

Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association

Fall Business Meeting

September 6, 2008
San Jacinto College – North
Houston, Texas

MINUTES

The following members were present at the Friday pre-meeting session: Collier Patton (Lone Star College – Kingwood), Leigh-Anne Williams (San Jacinto College – North), Nancy McVeah (Weatherford), Brad Nies (Blinn College), Sherri White (Lone Star College – Tomball), Sheleigh Carmichael (San Jacinto College – South), Kirk Davidson (Howard College), John Corly (HCC Southwest), Debra Schultz (HCC Northeast), Clay Grizzle (Panola College), and Floyd McConnell (San Jacinto College – North).

The following members were present at the Saturday meeting: Collier Patton (Lone Star College – Kingwood), Leigh-Anne Williams (San Jacinto College – North), Nancy McVeah (Weatherford), Brad Nies (Blinn College), Sherri White (Lone Star College – Tomball), Sheleigh Carmichael (San Jacinto College – South), Kirk Davidson (Howard College), John Corly (HCC Southwest), Debra Schultz (HCC Northeast), Clay Grizzle (Panola College), Floyd McConnell (San Jacinto College – North), Wade Hescht (Lone Star College – North Harris), Kalliope Vlahos (Lone Star College – Kingwood), William Ferreira (HCC Southwest), Eric Skiles (Lone Star College – Kingwood), M'Liss Hindman (Tyler Junior College), and Kevin Patrick (Blinn College)

After determining that there were enough schools present to form a quorum, President Brad Nies called the meeting to order. Introductions were made all around.

The minutes were approved with no corrections. Eric Skiles moved to approve the minutes. Floyd McConnell seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

The hosts of the Spring 2008 Playfest (Eric Skiles) and State Forensics Meet (Floyd McConnell) were presented with plaques expressing the appreciation of the organization.

The Treasurer, Sherri White, presented a Treasurer's Report. That Report follows in a separate document. We have begun paying an annual "checking fee" at the bank. Sherri will check on perhaps getting an account that would not charge us a fee. Sherri pointed out that there is a problem with a number of schools who have not paid their dues for the previous year. Collier Patton has contacted those schools and will attempt to get them to pay. The payment for John Wright (\$700) is still pending. Sherri will issue his check as soon as she has the paperwork. M'Liss Hindman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Sheleigh Carmichael seconded the motion.

The issue of "late fees" was raised. A list of paid members is attached to these minutes as a separate document. A discussion ensued about whether or not members would be allowed to compete at Playfest or the State Forensics Meet if they have not already paid. Sheleigh asked if a P.O. showing that the payment was in process would be acceptable, and John Corley elaborated that schools often make errors in payment processing. No motion was made.

Next, the value of "X" was discussed. "X" is the base amount used in calculating the organizational dues and fees. Sheleigh asked in the amount for forensics needs to increase to meet the cost of the State Forensics Meet. Sherri pointed out that she believed "X" needs to increase across the board because of the higher cost of everything, including mileage for judges/critics. After much discussion, Sherri proposed that we keep "X" at its current value (\$100) and increase the Forensics multiplier. Wade Hesch pointed out that we should simply eliminate the Interpreter's Theatre Critic and use coaches to judge the IT event, thereby saving the organization significant money and eliminating this problem. Eric pointed out that this proposal was out of order and called the previous question about the value of "X". Eric told the group, "I'm just sayin', move on." Sherri moved that we leave "X" at \$100. Eric seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. The discussion of the "X" multiplier was temporarily tabled until the discussion of Constitutional Amendments.

Eric began a discussion of Playfest 2007-2008. It was very successful, with 8 schools and 200 participants attending. A discussion at the 2007-2008 Playfest ended with the consensus that November is not a good month to host a festival, and so the one-year trial ended with Playfest moving back to the Spring semester. No trophies or plaques will need to be purchased this year because of a surplus of plaques in storage.

Floyd initiated a discussion of the Spring 2008 State Forensics Meet. There were 8 schools in attendance and it was fabulous.

The Outreach committee (Eric Skiles, Kali Vlahos, and Collier Patton) reported that efforts to create table tents, flyers, and handouts would be started and they would be made available for all members. Sheleigh proposed that in the future the organization pay the \$100 fee for a table at TETA. This year, however, member schools will represent the organization at TETA by putting out promotional materials and perhaps displaying "Proud member of TCCSTA" table tents. Eric will coordinate efforts for TETA and M'Liss will coordinate efforts for Outreach at TSCA. "Packets of Happiness" (a bundle of promotional materials) will be made available to anyone who wishes to promote the organization.

An Outreach "Hit List" will be generated of schools with which we would like to make contact. Brad offered that he has a list of all community colleges in Texas and would be happy to send out flyers and/or a digital "packet of happiness" once he receives it from the Outreach Committee.

