

Board Members Present

- Christian Vasquez (President)
- Des Neimann (Past President)
- DJ BRYNTESON Brynteson (President-Elect)
- Katie Scholz (Secretary)
- Rachel Baumann (Treasurer)

Agenda

- Section Tournament Shift
- Funding Novice Policy Packet

Christian Vasquez calls meeting to order.

First order of business – Section Tournament Shift (DJ BRYNTESON walkthrough)

- DJ BRYNTESON gives a rundown of how Congress works ((Each school submits 2 entries. Instead of four sections operating separately, they compete together. EACH Section Champion and Runner up qualify, and then the next 16 at-large entrants.))
- Would also change the entry numbers in Policy back to 24
- Also change how we pair the first two rounds of the state tournament as it wouldn't be based on sections anymore (since not necessarily equal numbers by sections). Instead, put competitors into groups of 8 (section champs/runner-up; next 8; last 8). Everyone would debate against one team from the other two pools. Gives some protection to the section champs and runners-up

Questions

- (Section Pairing?) in rounds 1&2 preset, try to meet own section where possible. After that, normal pairing procedures for 3-6. MINIMUM 1 round within section.

Comments

((26 people responded, Everyone supported, wants the change to happen next year))

- Two groups liked idea of moving policy back to 24
- One person note that we should check tiebreakers, and never do a blind draw

Review tie-breakers

1. Decisions
  2. Head to Head
  3. Speaker points
  4. Decisions won by opponents
  5. total # of speaker points
  6. Random Draw
- Do we have enough?

(Christian) Option: half speaker points... could move to 0.1 points

(DJ BRYNTESON) Option: add a "drop two high, two low"

(Cort) Maybe look again in two years?

(Rachel) – double high lows is at least not random. There was a judge reason.

(Amy) – how will new schools be assigned to sections?

(DJ BRYNTESON) – will go back to the league. Amy Doherty is a fan because Debate is one of two activities that constantly moves schools around to balance things. They would prefer to go back to geographical. Takes Debate leadership out of the 'game' of sectioning as well.

- If we gave a geographical suggestion, MSHSL would likely accept. Main issue is how to draw lines around UDL in MPLS/StPaul

(another Q received) – “it feels like mini state ahead of time – is there any appetite to moving it to December.”

- DJ BRYNTESON: January preferred (comments from the crowd are the same)

Judges

(Another Q received) Would 14 2-day Judges, 6 1-day judges still be enough for a 2-day tournament State Tournament in Policy?

- Currently appeal to MSHSL is that it is cost neutral.
- (2 extra judges would be helpful for policy because there are more conflicts)
- Re: Panels – we’ll still have dirty panels of judges.
- Should note: use language “at least 18” but we try to hire 20 in LD / PF.
- (Cort Sylvester) actually going to 24 makes it more likely that there will be fewer judges, less need to bring in new judges. Rounds distributed among more judges

\*\*Language in proposal changed so that there will be “at least 18” judges for Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum.

(DJ BRYNTESON) last comment – does making 24 at the state tournament make it so that 5 prelims isn’t enough for policy?

- (Cort Sylvester) – doesn’t change 5 being enough, but consideration is that there will be more 3-2s that miss on points. It is common that we have some 3-2s that don’t break, so that won’t change either way.
- (Robert Groven) – need to weigh time to get 6<sup>th</sup> round in – would have to start at 8AM on Friday.
- (Cort Sylvester) – would make for a grueling day of debate.

Those were the only comments received before meeting.

For transparency, have been keeping track of responding schools and considering who would be impacted.

- Have about 60% of the impacted schools not responding.

(Robert Groven) – UDL decided to support, but the question is whether there is still enough fairness for rural / less financially supported schools. It’s something to look at in the future and keep track of.

(DJ BRYNTESON) – had that same conversation in Congress about options. There are some levers to pull (top 3 per section, e.g., instead of 2). Worth keeping an eye on.

