



ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

203 Silver Springs Way NW

Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2Y3

Phone: 403-479-6700

Email: contact@albertadebate.com

Website: www.albertadebate.com

Annual General Meeting of the ADSA Online meeting, May 6, 2021 at 6:00pm

1. Call to order & Roll Call

- a. -Introduction of Board Members present

2. Approval of the AGM agenda Mover: Tehzeeb, Alex Carried

3. Approval of 2020 AGM minutes Tehzeeb, Harold Zhu, Carried

4. Board of Directors Reports

a. President's annual report

- i. One of the most challenging years that ADSA has faced. It has been transformational year – thank you to all who have made this year's programming possible.
- ii. All debates and events were done online due to COVID-19. There was a late start to the season as we got up to speed with Zoom.
- iii. Show case and a province wide rookie workshop, BP Nationals Qualifier (JH also had a chance to qualify), BP Nationals tournament – biggest online events in the year.
- iv. All events were open to all in Alberta, which allowed for more participation. Thanks you to all who helped make these online debates successful.
- v. There were concerns about finances with regard to memberships, but we were able to use the fees from BP Nationals, as well as the memberships that did come in. The Casino Account was made
- vi. CSDF and Speech and Debate Canada have committed to providing funding for provincial expansions in coaching.
- vii. Zoom has been very successful as an avenue for debate. There is a place for online events to encourage greater engagement and attendance, and to reach out to schools and agencies outside of the major centres.



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b. VP Debate – Alex Benarzi

- i. Hopes for the future: JH Debate Nationals are coming up, and registration for the 2021 National Seminar are coming up; which will then wrap up the debate season for the year.
- ii. Thanks to all who made this year successful by helping out with hosting, keeping clubs running, helping with tournaments, and taking on students from schools who were unable to run debate clubs this year.
- iii. Thanks to Lea Caplan for keeping French debate alive and in the news.
- iv. It's been a great year and I look forward to more in person debates in the coming year.

c. VP Speech – Lennard Fink - Not present

d. VP Bilingual/French Debate – Lea Caplan

- i. Not many competitions occurred due to lack of clubs running French/Bilingual debates.
- ii. Focused on connecting with schools outside of the major centres to raise interest in bilingual debate.
- iii. National Seminar – We need French/Bilingual students to send.
- iv. Strengthened partnership with Francophone Bar Association

5. Regional and Alumni representatives' reports

a. Northern Alumni Representative: Tehzeeb Sayed

- i. Assisted with tournament coordination and worked on the topics for the year.
- ii. Thank you to all for doing so well during a difficult year.

b. Southern Alumni Representative: Harold Zhu

- i. A unique season due to COVID-19, but the online platforms were helpful to allow everyone to access debate in Alberta and Nationally.



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c. Calgary Senior High Debate Representative: Ramona Boyle

- i. Increased accessibility for schools outside Calgary and Edmonton; as well as more opportunities for debate outside of Alberta.
- ii. Thanks to all schools who did purchase memberships this year to keep ADSA alive.

d. Calgary Junior High Debate Representative: Curtis Hogaboam

- i. The season turned out very well, with lots of participation thanks to all of the hard work by everyone.
- ii. Students were grateful that Debate continued this year despite being online.
- iii. If you know of coaches that want to join in September, please let us know.

e. Edmonton Senior High Debate Representative: Quinten Starko

- i. Thank you to all who were involved in the community this year.
- ii. With so many activities cancelled due to the pandemic, students were happy to still be able to participate in debate.
- iii. There were new coaches who came into the debate community and hosted tournaments. Thank you!
- iv. Looking forward to the fall, but it would be nice to keep online options open.

f. Edmonton Junior High Debate Representative: Austin Redmond

- i. A lot of new coaches were willing to adjust to the online formats.
- ii. It was great for students to participate in activities that they know and love, despite the pandemic.
- iii. We will need to rebuild the circuit, and hopefully, our success will attract more members next year.

g. Motion to accept the reports of the Board: Mover: Xiangfei Li, Second: Ramona Boyle; Carried with one abstention.



