle of running out of money over the Summer in 2017, which was resolved. Cutbacks need to be made. Showed money in the bank from month to month. Cutback to Daria's salary and hours – volunteered to take the cut. Registrations for national events will also have to be cut or eliminated. When the Casino money comes in, Nathan will send a survey to all coaches to ask what they would like to see what the money is spent on.
- Summer shortfall** – Plan to secure a line of credit to ensure money is in place over the Summer. Schools could pay their school fees early.
- How can ADSA support students and coaches financially?** We can set up 50/50 raffles at tournaments. Parents could find connections for sponsorship at their workplaces. Sylvia said that parent councils can use their own AGLC funding for travel and such for National or Provincial Tournaments.
- Question:** A coach asked about what options there are with paying for students to go to National events. Is there a policy? Perhaps kids with less income could be subsidized.
- Guillaume added that things are on a case by case basis. Small pool of kids (20 – 25) we were spending on for Nationals. Is this what we want to spend on when there over 1300 kids in the association. Chaperone delegations are one expense area that AGLC allows for. Some new schools from remote locations and we want to grow those networks. Perhaps help connect these remote schools to ADSA.
- Question about national tournaments and costs** – (Answered by Julie Chrapko who hosted JH Debate Nationals.) the costs vary depending on what hosts are charging



## ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

203 Silver Springs Way NW

Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2Y3

Phone: 403-479-6700

Email: [contact@albertadebate.com](mailto:contact@albertadebate.com)

Website: [www.albertadebate.com](http://www.albertadebate.com)

due to their plans, activities, etc. There are usually expenses for catering for judges, volunteers, coaches, and students; as well as outings, printing, banquets, awards, etc. New financial plan is that we want to cover office expenses and Daria's salary with the school/individual registrations. That leaves the Casino account can be used for other things. Expect to hear about money over the next year.

- h. What do you want to see money spent on when we have it?
- i. **Motion to receive the Financial Report: Mover: Kim Rezazadeh, Alex Benarzi, Carried.**
- j. **Motion to accept the proposed budget: Mover: Kim Rezazadeh, Seconder: Alex Benarzi, Carried.**

### 6. Executive Director's Report

a.

### 7. Proposed amendments to the ADSA By-laws

- **#1. By-law No. 4 – Board of Directors, Article 2.5. Currently reads:**  
**2.5 Regional Representatives**
  - a) The Regional Representatives for speech and debate shall be nominated and elected at the respective regional speech and/or debate finals.
  - b) These positions will be voted in every year at the respective regional final.
  - c) The members attending the AGM will ratify these positions.

**Proposed modification: to strike articles 2.5(b) and 2.5(c), as follows:**

#### **2.5 Regional Representatives**

- a) The Regional Representatives for speech and debate shall be nominated and elected at the respective regional speech and/or debate finals.
- b) These positions will be voted in every year at the respective regional final.
- c) The members attending the AGM will ratify these positions.

**Rationale:** to eliminate the conflict between Article 2.2, which sets all terms at two years in duration for all Board members, and Article 2.5(b), which suggests annual elections for Regional Representatives. Also, to establish firmly that Regional meetings are the proper venue for the selection of Regional representatives, and not the AGM.

**Mover: Sylvia Hayward, Seconder: Michelle Kacsmarik, Carried.**

**#2. By-law No. 4 – Board of Directors, Article 2.6. Currently reads:**

#### **2.6 ADSA Alumni Regional Representatives (2)**

- a) The Regional Alumni Representatives will be voted in as the regional alumni members prior to the AGM.



## ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

203 Silver Springs Way NW

Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2Y3

Phone: 403-479-6700

Email: [contact@albertadebate.com](mailto:contact@albertadebate.com)

Website: [www.albertadebate.com](http://www.albertadebate.com)

### **Proposed modification: to amend article 2.6, as follows:**

2.6 ADSA Alumni Regional Representatives (2)

a) The Regional Alumni Representatives will be voted in as the regional alumni members prior to at the AGM.

**Rationale:** to provide a clear venue and time for the election of Regional Alumni representatives. The current language “prior to” is unclear in scope and location.

**Motion to accept the amendment: Mover: Hania Aamer, Seconder: Vanessa Moerike, Carried.**

## **8. Proposed amendments to the ADSA Policy and Rules Manual**

**#1. Policy No. 1 – Local Activities, Article 2.14.** Currently reads:

2.14 Senior High students will be allowed to judge Junior High students. Preferably the Senior High students acting as judges will be ones that have exposure to the ADSA program. Junior High students are not eligible to judge in tournaments.

### **Proposed modification: to replace article 2.14, as follows:**

2.14 Judges for Senior High tournaments shall be individuals age 18 years or over who are not registered as students in a secondary school. Judges for Junior High tournaments shall be individuals age 18 years or over, and/or Senior High students. Normally, Senior High students judging in a Junior High tournament shall be Individual Members of the ADSA and be knowledgeable about debate. Junior High students are not eligible to judge in any tournament. Judges shall be conversant in the language(s) of the competition. The Tournament Organizer may disqualify a judge who demonstrates an insufficient proficiency in the language(s) of the competition. In special circumstances, the Board may waive any of the above requirements at its discretion.

**Rationale:** To clarify the qualifications of judges for SH tournaments. To describe the expected qualifications of Senior High students recruited to judge Junior High competitions. To set minimum language comprehension qualifications on all judges. To explicitly empower the Board to waive these requirements in special circumstances.