DJ BRYNTESON Asks for additional comments. None presented.

Need to get this to the League by February 16<sup>th</sup>. It must go to the Regions, who weigh in, the MSHSL board will make a decision, and it will be in time for Sections 2024.

League may deny; push another year; allow; or something in between.

MDTA will submit on behalf of the membership.

(Christian Vasquez) – no real negative comments. No reason not to propose.

SECOND proposal – submitted by Amy Cram Helwich

Details:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xtBrnt9gRIXAXY4T09rKoDAK4GWwHFNib0lvAKe76l/e/dit?usp=sharing>

- Does MDTA want to fund a stipend for Novice Policy Packet? Looking for \$2000 to support the process.
- UDL works with community members, it's a group project. But UDL drives the final editing process, ensures that evidence meets reading comprehension level, focuses on equity lens re: Authors, working to achieve learning goals for the year.
- It's a lot of work. Jake Swede estimated 150 hours put into the packet.
- When considering retention of programs, it's important that we have a strong novice packet to support new teachers.
- Looking to have a wider group of individuals be part of the process – a stipend (\$250-\$500, etc.) to put together the position, that's an equity piece.
- It's also an accountability piece to ensure timelines are met – needs to be done well before school year start.
- MDTA could pay stipends directly or could fund total amount to UDL, UDL contracts out.
- (Robert Groven) – even if we do \$2000, it's still true that at least half the total hours are going to be done by UDL staff. Leveraging MDTA staff because UDL will pay for half the process using UDL resources. Novice packet is starting soon – it would be nice to know if a stipend will be available.

(Des Neimann) – in support, for every program that does Policy – every student benefits. Should show that we value it.

(Rachel Baumann) – MDTA balance is in excess of \$21K. There is money to fund it.

(Christian Vasquez) – MDTA fund has to be under a limit

(DJ BRYNTESON) – is there a potential tax issue if we provide a stipend?

(Christian Vasquez) – will review meeting minutes from last year?

(Amy Cram Helwich) – UDL is set up to, can handle the tax documents

(DJ BRYNTESON) – how do we measure who gets the stipend? What if partial is done... how do we decide who gets \$250 vs. \$500? MDTA may not want to be in the decision process for that.

(Robert Groven) – is a question. MDTA has had issues in the past that we paid for work that wasn't done / done correctly. (1) we created an estimate of hours per position. A discrete position is assigned, pay is correlated based on hours expected. (2) Tell up front what will be paid IF assignment is completed TO satisfaction of committee. IF NOT MET, no payment or reduced payment.

(Rachel Baumann) – would be good to promote diversity, encourage more participation in the future.

(Des Neimann) – we don't need to commit annually, we have extra money because of COVID, but we can say yes for this year and review in the future.

(Amy Cram Helwich) – also value for younger coaches seeing how the packet is made, encourage participation in the process. Will help encourage connection to the activity, each other – it is a group project. UDL will ensure the quality / goals

(Robert Groven) – UDL is in a period of expansion. The packet is accessible to someone who has no experience, is also a curriculum that can be used for a teacher with no experience. We'll be in 9 school districts now. We're pitching to more. There will be a lot more new teacher-coaches with no prior experience. More important this year that the packet is structured for a teacher to pick up and use.

(Christian Vasquez) – question, is there a group of people that want to step up and do this?

(Robert Groven) – already have more people wanting to participate than can be used.

(DJ BRYNTESON) – only thought, we should approve, do for a year, MDTA has a right to say ‘we had 8 people, 7 did their work’ – would like some report at the end.

Plan is to have report presented in the fall, for renewal. UDL will report back how monies were spent.

DJ BRYNTESON moves to approve grant.

Lots of seconds

Board moves unanimously.

Novice Packet logistics – See Google Doc Link Above.

- Anyone can join

Those were the two items

If any comments, concerns, contact the board.

Meeting Adjourned.