

Minutes NPDA Tournament Meeting-March 19, 1998

1. Dr. Robert Trapp called the meeting open at 7:32
2. Preliminary discussion related to later business:

Dee Cockrell Thomas, the EEO officer at Texas Tech, spoke to us about the Sexual Harassment Policy. She addressed several issues about having and not having the policy. Issues that were raised: Some things might be covered by individual schools involved. Trapp noted that that inter-school problem was precisely why we might need a policy. Question: What does this covert Gernant noted that it was intended for the national tournament although could be used across the board. Thomas suggested that we consider if we have enough people trained to do this and what we consider unacceptable behavior. Dirgo of Creighton addressed the liability issue brought up at NCA. He suggested that no policy increases liability. He further noted that it further increases liability to have a policy that isn't enforced. He also questioned whether NPDA is "real" enough to be liable. Our greatest concern is probably the hired judges at nationals.

3. President's Report: Trapp noted that with the representation ballot passing we need to elect a junior college rep and even number districts need to elect a two-year rep and the odd number districts need to elect a one-year rep. Districts needed to do this during the tournament
4. Treasurer's Report: Brent Northup--Finances: \$11,574 was the balance at the beginning of the tournament. Districts reports: Most of the NIET districts met their quota The exceptions were 7 and 8.
5. Exec Secretary's report: Mike Ingram-We have 180 schools, over 96 tournaments. All three ballots passed. PLEASE send stuff in a timely fashion and get tournaments sanctioned. There were a variety of options suggested for making things more efficient.
6. Student Rep: Joe reported that he is not filling his term and that there will be an election of a new rep on Saturday, Mar 21.
7. Old Business:
Sexual Harassment Policy:

Johnson of Alaska asked if it was possible to have a descriptive policy. Dirgo noted that it probably doesn't make sense to have a policy without procedures. He noted again that you are far better off to have the policy IF AND ONLY IF YOU FOLLOW IT. The "free speech shouldn't be hindered" question was raised Dirgo noted that the host school answer doesn't work but rather maybe it would be the schools that were involved. Dreher of Bethel suggested that we need to hire a lawyer to get specific legal advice before we act on this. People asked again if we are incorporated. Tyler noted that it should be prudent to go to the lawyer again. Dirgo noted that with various jurisdictions you probably aren't going to get absolute answers to these things. Moved and seconded that we send to a committee to be submitted to a task force that report back by November. Passed.

8. New Business:
Discussion items:
Rules will be submitted by Trapp to NCA annual meeting as a by-law addition. There will also be a proposal to discourage coaching by sponsors during tournaments. Joe Gantt of Texas Tech and Trapp are figuring out a proposal for the NCA meeting. Joe spoke to this and said that he thought that it should be open for discussion--that's all he wants. He noted that students overall don't like coaching in prep time. Then Bob opened up the rules to discussion. Four A about public information was questioned. Bob noted that the way things are currently written that you could theoretically have information that you copied on your pad and brought in. There was a suggestion that we change the rules to begin when the topic is announced. Rutledge of Point Loma then wanted to know if there is a time frame by which you should bring amendments to the current rules. Bob clarified that he would like us to see this year's rules be proposed first and then that we introduce respective amendments after so that can be dealt with.

Jensen of Webster asked: Would a point of information cover a question about the validity of a source? Trapp suggested a number of ways to handle it Jensen noted that it that this meant it could be. Specific information: Trapp suggested that it is an issue of personal credibility not one that needs to be "proven." Final thoughts moved toward how we can ultimately settle these issues in another forum which is the least legalistic but effective. Concerns were addressed again about a level playing field Johnson of Alaska noted that it is not necessarily in our best interest to interpret strictly all these issues. Hunsaker of McKendree noted that the fewer the rules the better but coaching in prep time isn't really a very tough issue to ascertain and decide. Collison of Creighton noted that defining coaching is hard. This was batted around a little more. Knapp of Oregon State noted that it didn't become an issue until it happened. We should leave it to the coaches then to self-enforce.

Trapp then talked about procedures for announcing topics and so on in this tournament

10. We adjourned at 9:05.

Volunteers for the Sexual Harassment Policy "do we need it" Committee: David Dirgo-Creighton, Scott Jensen--Webster.

Those who are involved on this committee are asked to follow-up as soon as possible. Dirgo can be reached through Creighton University and via the listserv.