**Motion to accept proposal: Mover: Ramona Boyle, Seconder: Nikki Davidson, (2 opposed) Carried.**



## **ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION**

203 Silver Springs Way NW

Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2Y3

Phone: 403-479-6700

Email: [contact@albertadebate.com](mailto:contact@albertadebate.com)

Website: [www.albertadebate.com](http://www.albertadebate.com)

### **#2. Policy No. 1 – Local Activities, Article 2.17. Currently reads:**

2.17 All Canadian National Debate Tournaments will be individual adjudication at all levels. All British Parliamentary Tournaments will be consensus adjudication to determine rank and individual speaker scores at all levels.

### **Proposed modification: to replace article 2.17, as follows:**

2.17 All Championship Tournaments held in the Canadian National Debate style will be individual adjudication at all levels. Non-Championship Tournaments in Canadian National Debate style may use individual adjudication or consensus adjudication, at the discretion of the Tournament Organizer. All British Parliamentary Tournaments will be consensus adjudication to determine rank and individual speaker scores at all levels.

**Rationale:** To allow some experimentation with different approaches to judging at non-Championship CN style tournaments. The Board expects that most local tournaments will continue to use individual adjudication, but is interested in understanding what advantages consensus-style adjudication may have in CN. The objective is to gather data over the next few years, and then re-evaluate if we wish to pursue modifications for Championship Tournaments.

**Motion to change Consensus to Conferral in the proposal: Mover: Sylvia Hayward, Seconder: Ramona Boyle, Carried.**

### **Debate:**

- Lennard Fink brought up the fact that Speech judging is conferral and is working well with a time limit of 5 minutes. Michelle asked about JH level judges – does the time limit work despite less experienced judges.
- Alex Benarzi – Conferral could turn into another debate, which could be problematic.
- Liz Pasek – Appreciates judges having this opportunity considering less experienced judges might get some training out of it.
- Brent Ransom – Agreed with Alex because he has experienced problems with conferral judging turning into a debate.
- Shelsey Finch – The conferral process would help new judges learn and not become a debate because it is conferral and not consensus based.



## ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

203 Silver Springs Way NW

Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2Y3

Phone: 403-479-6700

Email: [contact@albertadebate.com](mailto:contact@albertadebate.com)

Website: [www.albertadebate.com](http://www.albertadebate.com)

- Kevin – Echoed concern with more experienced judges could turn it into a debate. However, having inexperienced judges mixed with experienced judges could be a great learning opportunity.
- Ramona Boyle– This is an option; you do not have to use conferral at all at a tournament. It is at the discretion of the organizer.

### **Amended Proposal**

2.17 All Championship Tournaments held in the Canadian National Debate style will be individual adjudication at all levels. Non-Championship Tournaments in Canadian National Debate style may use individual adjudication or conferral adjudication, at the discretion of the Tournament Organizer. All British Parliamentary Tournaments will be consensus adjudication to determine rank and individual speaker scores at all levels.

**Motion to accept amended proposal: Mover: Shelsey Finch, Seconder: Jason Wutzke, 2 oppositions. Carried.**

#3. Rules for Debate, Rule 1.7, on the format for English Senior High Cross-Examination Style debate. Ratification of a change approved by the Board of Directors on December 7th, 2018.

The timing for the Break between the constructive and reply speeches read as follows: Break: Beginner: 8 min Open: 8 min

**Proposed modification:** to align the break provided by Rule 1.7 with that provided by Rule 1.8 and generally accepted norms of Cross-Examination style debates, as follows: Break: Beginner: 8 4 min Open: 8 4 min  
Rationale: This was probably a typographical error that went unnoticed for some time. Rule 1.8 shows that in Bilingual Senior High Cross-Examination Style debate, the break is set at 4 minutes. Rule 1.6 shows that Junior High debaters in this style get a 5 minute break. No rationale for an 8 minute break at the SH level can be identified, given the conventions in Rules 1.6 and 1.8. Nationally, the conventional break time for Senior High students is 4 minutes. The Rules should be updated to reflect this norm.

**Mover: Jennifer from Tom Baines, Kevin Fensom, Carried.**





## ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

203 Silver Springs Way NW

Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2Y3

Phone: 403-479-6700

Email: [contact@albertadebate.com](mailto:contact@albertadebate.com)

Website: [www.albertadebate.com](http://www.albertadebate.com)

### 9. 2019-2020 ADSA Major Tournaments Schedule

- a. **Nationals** – Should be able to advise on who will go on to Nationals today. (5 Team allowance) April 23 – 26 in Montreal
- b. **JH Speech Nationals** – Vancouver (May 10 – 13, 2019)
- c. **National Seminar is the last week of September.** Educational activity for promising debaters who have not made it to Provincial or higher levels. Must be in grades 9 – 12 in September of 2019. Will be sending out a call for nominations soon. We will also be looking for committee meetings.
- d. **Oxford Cup Qualifier sometime toward the end of October.** Need a host.
- e. **JH BP Qualifying tournament.** Need a host.
- f. **Regionals/Provincials for Speech and Debate.** Hosts needed.  
It is okay to ask for help. Fellow coaches are willing to help.
- g. **Workshops for coaches:** Daria will be posting workshop lists and provider in Coaches' Corner.

### 10. Future national events hosts:

- a. **Debate BP Nats Fall of 2020** – Need a host.
- b. **Debate National Seminar 2022** – Last hosted by Alberta in 2005, so it's our turn. We want to find a host or group of coaches to make it happen.
- c. **Debate Nationals (SH or JH)** – Need a host once upon a time.

### 11. Other Business

- a. None

### 12. Call for motion to adjourn: Mover: Liz Pasek. Time: 3:25 pm