Sheleigh, the TETA liaison, offered her report. She will put promotional materials on her table. Sherri asked about the workshop at TETA last year about TCCSTA. She was the only person who attended. Sheleigh suggested that the President Elect (or President) should preside over the meeting and that perhaps it should be a reception, not a meeting, with food and refreshments. Sherri proposed that this year it not be an official "reception" or "meeting," but instead flyers will be created and a more informal "meet and greet" will occur Friday of TETA. The decision about how to proceed for next year's TETA will be made at Playfest.

The 2007-2008 TETA Educator of the Year was Brad Nies. Brad nominated Sherri White and Don Luna for the 2008-2009 award. He will nominate Nancy for 2009-2010. A discussion of possible 4-year university nominees ensued. Richard from Tarleton, the director from Wayland Baptist, Perry Crafton, and Kelly Russell were all proposed. Brad will choose the nominee.

The Founder's Award was discussed. Sherri said that we need to document who these people (the founders) were. Sherri and M'Liss will write blurbs about the founders, to be posted to the website and added to the Constitution. John Corley will work on the Founder's Award and will give something to the hosts of Playfest and the Spring State Forensics Meet.

Eric said that the website (www.tccsta.org) is ready to go live on October 1. The organization will pay Eric back for the expenses he has incurred for the website. Eric asks everyone to send content.

M'Liss asked about the organizational logo. Eric said that he has the logo and will be happy to email it out to anyone interested. The logo can be found on the cover page of the Constitution and attached to these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Constitutional Amendments: The Following Amendments were offered.

Amendment: Fall TCCSTA Forensics Meet (proposed by Collier Patton)

Current Text (p.6):

I. GENERAL RULES

A. Annual Meets

1. Annual meets of the association shall consist of two: a play festival and a state forensic meet.

Proposed Amendment:

Add to the end of (1.): "Additionally, a Fall TCCSTA Forensic Meet may be held."

Add the following to (I. A.): "7. The membership body should entertain bids for hosting the Fall TCCSTA Forensic Meet along with the bids for the TCCSTA State Forensic Meet and Play Festival at the Fall Business Meeting. If no host is selected at the Fall Business Meeting, a host may be chosen at the TCCSTA State Forensic Meet in the Spring. The Fall TCCSTA Forensic Meet shall follow all of the "General Rules and Guidelines for the Forensic Meet" (Section II of the TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPEECH AND THEATRE ASSOCIATION RULES) with the following exceptions: The Fall TCCSTA Forensic Meet shall not be funded by the Organization. The tournament host shall assess whatever fees she/he deems appropriate. The tournament host shall determine the location and date of the meet. Students may enter up to two events per pattern."

Colly explained that this Amendment is a response to a desire expressed last year to create a Fall TCCSTA Speech tournament. M'Liss said that community college only tournaments are divisive and expressed a desire to be a part of a community with the 4-year universities. Wade explained that the date will not conflict with the 4-year university calendar. Colly explained the rationale for the amendment, namely that it will build a sense of community among the community college competitors and allow for community college programs to show their campuses their success. Sheleigh moved for passage of the Amendment. Floyd seconded. It passed unanimously.

Amendment: State TCCSTA Forensics Meet Procedure Clarification (proposed by Collier Patton)

Current Text (p. 16):

3. DETERMINING SEMI-FINALISTS AND FINALISTS:

c. A total panel of six contestants is the 'magic number' for either a semi or final round. However, depending upon the size of the State Meet, the following guidelines are followed:

(1) Take less than six if there is a 'clean break' at four or five contestants and the total number of the entire entry was less than twelve. (This is equivalent to the national 50% rule.)

(2) Take seven if there is a tie or if taking seven brings in a different school (new from the existing panel.)

(3) Take eight only if there is an unbreakable tie with the seventh contestant.

(4) Under no circumstances, should nine contestants be taken to a semi or final panel. If there is a tie for the 7-9 contestants; then only six advance, even if that means leaving out a "new school."

Proposed Amendment:

Rewrite (3. C.) to read as follows (changes are in **bold**):

3. DETERMINING SEMI-FINALISTS AND FINALISTS:

c. A total panel of six contestants is the 'magic number' for either a semi or final round. However, depending upon the size of the State Meet, the following guidelines are followed:

(1) Take less than six if there is a 'clean break' in **cumulative rankings (not including ratings)** at four or five contestants and the total number of the entire entry was less than twelve. (This is equivalent to the national 50% rule.)

(2) Take seven if there is a tie in **cumulative rankings and ratings** or if taking seven brings in a different school (new from the existing panel.)

(3) Take eight only if there is a tie in **cumulative rankings and ratings** with the seventh contestant.

(4) Under no circumstances, should nine contestants be taken to a semi or final panel. If there is a tie in **cumulative rankings and ratings** for the 7-9 contestants; then only six advance, even if that means leaving out a "new school."