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6. Treasurer's Report, Annual Financial Report & Budget for 2021-2022

- a. Thanks to Daria for developing the budget.
- b. Sharon discussed the previous year's budgets and financials.
- c. **Motion to accept the proposed budget. Mover: Alex Benarzi, Seconder: Harold Zhu; Carried with one abstention.**

7. Executive Director's Report: Daria Skibington-Roffel

- a. Thanks you to all who have made this year possible and successful in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges associated with it.
- b. ADSA was fortunate to have received its 2-year funding from AGLC before the pandemic hit, which has been used to pay for the ED salary, as well as awards and tournament expenses.
- c. Membership did drop this year, but there were enough to sustain ADSA this year. With the success of online events this year, it is hoped that more schools will consider joining next year, even if the pandemic continues.
- d. **Motion to accept the ED Report. Mover: Harold Zhu, Seconder: Lea Caplan, Carried with one abstention.**

8. Proposed amendments to the ADSA By-laws

- a. See Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws Document by the Board of Directors. (Approved and forwarded by the ADSA Board of Directors)
- b. **Motion to Accept the changes to Article 7.4 – Membership. Mover: Jason Hong; Seconder: Alex Benarzi. Carried with one abstention**



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9. Proposed by bylaw changes Cougars Debate Club

a. Change 1:

- i. Many of these were addressed in the Board's changes.
- ii. Discussion about the details of the motions, particularly with regard to students having to choose one club to compete with. The school affiliated club serves like a school-based club. We do not want fragmentation, and students should have a clear choice. (School-based/School-Affiliated first, and then Private Club if no school club/affiliate is available.)
- iii. **Moved by: Xiangfei Li, Seconded by: Ellen Tian; passed with one abstention, and 10% opposition.**

b. Change 2:

- i. Bylaw 8.6 – Individuals who fail to obey the rules will result in the forfeit of
- ii. **Motion to accept the change to bylaw 8.6. Mover: Xiangfei Li, Secunder: Ellen Tian, Defeated – 60% opposed, 20% in favour, 20% Abstentions.**

10. Motion to Rescind all previous versions of the Bylaws and accept the amended bylaws. Mover: Ramona Boyle, Secunder: Alex Benarzi, Carried.

11. Proposed amendments to the ADSA Policy and Rules Manual

- a. Approved and forwarded by the ADSA Board – Please see documentation: ADSA Policy & Rules Manual.
- b. **Motion to accept the changes to the Policy and Rules Manual. Mover: Jason Hong; Secunder: Alex Benarzi, Carried.**

12. Changes to the Policy and Rules Manual - Proposed by Cougars Debate Club

- a. Discussion about allocation of spots in tournaments to clubs by size of club.
- b. **Motion to accept the changes proposed by the Cougars Debate Club. Mover: Xiangfei Li, Secunder: Ellen Tian. Defeated.**



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13.2021-2022 ADSA Major Tournaments Schedule – hosts, dates

- a. Lea asked that if anyone knows of any schools wanting to set up a French or Bilingual program to please contact her.

14.Elections

- a. Jason: Thank you, Ramona, for your many years of service to ADSA. You've been an incredible support and strong voice of reason.
- b. Motion for official thank you. Carried
- c. Ramona Boyle has stepped down from the Board as the Senior High Debate Representative; and Angela Fraser will step in as the new Senior High Debate Representative for Calgary.
- d. **Motion to accept Angela Fraser as Senior High Debate Representative for Calgary: Jason Hong, Secunder: Alex Benarzi. Carried.**

15.Other Business

16.Adjournment 8:05 pm (Moved by Alex Benarzi)



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SPECIAL RESOLUTION

I hereby certify that the following special resolution was passed at a meeting of the members of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association on on May 6, 2021.

1. The existing by-laws are repealed.
2. They are replaced with the attached by-laws.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Name: Jason Hong

Title: President