Colly explained that the revisions are a clarification of the unclear wording in the original document, which has caused a great deal of consternation in past years. Sherri White moved for approval of the Amendment. M'Liss seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Amendment: Forensics Sweepstakes Tabulation (Proposed by Wade Hescht)

Current Text (p. 14):

11. Sweepstakes Tabulation:

a. For sweepstakes points to be awarded beyond the first place there must be at least three different schools entered in an event. For example, if only two schools entered Interpreter's Theatre, only points for 1st place would be awarded. Trophies however are awarded to all places.

Change to:

a. For sweepstakes points to be awarded beyond first place there must be at least two different schools entered in an event. Trophies however are awarded for all places.

Wade explained the rationale for the change. Sherri White moved for approval of the Amendment. Floyd seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Amendment: Dues (Proposed by the Friday Pre-Meeting Discussion)

Change current text on page 4 to make the following changes:

(VII. A.) Replace current text with the following: "Early dues shall be \$2X for each school, entitling that school to participation in the forensics meet and \$2.5X for participation in the play festival. (The dollar value of X will be set at the Fall business meeting.) In order to qualify for the "Early dues" rate, a school must pay no later than February 1."

(VII .E) Replace current text with the following: "Schools which pay after February 1st shall be charged the Regular Dues rate which is \$2.5X for participation in the forensic meet and \$3X for participation in the play festival. Schools which have not paid their dues will not be allowed to participate in the state forensic meet or play festival."

John Corley moved to accept the Amendment. Sherri seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Amendment: Forensics Sweepstakes Tabulation (Proposed by the Friday Pre-Meeting Discussion)

Add the following to the current text on page 15:

(11.e.) Every event in which a student competes shall be counted towards their school sweepstakes (both IE and Overall) and individual competitor sweepstakes awards (providing that those awards are being presented at the state meet).

Colly moved that we adopt this as a 1-year trial for 2008-2009, and we revisit it as a permanent Amendment at the next Fall meeting. M'liss seconded the motion.

Amendment: Business Meetings (proposed by Wade Hescht)

Current text (p. 4):

V. Business Meetings

- A. There shall be an annual business meeting of the Association. This meeting shall be held during the fall business meeting which will be scheduled by the president-elect. All directors are expected to attend. The minutes of the business meeting shall be mailed to all members by the secretary-treasurer by November 30 each year. The play directors shall hold a meeting during the play festival. The forensic directors will hold a meeting during the state tournament.
- B. A quorum shall consist of the number of members present, but not less than one-fifth of the number of schools for the current year.
- C. The Executive Committee of the Association shall meet as deemed necessary by arrangement of the president. Expenses of transportation shall be paid by the Association.

Change to:

- A. There shall be an annual business meeting of the Association. This meeting shall be held during the Fall business meeting which will be scheduled by the president-elect. All directors are expected to attend. The minutes of the business meeting shall be mailed to all members by the secretary-treasurer by November 30 of each year.
- B. The play directors shall hold a meeting during the play festival. The forensic directors shall hold a meeting during the spring state tournament. An official detailed report of any official business voted upon at these meetings shall be presented at the next Fall business meeting of the Association.
- C. A play director's quorum shall consist of the number of play directors present, but not less than one-half of the number of current TCCSTA theatre members.
- D. A forensics directors quorum shall consist of the number of forensics present, but not less than one-half of the number of current TCCSTA forensics members.
- E. When quorum is not met, the body cannot hold a vote and cannot change the status quo.

Leigh-Anne Williams moved for approval of the Amendent and M'Liss Hindman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The Constitutional Revision committee (Colly, M'Liss, Debra, and Brad) will meet to propose revisions in addition to those being made by Amendment at this meeting.

Colly will send out invoices as soon as possible. Everyone should pay Sherri as soon as possible.

The Fall TCCSTA Forensics tournament will be held November 7-9 at San Jacinto College North. Colly moved and Wade seconded. It passed unanimously.

The TCCSTA Spring State Forensics Meet will be hosted February 6-8 by Lisa Benedetti of Tarrant County Community College Northeast. If Lisa is unable to host, Wade will host. The issue of whether or not to hire an IT Critic will be discussed at the Fall TCCSTA Forensics tournament. That decision will govern the decision whether or not to hire an outside IT critic at the Spring State Forensics Meet. Colly moved and Floyd seconded. It passed unanimously.

Playfest will be held February 18-22. Nancy will host at Weatherford. Clay asked if perhaps a school in the west of the state could perhaps host (South Plains, Midland, etc.). Sheleigh indicated that there has been a historic lack of support for hosting from schools in the west of the state.

Playfest critic suggestions should be sent to Nancy. Kali Vlahos will be in charge of the honor crew.

There is still an ongoing attempt to create an Archive for the organization. People should send any history (photos, documents, etc.) items to Sheleigh.

Elections: Secretary – Collier Patton was nominated as Secretary and was elected by acclamation. Nancy McVean was nominated as President-Elect and elected by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Collier Patton
Secretary